

MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR WM. PRESTON LANE, JR., TO EXTRAORDINARY
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, DECEMBER 17, 1949.

Under the authority vested in me by the Constitution, I have called your Honorable Body into extraordinary session to consider the re-enactment of the \$50,000,000 school loan bill passed by the 1949 General Assembly.

This measure, as you know, was held to be invalid by the Court of Appeals because of an error in the journal entry of the Senate recording its passage by that body.

Its invalidation has created a situation in the financing of the school-construction program in various sections of the State which would entail serious delays in the building of essential classroom space if the measure was not acted upon until the regular session of the General Assembly some six weeks hence.

The need for classroom space in certain areas of the State is so acute that even a few weeks' further delay in making funds available for the construction program might prevent completion of necessary additional building beyond the opening of the 1950-1951 school year, and for this reason I considered it my duty to convene a special session of the General Assembly.

Although, had the courts held the \$50,000,000 loan Act to be valid, funds from the proceeds of the bonds would not have become available until after the first of next year. I believe it in order that consideration be given to a plan for making sufficient money immediately available to carry forward the work now in progress and planned for an early start.

The situation in which certain areas of the State find themselves is of such a critical nature with respect to the need for additional classroom construction that I believe every possible means should be adopted to speed the work on the necessary buildings.

Therefore, I recommend and will submit for your consideration a proposal that legislative authority be written into the \$50,000,000 loan bill to permit up to \$4,000,000 to be advanced from cash in the Treasury on applications for loan funds, with provisions that this money be returned to the Treasury upon the issuance of the authorized bonds.

If this proposal is adopted, it will not be necessary for the areas in immediate need of funds from the \$50,000,000 loan to wait for them for another sixty to ninety days until the bonds are advertised, sold and the cash payment is made for them by the purchasers.

While the extraordinary session was called for the purpose of dealing only with this urgent problem, three other matters of an emergency nature have been brought forward for consideration, and on them I recommend that the General Assembly take favorable action.