

The imperative duty, devolved upon the Legislature, which is the government to provide that such reforms shall receive the legislative sanction at as early a period as practicable. The delay which is not far distant, when the people of the State will reap the full benefit of the wise & beneficent provisions of the new Constitution.

The discretionary power vested by the Constitution in the Governor to convene the Legislature on extraordinary occasions is a trust of great responsibility, and, in view of the heavy expenditure usually consequent upon a Session, (unlimited in duration) should be exercised with great caution & only on occasions when the interests of the State would be seriously affected by waiting for the period named in the Constitution for the regular meeting of the General Assembly. Such an emergency does not now in my opinion exist.

I deem it unnecessary to enquire whether an extra Session alone is competent to examine & pass upon a work of the character submitted by your report. It is sufficient for the present purpose to know, that the Commission appointed to "revise & codify the laws of the State," (a work perhaps of greater magnitude, & in the estimation of many, of far greater importance to the people at large than the one now under consideration,) have not as yet made known to this Department their readiness to lay before the Legislature the result of their labors.

Therefore, it should be deemed advisable to call an extra Session of the Legislature to consider the report on Readings, Practice & Copying, with what propriety could a similar call be refused to give time to consider the more important subject of the revision, digest & codification of the entire laws of the State.

It is in my judgment manifestly premature to call a meeting of the Legislature before the entire reports on both subjects are completed, printed & in the possession of those whose duty it may be to act upon them. I would go further & add, that if the reports were ready, printed & properly distributed, the propriety of convening the Legislature before the regular Constitutional period might well be questioned inasmuch as the delay of a few months, could work no material injury & would beget in the Legislature when assembled, the benefit of a more deliberate, professional & public opinion on the merits of the work, which might greatly facilitate & perhaps abridge the labor of examination required by the Constitution.

I avail myself of this opportunity to correct an error only which you are called in reference to the action of the past Legislature relative to the subject of an extra Session. On page 3 of your Communication the following passage occurs: - "But after due trial of the subject, the Legislature determined, that a regular Session