

REAPPORTIONMENT

I am dedicated to the proposition that reapportionment of the Legislature of Florida is a constitutional necessity. The Constitution provides that the Legislature shall reapportion itself every ten years and that if it fails to do so the governor shall call it into extraordinary session and hold it there until it shall have performed its duty. This constitutional provision is as much <sup>an obligation of</sup> ~~a requirement on~~ the governor as is the requirement on the Legislature that it reapportion. It is not provided that the governor shall call them into session and hold them there if he thinks it politically expedient, nor if he thinks it wise, but that he shall in all events do so.

I anticipate that the Legislature will reapportion itself in the 1961 regular session, but if it fails to do so, I shall comply with the constitutional mandate to call it into session and to hold it there until the job has been done.

The achievement of reapportionment under the present constitutional formula is not, however, a complete answer to the problem. The formula needs to be improved. I shall provide the leadership for submitting to the Legislature a constitutional amendment of such terminology as will grant to the growing areas of Florida a larger and more equitable share in the control of their state government.

In the 1955 session of the Legislature I lead to passage a reapportionment proposal in the House of Representatives which was

characterized by the governor and by the press generally as being fair apportionment. As governor I shall provide that same leadership for both branches of the Legislature.