

agreement that only necessary legislation, previously announced and publicized, should have the benefit of your thought, your discussions and your actions on this occasion.

Please remember that the 90-day, Regular Session of 1959 is little more than half a year away.

Most of us have been long enough together in this Government to have developed a mutuality of frankness.

It is in frankness, then, that I recognize the temptation inherent in a gathering such as this, in a time such as this, for the making of a little political hay.

I urge that you put the temptation behind you and turn promptly to the serious task of the day.

From the experience of many years, I can assure you now that the many Marylanders who will appreciate the quick, orderly and effective dispatch of legislative business will far outnumber the few who might note with favor the use in these chambers of words of vindictiveness or phrases of self-aggrandizement.

You are here primarily to authorize the Department of Employment Security to enter into agreement with the Federal Government for extending by 50 per cent the period over which unemployment compensation is to be paid to insured beneficiaries.

I am confident that the need for and the principle involved in this law are widely accepted. I am sure your committees can explain the details of its proposed provisions. I am sure there will be little or no cause herein for dispute or discord.

I might note in passing that the enactment and performance of this temporary legislation could and should serve a two-fold purpose—first, to cope with the current conditions of unemployment; second, to provide the opportunity and the reason for a closer and more searching look at our Unemployment Compensation Law in its normal working, and to compare it with results under the temporary provisions now proposed.

It well might arouse us to the realization that the present 26 week limit on compensation payments is unrealistic, not only in occasional times of economic adjustment, but—for some recipients—in years of a normal economy or even in those of prosperity.

I strongly urge that those of you who will be returning to the Regular Session in January keep this matter and the working of the temporary law under close scrutiny in the interim, with a view to introducing and supporting such necessary corrective legislation as may be indicated by the experience.

From the time that the calling of this Session became a likelihood, Baltimore City authorities and members of the Greater Baltimore Committee have discussed publicly the probability that legislation would be introduced to authorize the Municipality to submit to the City's voters a loan proposal to finance the City's share of the Charles Center renewal project for downtown Baltimore.

Similar authority is to be sought in connection with the proposed Civic Center, which is even older, in public discussion.