

A PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

In the Name and by Authority of the COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Harrisburg

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The first duty of the Commonwealth is to safeguard the people; and

WHEREAS, To make secure the lives, the liberties, and the happiness of men, women, and children is the proper object of all governments; and

WHEREAS, The right to work for a living is part of the right to live; and

WHEREAS, The welfare of the people in this Commonwealth, as in the United States at large, is endangered by the prevailing unemployment, which has deprived one-quarter of the workers of Pennsylvania of the opportunity to earn a living; and

WHEREAS, This fact constitutes a binding obligation to act upon every unit of government, from the least to the greatest;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gifford Pinchot, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 12, of the Constitution, do hereby convene the General Assembly in extraordinary session, to meet in the Capitol, at Harrisburg, on Monday, November ninth, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, at nine o'clock P. M. of that day, to consider legislation upon the following subjects:

1. The creation of a State Commission on Unemployment Relief with power to solicit, accept, and disburse contributions for unemployment relief, issue receipts for cash contributions, cooperate with counties, cities, boroughs, townships, and poor districts in affording relief to the unemployed and their families, approve or disapprove plans for unemployment relief presented by counties, cities, boroughs, townships, and poor districts, and perform such other duties as are incidental to the foregoing powers.

2. Authorizing counties, cities, boroughs, townships, and poor districts, during the year one thousand nine hundred thirty-two, to negotiate emergency loans for unemployment relief, and school districts, during the same year, to negotiate similar loans to meet deficiencies in current operating expenses, and authorizing such loans to be refunded under certain circumstances annually for a certain period.

3. An amendment to the Constitution directing the Governor, the Auditor General, and the State Treasurer to borrow money in the name of the Commonwealth to repay, with interest, all sums contributed to the State Commission on Unemployment Relief, and to pay to the several counties, cities, boroughs, townships, and poor districts of this Commonwealth one-half of the amount borrowed by them in the year one thousand nine hundred thirty-two for unemployment relief under the provisions of legislation enacted at the special session of the General Assembly and expended by them under plans submitted to and approved in writing by the State Commission on Unemployment Relief.

4. Authorizing the issue and sale of bonds by the Commonwealth when the foregoing amendment to the Constitution has been adopted, and appropriating the proceeds of the sale of such bonds for the purposes specified in the amendment.

5. Authorizing counties, cities, boroughs, townships, and poor districts to levy taxes and expend money for unemployment relief.

6. Permitting local authorities under certain conditions to postpone tax sales during periods of economic depression and unemployment incident thereto.

7. Authorizing the Department of Highways, with the approval of the Governor and of the political subdivisions involved, to enter upon and construct, reconstruct, or resurface wholly or partially at State expense any public roads, streets, and highways which are now constructed and maintained at the expense of the several political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, and making an appropriation for this purpose.

8. Supplementing and amending the 1931 General Appropriation Act by increasing or modifying appropriations to the Governor and the several departments, boards, and commissions of the State government, to enable them by undertaking additional projects to give work to the unemployed, and also to enable public schools in certain districts to remain open.

9. Amending the appropriation made by the General Assembly in one thousand nine hundred thirty-one for the construction of the Pymatuning Dam, by enabling the unencumbered balance of the appropriation to be used for road construction and other work incident to the completion of the dam.

10. An appropriation for the expense of the special session.

11. Cooperation with other States in taking measures to rehabilitate the bituminous coal industry.

12. An emergency tax on gasoline at the rate of two cents (\$.02) per gallon for two (2) years, the proceeds to be payable into the Motor License Fund.

13. Authorizing transfers from the General Fund of the State

Treasury to the Motor License Fund in anticipation of revenue received from the emergency tax on gasoline and the repayment of such transfers to the General Fund as revenue is received from such emergency tax.

14. A tax on cigarettes.
15. A tax on bill-boards and the business of outdoor advertising.

[GREAT SEAL]

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, this thirty-first day of October, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, and of the Commonwealth the one hundred and fifty-sixth.

GIFFORD PINCHOT

By the Governor:

RICHARD J. BEAMISH,
Secretary of the Commonwealth

