

ballots to eligible Marylanders absent from the State in the armed services.

Because of the time which necessarily will be consumed in the setting up of the machinery for the distribution of ballots to absentee service men and women, it has been deemed impossible to attempt to put the law into effect for the September primaries.

During the period in World War II when this law was in effect in Maryland, military authorities required that the ballots be in their hands 55 days prior to the date of the election before they would undertake their delivery and return.

Under the law, candidates have until 30 days before the election to withdraw their candidacies, and ballots cannot be printed until their deadline passes.

You will, no doubt, recall that in order to meet the time requirements of the Absentee Voting Law in 1946, it was necessary that year to hold the primary elections in June, instead of at the usual time in September.

I hope that the necessity for requiring your return to Annapolis to deal with these matters has not too greatly inconvenienced you.

We shall, I fear, all be called upon for some measure of self-sacrifice in the days that lie ahead, but at the same time, I am confident that as Marylanders, and as Americans, we are prepared to face the situation that confronts us, and to its successful solution, give the best that is in us.

Which was read.

NOMINATIONS FOR SPEAKER PRO-TEM

On motion of Mr. Harry L. Messick of Wicomico County, seconded by Mrs. Bessie D. Moss of Anne Arundel County, the name of Mr. Richard E. Lankford, of Anne Arundel County, was placed in nomination for Speaker pro-tem.

There being no further nominations for the office of Speaker pro-tem, Mr. Richard E. Lankford was elected Speaker pro-tem by yeas and nays as follows:

AFFIRMATIVE.

Messrs.—

Speaker, Guyther, Mattingly, Harris, Jester, Lankford, Lowman, McNulty, Moss, Wigley, Tyler, Hall, Hance, Cooksey, Winkler, Beckwith, Boone, Ensor, Rockenbaugh, Warren, Wenig, Chaires, Lowe, Nelson, Hoffman, Todd, Ward, Brinsfield, Horner, Malkus, Webb, Benson, Jackson, Scarborough, Burch, McLeish, Pumphrey, Wilkinson, Baker, Walls, Dennis, Richardson, Shockley, Alexander, Derr, Hauver, Payne, Ramsburg, Virts, Baldwin, De Ran, James, McLean, Banning, McDaniel, Bertorelli, Duffy, Kosakowski, Milanicz, Mrozinski, Silk, Behounek, McKewen, Murphy, Schueler, Valis, Weintraub, Albers, Buffington, Dempsey, Dippel, O'Malley, Tawney, Melnicove, Pollack, Robinson, Shapiro, Siegel, Argabright, Bandiere, Geraghty, Kennedy, Luber, Preston, Baynes, Curry,