

To the Honorable, the President
and Members of the City Council

(continued)

to the motion picture theatres which is difficult to bear at this time.

3. That due to the extended length of motion pictures today, the 12 midnight closing on Saturday is most inconvenient to the general public in that it requires certain features to begin before 9 o'clock. This is particularly inconvenient during the daylight saving period.

In view of the above information, the motion picture theatre owners are requesting that the City Council change the present ordinance so as to allow the same schedule on Sunday as would be followed during the remaining six days of the week.

Section 75 of Article 24 of the Baltimore City Code (1950 Edition) was originally enacted in 1931 as Ordinance No. 130, approved February 15, 1932. The authority to pass this ordinance was granted to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore by Chapter 287 of the 1931 Laws of Maryland. The purpose of Chapter 287 was to grant to the City "home rule" as to certain matters, and in particular the regulation of amusements or entertainment being held in Baltimore City on Sundays.

Chapter 287 further provided that before any ordinance passed by the City, pursuant to such authority, could take effect it must have been approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the City of Baltimore voting thereon. In effect, this Act of the Legislature granted to the City "home rule" in this area and exempted the City from the provisions of what were then Sections 483, 484 and 485 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (Bagby's Edition of 1924). Subsequently, the City Council by Ordinance No. 130 of 1931 enacted a "Sunday Law" and this ordinance provided that "it shall * * * be unlawful to exhibit motion pictures * * *, after 2 o'clock p.m. on Sunday * * *," and that tickets could be sold for such performances