

(3) The third proposal is the re-enactment of the Absentee Voting Law for servicemen and women in essentially the same form as the Act which permitted men and women absent on military duty to participate in elections during World War II.

Appropriate bills embodying these legislative proposals have been prepared by the State Law Department and will be ready for introduction and consideration immediately upon the formal convening of your session.

The date of September 18 has been proposed as the alternate date for the holding of the primary elections, to avoid conflict with the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah, because it is traditional that the elections held by the parties for the nomination of candidates be held on Monday.

If the primary elections were moved ahead a week, rather than postponed for a week, there would be conflict with the Labor Day holiday.

Because of the experience in some sections of Baltimore City during the precinct registration conducted between 2 P. M. and 10 P. M. on July 10, another day of registration in the precincts appears necessary to accommodate the convenience of eligible persons who wish to qualify as voters.

In some areas, the turnout of prospective registrants was too great for their expeditious accommodation during the eight-hour period provided by the 1949 General Assembly for the holding of the precinct registration in Baltimore City.

Based on the tabulations of the result of the July 10 precinct registration, the elections officials of Baltimore are confident that an additional day of registration in the precinct will be sufficient for the convenient handling of the anticipated volume as indicated in the breakdown of the July 10 figures.

In order that this problem may be met in Baltimore City without disrupting the existing arrangements for supplemental registrations in the counties, the proposed legislation will embody a provision for the holding of these registrations in the counties as originally scheduled.

Since the issuance on July 17 of the proclamation convening this extraordinary session of the General Assembly, the international situation has deteriorated to the point where partial mobilization has been instituted as a measure of national security.

So that the franchise of those who may be called for military duty will be protected, I recommend the re-enactment of the Absentee Voting statute to permit those away from the State in the armed services to exercise their voting privileges.

This statute, you will recall, establishes a bi-partisan Commission to regulate, within the framework of the statute, the issuance of