

private citizens asserted that they were demoralizing influences.

The Democratic Party at its Convention prior to the last gubernatorial election formally took notice of this issue. Its representatives from all over the State, without a dissenting vote, adopted a plank in the party platform which read as follows:

“We vigorously oppose the State’s continuing the practice of resort to the licensing of pinball machines and similar gambling devices as a means of raising revenue.”

As the candidate for Governor of the Party, I publicly declared my agreement with this formal stand and repeatedly during the campaign asserted that I felt that relief needs could and should be met without resorting to the dubious method of raising funds by legalizing gambling devices. The voters had a right to assume that I meant what I said during the campaign when I declared that I would veto any bill that was passed undertaking to continue the legalization and licensing of these devices. Not only did the people apparently approve of our stated policy in this respect but at the election they voted on the proposed constitutional amendment relating to Lotteries and the voters rejected it by a vote of 123,365 to 90,805.

The General Assembly, the majority of which were members of our Party, lived up to its promise not to continue the legalization of these machines. An adequate relief program was adopted without resorting to this method of revenue raising. After it was apparent that a State-wide pinball law could not be passed, the present County measures were introduced. Because they were local in nature it is apparent that the majority of the members of the General Assembly treated the proposals as relating exclusively to the particular counties. However, I find it difficult to conclude that what is admittedly detrimental to the interests of the State as a whole would be beneficial to particular sub-divisions of the State. It is hardly consistent to establish a State policy outlawing these devices and then to sanction their operation in a few places.

I am inclined to the belief that possibly other delegations from the city or counties were deterred from introducing similar local legislation by our announced attitude against these measures. Were I to approve the four measures which were enacted, I feel it would be unfair to the other counties which proceeded on the assumption that such machines would not be legalized.