

did not afford time for the consideration of so important a measure. And to show the sense of the Constitutional obligation to carry out the work of law reform, the proposal was submitted whether the Legislature should not hold the Governor in an extra Session. The proposal was not carried, not because the Legislature thought an extra Session unnecessary, for they had already determined otherwise, but because some members thought such a request interfering with the duties of the Governor. Upon a more careful examination of the proceedings of the Legislature, the Commissioners will find, that the subject of an extra Session was under consideration on two separate occasions. But in neither did the House or Senate make any such decision as is stated in the above paragraph or give their concurrence to such a proposition. It is true that a majority of the Committee appointed to consider the report of the Commissioners reported to the House, that when the entire reports relative to the combined works on "Codification & Simplification", were complete & ready to be submitted an extra Session should be recommended to consider them, but even this report & recommendation did not meet the approbation of the House to which it was made, & was lost by a decisive vote in consequence (as may be inferred from the Journal) of the recommendation of an extra Session. Subsequent to this & near the close of the Session, when it was apparent that sufficient time, at this Session could not be had to consider such a report, the following resolution was offered:

"Resolved by the House of Delegates of Maryland, that in the event of reliable assent being given to the Governor of the State by the Commissioners appointed to simplify & abridge the rules of practice & pleading of the Courts of this State, & by the Commissioners to codify the laws of the State, that they will be prepared to report fully on the subjects committed to them, respectively, on or before the 30th day of January next, then it is hereby recommended by this House, that the Governor call an extra session of the Legislature in January next for the purpose of considering said report, & for no other purpose whatsoever."

The resolution as you perceive was also based upon the contingency that both reports should be ready, & even in that shape it was lost by an equally decisive vote. In this condition of things I trust that the reasons I have thus briefly given for declining to comply with the request of the Commissioners will be deemed by them sufficient & satisfactory.

With great respect,

I have the honor to be

Yours obedient servant,

J. Watkins Esq.