Albany. In a statement made public in Albany, State Senator Thomas C. Desmond, of Newburgh, said: "In my judgment, whether he likes it or not, Governor Lehman is certain to have to call a special session of the legislature early this summer. Unfinished mortgage commission legislation is needed to help nearly three hundred thousand unfortunate New York State investors in eight hundred million dollars of defaulted mortgage certificates. The social security issue will not down. Moreover, the failure of the Assembly to enact proper county governmental reform legislation must promptly be corrected.

"Last November, by a three-to-one vote in favor of the County Home Rule Amendment, the people mandated the legislature to provide by law for new optional forms of county government. To carry out this mandate, the State Senate unanimously passed the Buckley, Desmond and Fearon county government bills. At six o'clock in the morning, an hour before final adjournment and after an all night session, the Assembly passed the inadequate Fearon bill. The weary end of the session, however, found the really adequate Buckley and Desmond bills still buried in the Assembly Rules Committee.

"The sketchy and incomplete Fearon bill is no proper answer to the will of the people as expressed unmistakably by their three-to-one vote last fall. One need spend only a few moments looking over the Fearon bill to understand what little help can come from it to counties desiring to modernize their governmental structure.

"The Buckley bill, product of the Mastick Tax Commission, is an excellent bill. The comprehensive Desmond bill, which I sponsored,
has been endorsed as preferable to all other bills on this subject by many informed individuals and by such organizations as the Schenectady Bureau of Municipal Re-Search, Citizens Union of New York, New York Merchants Association, Ulster, Greene and Nassau County taxpayers' associations, and the New York State Society of Professional Engineers. The Desmond bill has also been approved editorially by nearly every New York State newspaper.

"Although the Buckley and Desmond bills parallel each other they do not conflict legally and both could be passed and signed by the Governor, since they are merely permissive in their terms.

"I predict that a special session of the legislature will shortly have to be held for this and other reasons. An aroused public opinion will demand at such special session that either or both the Buckley and Desmond optional forms of county government bills be enacted into law. Effective modernization of county government in this State can not otherwise be obtained; the Fearon bill is only a feeble and hesitating step in this direction."

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