

April 9, 1977

Honorable Blair Lee, III
Lieutenant Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Lieutenant Governor Lee:

Due to illness, I will be confined in the Prince George's County Hospital for a period of time, including Tuesday, April 12, 1977.

It has been traditional to have a bill signing on the day following adjournment of the regular session of the General Assembly, which, this year, is April 12, 1977. It is important that Emergency Bills passed by the General Assembly be acted upon expeditiously, since they take effect upon Gubernatorial approval.

Mr. Wilner has advised me that there are approximately 56 bills and Joint Resolutions, including a number of Emergency Bills, that have been reviewed by him and by the Attorney General, and are appropriate for signature.

In addition, prior to my hospitalization, I had determined to issue an Easter commutation to State and local prisoners meeting certain criteria. A list of approximately 200 such inmates satisfying those criteria has been prepared by the Division of Parole and Probation. It is important that these commutations be issued in order to help relieve some of the overcrowding in the correctional facilities. The necessary papers will, I am told, be ready on Tuesday.

In accordance with Article II, Section 6(b) of the Constitution of Maryland, I hereby notify you that I will be unable, because of my hospitalization, to perform the particular duties of my office of signing bills and issuing the Easter commutations on Tuesday, April 12, 1977; and you shall therefore serve as Acting Governor for those purposes between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon on that day.

As soon as the doctor approves, I would like to meet with you to discuss how we will proceed until my release from the hospital.

Sincerely,
Marvin Mandel
Governor
