

tional fee for re-registration of automobile operators that the tax proposal was delayed in passage for a number of weeks until this feature was eliminated. In view of this opposition voiced by motorists, I cannot give approval to another enactment imposing such a financial burden when I realize that the fee required for a locking device for registration markers was not thoroughly understood by the Legislators.

Chapter 724 (House Bill 437). This measure provides for an inspection of automobiles by the State for which a fee is charged periodically. Inasmuch as no State-owned stations are available for these inspections, it is provided that a portion of the fees exacted from motorists be paid to garage operators making the inspections. Another portion is to be retained in a fund for the eventual purchase of stations as subsequent legislation so provides.

Wide spread opposition has been aroused to the measure and in public hearings which I have conducted, it is pointed out that this measure is not the most desirable that could be enacted. The Automobile Commissioner, to whom I referred the matter for study and report, opposed the bill in its present form.

After giving the matter the most thorough consideration I have decided that it should be vetoed.

OCEAN CITY.

Chapter 260 (House Bill 430). The Attorney General has rendered me a formal opinion that this bill should be vetoed as an improper delegation of legislative power. It would permit the residents of Ocean City in Worcester County to decide for themselves whether Sunday amusements ought to be legalized.

Inasmuch as a referendum is provided in the bill whereby the citizens would vote upon this question, it ordinarily would be allowed to the people to decide for themselves what they desire. However, the Attorney General rules that it is first necessary for one of the subdivisions of the State to adopt home rule under the constitutional amendment before such a referendum as provided in the bill is permissible. As is pointed out in the opinion of the State Law Department, the Ocean City Bill is modeled on the Baltimore City Act but Baltimore had first adopted home rule under the constitutional amendment.

Inasmuch as this legal opinion is binding upon me, I will be required to veto the measure on the strength of the Attorney General's ruling that the bill is an "improper delegation of legislative power (by the Legislature) to its creature".