# Frankfurter: Separate Opinion

Separate opinion of MR. JUSTICE FRANKFURTER, whom MR. JUSTICE HARLAN joins. \*

So deeply do the issues raised by these cases cut that it is not surprising that no one opinion can wholly express the views even of all the members of the Court who join in its result. Individual opinions in constitutional controversies have been the practice throughout the Court's history.\*\* Such expression of differences in view or even in emphasis converging toward the same result makes for the clarity of candor, and thereby enhances the authority of the judicial process.

For me, considerations are determinative here which call for separate statement. The long history of Sunday legislation, so decisive if we are to view the statutes now **[p. 460]** attacked in a perspective wider than that which is furnished by our own necessarily limited outlook, cannot be conveyed by a partial recital of isolated instances or events. The importance of that history derives from its continuity and fullness -- from the massive testimony which it bears to the evolution of statutes controlling Sunday labor and to the forces which have, during three hundred years of Anglo-American history at the least, changed those laws, transmuted them, made them the vehicle of mixed and complicated aspirations. Since I find in the history of these statutes insights controllingly relevant to the constitutional issues before us, I am constrained to set that history forth in detail. And I also deem it incumbent to state how I arrive at concurrence with THE CHIEF JUSTICE's principal conclusions without drawing on *Everson v. Board of Education,* 330 U. S. 1.

## I

Because the long colonial struggle for disestablishment -- the struggle to free all men, whatever their theological views, from state-compelled obligation to acknowledge and support state-favored faiths -- made indisputably fundamental to our American culture the principle that the enforcement of religious belief as such is no legitimate concern of civil government, this Court has held that the Fourteenth Amendment embodies and applies against the States freedoms that are loosely indicated by the not rigidly precise but revealing phrase "separation of church and state." *Illinois ex rel. McCollum v. Board of Education,* 333 U. S. 203. The general principles of church-state separation were found to be included in the Amendment's Due Process Clause in view of the meaning which the presuppositions of our society infuse into the concept of "liberty" protected by the clause. This is the source of the limitations imposed upon the States. To the extent that those limitations **[p. 461]** are akin to the restrictions which the First Amendment places upon the action of the central government, it is because -- as with the freedom of thought and speech of which Mr. Justice Cardozo spoke in *Palko v. Connecticut,* 302 U. S. 319 -- it is accurate to say concerning the principle that a government must neither establish nor suppress religious belief, that, "[w]ith rare aberrations, a pervasive recognition of that truth can be traced in our history, political and legal." *Id.* at 302 U. S. 327.

But the several opinions in *Everson* and *McCollum,* and in *Zorach v. Clauson,* 343 U. S. 306, make sufficiently clear that "separation" is not a self-defining concept.

"[A]greement, in the abstract, that the First Amendment was designed to erect a 'wall of separation between church and State' does not preclude a clash of views as to what the wall separates."

*Illinois ex rel. McCollum v. Board of Education, supra,* at 333 U. S. 213 (concurring opinion). By its nature, religion -- in the comprehensive sense in which the Constitution uses that word -- is an aspect of human thought and action which profoundly relates the life of man to the world in which he lives. Religious beliefs pervade, and religious institutions have traditionally regulated, virtually all human activity. It is a postulate of American life, reflected specifically in the First Amendment to the Constitution but not there alone, that those beliefs and institutions shall continue, as the needs and longings of the people shall inspire them, to exist, to function, to grow, to wither, and to exert with whatever innate strength they may contain their many influences upon men's conduct, free of the dictates and directions of the state. However, this freedom does not and cannot furnish the adherents of religious creeds entire insulation from every civic obligation. As the state's interest in the individual becomes more comprehensive, its concerns and the concerns of religion perforce overlap. State codes and the dictates of faith touch the same activities. **[p. 462]** Both aim at human good, and, in their respective views of what is good for man, they may concur or they may conflict. No constitutional command which leaves religion free can avoid this quality of interplay.

Innumerable civil regulations enforce conduct which harmonizes with religious canons. State prohibitions of murder, theft and adultery reinforce commands of the decalogue. Nor do such regulations, in their coincidence with tenets of faith, always support equally the beliefs of all religious sects: witness the civil laws forbidding usury and enforcing monogamy. Because these laws serve ends which are within the appropriate scope of secular state interest, they may be enforced against those whose religious beliefs do not proscribe, and even sanction, the activity which the law condemns. *Reynolds v. United States,* 98 U. S. 145; *Davis v. Beason,* 133 U. S. 333; *Cleveland v. United States,* 329 U. S. 14.

This is not to say that governmental regulations which find support in their appropriateness to the achievement of secular, civil ends are invariably valid under the First or Fourteenth Amendment, whatever their effects in the sphere of religion. If the value to society of achieving the object of a particular regulation is demonstrably outweighed by the impediment to which the regulation subjects those whose religious practices are curtailed by it, or if the object sought by the regulation could with equal effect be achieved by alternative means which do not substantially impede those religious practices, the regulation cannot be sustained. *Cantwell v. Connecticut,* 310 U. S. 296. This was the ground upon which the Court struck down municipal license taxes as applied to religious colporteurs in *Follett v. Town of McCormick,* 321 U. S. 573; *Murdock v. Pennsylvania,* 319 U. S. 105, and *Jones v. Opelika,* 319 U. S. 103. In each of those cases, it was believed that the State's need for revenue, which could be **[p. 463]** satisfied by taxing any of a variety of sources, did not justify a levy imposed upon an activity which in the light of history could reasonably be viewed as sacramental. *But see Cox v. New Hampshire,* 312 U. S. 569, in which the Court, balancing the public benefits secured by a regulatory measure against the degree of impairment of individual conduct expressive of religious faith which it entailed, sustained the prohibition of an activity similarly regarded by its practicants as sacramental. *And see Prince v. Massachusetts,* 321 U. S. 158.

Within the discriminating phraseology of the First Amendment, distinction has been drawn between cases raising "establishment" and "free exercise" questions. Any attempt to formulate a bright-line distinction is bound to founder. In view of the competition among religious creeds, whatever "establishes" one sect disadvantages another, and vice versa. But it is possible historically, and therefore helpful analytically -- no less for problems arising under the Fourteenth Amendment, illuminated as that Amendment is by our national experience, than for problems arising under the First -- to isolate in general terms the two largely overlapping areas of concern reflected in the two constitutional phrases, "establishment" and "free exercise,"[[1]](#footnote-1) and which emerge more **[p. 464]** or less clearly from the background of events and impulses which gave those phrases birth.

In assuring the free exercise of religion, the Framers of the First Amendment were sensitive to the then-recent history of those persecutions and impositions of civil disability with which sectarian majorities in virtually all of the Colonies had visited deviation in the matter of conscience.[[2]](#footnote-2) This protection of unpopular creeds, however, was not to be the full extent of the Amendment's guarantee of freedom from governmental intrusion in matters of faith. The battle in Virginia, hardly four years won, where James Madison had led the forces of disestablishment in successful opposition to Patrick Henry's proposed Assessment Bill levying a general tax for the support of Christian teachers,[[3]](#footnote-3) was a vital and compelling **[p. 465]** memory in 1789. The lesson of that battle, in the words of Jefferson's Act for Establishing Religious Freedom, whose passage was its verbal embodiment,[[4]](#footnote-4) was

"that to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical; that even the forcing him to support this or that teacher of his own religious persuasion is depriving him of the comfortable liberty of giving his contributions to the particular pastor whose morals he would make his pattern, and whose powers he feels most persuasive to righteousness, and is withdrawing from the ministry those temporal rewards which, proceeding from an approbation of their personal conduct, are an additional incitement to earnest and unremitting labours for the instruction of mankind. . . .[[5]](#footnote-5) "

What Virginia had long practiced, and what Madison, Jefferson and others fought to end, was the extension of civil government's support to religion in a manner which made the two in some degree interdependent, and thus threatened the freedom of each. The purpose of the Establishment Clause was to assure that the national legislature would not exert its power in the service of any purely religious end; that it would not, as Virginia and virtually all of the Colonies had done, make of religion, as religion, an object of legislation.

Of course, the immediate object of the First Amendment's prohibition was the established church as it had been known in England and in most of the Colonies. But, with foresight, those who drafted and adopted the words "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" did not limit the constitutional proscription to any particular, dated form of state supported theological venture. The Establishment Clause withdrew from **[p. 466]** the sphere of legitimate legislative concern and competence a specific, but comprehensive, area of human conduct: man's belief or disbelief in the verity of some transcendental idea, and man's expression in action of that belief or disbelief. Congress may not make these matters, as such, the subject of legislation, nor, now, may any legislature in this country. Neither the National Government nor, under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, a State may, by any device, support belief or the expression of belief for its own sake, whether from conviction of the truth of that belief or from conviction that, by the propagation of that belief, the civil welfare of the State is served, or because a majority of its citizens holding that belief are offended when all do not hold it.

With regulations which have other objectives the Establishment Clause, and the fundamental separationist concept which it expresses, are not concerned. These regulations may fall afoul of the constitutional guarantee against infringement of the free exercise or observance of religion. Where they do, they must be set aside at the instance of those whose faith they prejudice. But once it is determined that a challenged statute is supportable as implementing other substantial interests than the promotion of belief, the guarantee prohibiting religious "establishment" is satisfied.

To ask what interest, what objective, legislation serves, of course, is not to psychoanalyze its legislators, but to examine the necessary effects of what they have enacted. If the primary end achieved by a form of regulation is the affirmation or promotion of religious doctrine -- primary in the sense that all secular ends which it purportedly serves are derivative from, not wholly independent of, the advancement of religion -- the regulation is beyond the power of the state. This was the case in *McCollum.* Or if a statute furthers both secular and religious ends **[p. 467]** by means unnecessary to the effectuation of the secular ends alone -- where the same secular ends could equally be attained by means which do not have consequences for promotion of religion -- the statute cannot stand. A State may not endow a church although that church might inculcate in its parishioners moral concepts deemed to make them better citizens, because the very *raison d'etre* of a church, as opposed to any other school of civilly serviceable morals, is the predication of religious doctrine. However, inasmuch as individuals are free, if they will, to build their own churches and worship in them, the State may guard its people's safety by extending fire and police protection to the churches so built. It was on the reasoning that parents are also at liberty to send their children to parochial schools which meet the reasonable educational standards of the State, *Pierce v. Society of Sisters,* 268 U. S. 510, that this Court held in the *Everson* case that expenditure of public funds to assure that children attending every kind of school enjoy the relative security of buses, rather than being left to walk or hitchhike, is not an unconstitutional "establishment," even though such an expenditure may cause some children to go to parochial schools who would not otherwise have gone. The close division of the Court in *Everson* serves to show what nice questions are involved in applying to particular governmental action the proposition, undeniable in the abstract, that not every regulation some of whose practical effects may facilitate the observance of a religion by its adherents affronts the requirement of church-state separation.

In an important sense, the constitutional prohibition of religious establishment is a provision of more comprehensive availability than the guarantee of free exercise, insofar as both give content to the prohibited fusion of church and state. The former may be invoked by the corporate operator of a seven-day department store whose **[p. 468]** state-compelled Sunday closing injures it financially -- or by the department store's employees, whatever their faith, who are convicted for violation of a Sunday statute, as well as by the Orthodox Jewish retailer or consumer who claims that the statute prejudices him in his ability to keep his faith. But it must not be forgotten that the question which the department store operator and employees may raise in their own behalf is narrower than that posed by the case of the Orthodox Jew.[[6]](#footnote-6) Their "establishment" contention can prevail only if the absence of any substantial legislative purpose other than a religious one is made to appear.*See Selective Draft Law Cases,* 245 U. S. 366.

In the present cases, the Sunday retail sellers and their employees and customers, in attacking statutes banning various activities on a day which most Christian creeds consecrate, do assert that these statutes have no other purpose. They urge, first, that the legislators' motives **[p. 469]** were religious. But the private and unformulated influences which may work upon legislation are not open to judicial probing.

"The decisions of this court from the beginning lend no support whatever to the assumption that the judiciary may restrain the exercise of lawful power on the assumption that a wrongful purpose or motive has caused the power to be exerted."

*McCray v. United States,* 195 U. S. 27, 195 U. S. 56.

"Inquiry into the hidden motives which may move [a legislature] to exercise a power constitutionally conferred upon it is beyond the competency of courts."

*Sonzinsky v. United States,* 300 U. S. 506, 300 U. S. 513-514. *Veazie Bank v. Fenno,* 8 Wall. 533; *Arizona v. California,* 283 U. S. 423; *Oklahoma ex rel. Phillips v. Guy F. Atkinson Co.,* 313 U. S. 508. These litigants also argue, however, that, when the state statutory provisions are regarded in their legislative context, religion is apparent on their face: they point to the use of the terms "Lord's day" and "Sabbath" and "desecration," to exceptions whose hours permit activities only at times on Sunday when religious services are customarily not held, to explicit prohibition of otherwise permitted activity in the vicinity of churches, to regulations which condition the allowance of conduct on its consistency with the "due observance" of the day. Of course, since these various provisions regarding exemption from the Sunday ban of certain recreational activities have no possible application to the litigants in the present cases, they are not themselves before the Court, and their constitutionality is not now in issue. But they are put forward as evidence of the purpose of the statutes which are attacked here, and, as such, we may properly look to them, and also to the history of the body of state Sunday regulations, which, it is urged, further demonstrates sectarian creedal purpose. As a basis for appraising these arguments that the statutes are religious legislation, and preliminary **[p. 470]** to determining the claims of infringement of conscience raised in the *Gallagher* and *Braunfeld*cases, it is necessary to survey the long historical development and present-day position of civil Sunday regulation.

## II

For these purposes, the span of centuries which saw the enunciation of the Fourth Commandment,[[7]](#footnote-7) Constantine's edict proscribing labor on the venerable day of the Sun,[[8]](#footnote-8) and the Sunday prohibitions of Carlovingian, Merovingian and Saxon rulers, and later of the English kings of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, may be passed over.[[9]](#footnote-9) What is of concern here is the Sunday institution as it evolved in modern England, the American Colonies, and the States of the Union under the Constitution. The first significant English Sunday regulation, for this purpose, was the statute of Henry VI in 1448, which, after reciting

"the abominable injuries and offences done to Almighty God, and to his Saints, . . . because of fairs and markets upon their high and principal feasts, . . . in which principal and festival days, for great earthly covetise, the people is more willingly vexed, and in bodily labour soiled, than in other . . . days, . . . as though they did nothing remember the horrible defiling of their souls in buying and selling, with many deceitful lies and false perjury, with drunkenness and strifes, and so specially **[p. 471]** withdrawing themselves and their servants from divine service . . . ,"

ordained that all fairs and markets should cease to show forth goods or merchandise on Sundays, Good Friday, and the principal feast days.[[10]](#footnote-10) A short-lived ordinance of Edward VI a century later, limiting the ban on bodily labor to Sundays and enumerated holy days, demonstrated in its preamble a similar sectarian purpose,[[11]](#footnote-11) and in 1625 Charles I, announcing that

"there is nothing more acceptable to God than the true and sincere service and worship of him . . . and that the holy keeping of the Lord's day is a principal part of the true service of God,"

prohibited all meetings of the people out of their parishes for sports and pastimes on Sunday, and all bear-baiting, bull-baiting, interludes, common plays, and other unlawful exercises and pastimes on that day.[[12]](#footnote-12) Several years later, the same king declared it reproachful of God and religion, and hence made it unlawful, **[p. 472]** for butchers to slaughter or carriers, drovers, waggoners, etc., to travel on the Lord's day;[[13]](#footnote-13) then, in 1677,[[14]](#footnote-14) "For the better Observation and keeping Holy the Lord's Day," the statute, 29 Charles II, c. 7, which is still the basic Sunday law of Britain, was enacted:

"that all and every Person and Persons whatsoever, shall on every Lord's Day apply themselves to the Observation of the same, by exercising themselves thereon in the Duties of Piety and true Religion, publickly and privately; . . . and that no Tradesman, Artificer, Workman, Labourer or other Person whatsoever, shall do or exercise any worldly Labour, Business or Work of their ordinary Callings, upon the Lord's Day, or any part thereof (Works of Necessity and Charity only excepted;) . . . and that no Person or Persons whatsoever, shall publickly cry, shew forth, or expose to Sale, any Wares, Merchandizes, Fruit, Herbs, Goods or Chattels whatsoever, upon the Lord's Day. . . .[[15]](#footnote-15) "

In 1781, a **[p. 473]** statute, 21 Geo. III, c. 49, reciting that various public entertainments and explications of scriptural texts by incompetent persons tended "to the great encouragement of irreligion and profaneness," closed all rooms and houses in which public entertainment, amusement or debates, for an admission charge, were held.[[16]](#footnote-16)

These Sunday laws were indisputably works of the English Establishment. Their prefatory language spoke their religious inspiration,[[17]](#footnote-17) exceptions made from time to time were expressly limited to preserve inviolable the hours of the divine service,[[18]](#footnote-18) and in their administration **[p. 474]** a spirit of inquisitorial piety was evident.[[19]](#footnote-19) But even in this period of religious predominance, notes of a secondary civil purpose could be heard. Apart from the counsel of those who had, from the time of the Reformation, insisted that the Fourth Commandment itself embodied a precept of social, rather than sacramental significance,[[20]](#footnote-20) claims **[p. 475]** were asserted in the eighteenth century on behalf of Sunday rest, in part, in the service of health and welfare.[[21]](#footnote-21)

Blackstone wrote that

". . . besides the notorious indecency and scandal of permitting any secular business to be publicly transacted on that day in a country professing Christianity, and the corruption of morals which usually follows its profanation, the keeping one day in the seven holy, as a time of relaxation and refreshment as well as for public worship, is of admirable service to a state, considered merely as a civil institution. It humanizes, by the help of conversation and society, the manners of the lower classes, which would otherwise degenerate into a sordid ferocity and savage selfishness of spirit; it enables the industrious workman to pursue his occupation in the ensuing week with health and cheerfulness; it imprints on the minds of the people that sense of their duty to God so necessary to make them good citizens, but which yet **[p. 476]** would be worn out and defaced by an unremitted continuance of labor, without any stated times of recalling them to the worship of their Maker.[[22]](#footnote-22) "

In 1788, the schedule to the act, 28 Geo. III, c. 48, obligated master chimney sweeps to have their apprentices washed at least once a week, providing that, on Sunday the master should send the apprentice to worship, should allow him to have religious instruction, and should not allow him to wear his sweeping dress; the act also regulated the sweeps' hours of work. In 1832, a Commons Select Committee on the Observance of the Sabbath heard the testimony of a medical doctor as to the physically injurious effects of seven-day unremitted labor,[[23]](#footnote-23) and although the report of the Committee reveals a primarily religious cast of mind, it discloses also a sensitivity to the plight of the journeyman bakers, seven thousand of whom had petitioned the House for one day's repose weekly, and to the wishes of shopkeepers and tradesmen forced by competition to work on Sunday, although "most desirous of a day of rest."[[24]](#footnote-24) The Committee recommended the enactment of severer sanctions for Lord's day violations:

"The objects to be attained by Legislation may be considered to be, first, a solemn and decent outward Observance of the Lord's-day, as that portion of the week which is set apart by Divine Command for Public Worship, and next, the securing to every member of the Community without any exception, and however low his station, the uninterrupted enjoyment of that Day of Rest which has been in Mercy provided for him, and the privilege of employing it, as well in **[p. 477]** the sacred Exercises for which it was ordained as in the bodily relaxation which is necessary for his wellbeing, and which, though a secondary end, is nevertheless also of high importance.[[25]](#footnote-25) "

But, whatever the nature of the propulsions underlying state-enforced Sunday labor stoppage during these centuries before the twentieth, it is clear that its effect was the creation of an institution of Sunday as a day apart. The origins of the institution were religious, certainly, but through long-established usage it had become a part of the life of the English people.[[26]](#footnote-26) It was a day of rest not merely in a physical, hygienic sense, but in the sense of a recurrent time in the cycle of human activity when the rhythms of existence changed, a day of particular associations which came to have their own autonomous value for life.[[27]](#footnote-27) When that value was threatened by the pressures of the Industrial Revolution, agitation began for new **[p. 478]** legislative action to preserve the traditional English Sunday.[[28]](#footnote-28)

At the turn of the century, the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, prohibited the Sunday employment of women and children in industrial establishments.[[29]](#footnote-29) The Shops Act, 1912, in its institution of a five-and-a-half-day week for shop assistants, built upon the base of existing Sunday closing law.[[30]](#footnote-30) When, during the war, the pressures of **[p. 479]** national defense compelled continuous factory operation, a Committee of the Ministry of Munitions appointed to investigate industrial fatigue as this affected the health and efficiency of munitions workers, recommended to Parliament reinauguration of Sunday work stoppage:

". . . The problem of Sunday labour, although materially affected by various industrial questions and the established custom of Sunday rest, is -- as regards Munitions Works -- primarily a question of the extent to which workers actually require weekly or periodic rests if they are to maintain their health and energy over long periods. Intervals of rest are needed to overcome mental, as well as physical, fatigue. In this connection, account has to be taken not only of the hours of labour (overtime, 12-hour shifts, 8-hour shifts), the environment of the work, and the physical strain involved, but also the mental fatigue or boredom resulting from continuous attention to work. As one Manager put it, it is the monotony of the work which kills -- the men get sick of it."

"*\* \* \* \*"*

". . . [I]f the maximum output is to be secured and maintained for any length of time, a weekly period of rest must be allowed. . . . On economic and social grounds alike, this weekly period of rest is best provided on Sunday. . . .[[31]](#footnote-31) " **[p. 480]** In 1936, the conflict between the economic pressures for seven-day commercial activity and the resistance to those pressures culminated in the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act of that year, which, with a complex pattern of exceptions, prohibited Sunday trading upon pain of penalties more severe, and hence better calculated to assure obedience, than the nominal fines which had obtained under the seventeenth century Lord's day ban.[[32]](#footnote-32) The Parliamentary Debates on the 1936 Act are instructive. With extremely rare exceptions,[[33]](#footnote-33) no intimation of religious purpose is to be discovered in them.[[34]](#footnote-34) The opening speech by Mr. Loftus, who introduced the bill, is representative:

". . . [I]t is a Bill which is necessary to secure the family life and liberty of hundreds of thousands of our people. . . ."

"*\* \* \* \*"* **[p. 481]** ". . . I will explain to the House that there are thousands of shopkeepers who hate opening on Sunday -- they dislike the whole idea -- but are forced to open because their neighbours open. They are forced to open not for the sake of the Sunday trading, but because, if they let their customers get into the habit on Sunday of going to other shops, they may lose their week-day custom. . . . They have the right to a holiday on Sunday, to be able to rest from work on that day and to go out into the parks or into the country on a summer day. That is the liberty for which they are asking, and that is the liberty which this Bill would give to them. As regards the support behind the Bill, it is promoted by the Early Closing Association, with 300 affiliated associations, and the National Federation of Grocers, representing 400,000 individual shops, and is supported by the National Chamber of Trade, the Drapers' Chamber of Trade, the National Federation of the Boot Trade, and as regards the employes -- and this is important -- it is supported by the National Union of Shop Assistants and by the National Union of Distributive Workers.[[35]](#footnote-35) "

Speakers asserted the necessity for maintaining "the traditional quality of the Sunday in this country."[[36]](#footnote-36) One particularly staunch Labour supporter of the measure argued:

". . . Frankly, I am afraid of a seven-day week. I see it coming gradually, and a seven-day week **[p. 482]** means six days' pay for seven days' work. I have worked seven days a week in my time, and I say that, if I can help it, nobody else shall work seven days for six days' pay. It is clear that, if one shopkeeper opens in a street, the whole street is bound to open and if one street opens, the whole town must open automatically. . . . I am not speaking as a Sabbatarian. I stand for the six-day working week with one day's rest in seven, but I do not want that day's rest arranged on the lines suggested by the hon. Member . . . who, apparently, wants to turn my Sunday into a Tuesday or a Wednesday. The argument is that all we need do is to say there shall be a six-day working week with one day's rest in seven, and that it does not matter whether the Sunday comes on a Friday or a Tuesday. As a family man, let me say that my family life would be unduly disturbed if any member had his Sunday on a Tuesday. The value of a Sunday is that everybody in the family is at home on the same day. What is the use of talking about a six-day working week in which six members of a family would each have his day of rest on a different.day of the week?[[37]](#footnote-37) "

The bill was strongly supported by labor and trade groups,[[38]](#footnote-38) and passed by an overwhelming margin.[[39]](#footnote-39)

Thus, the English experience demonstrates the intimate relationship between civil Sunday regulation and the interest of a state in preserving to its people a recurrent time of mental and physical recuperation from the strains and pressures of their ordinary labors. It demonstrates also, of course, the intimate historical connection between the choice of Sunday as this time of rest and the doctrines **[p. 483]** of the Christian church. Long before the emergence of modern notions of government, religion had set Sunday apart. Through generations, the people were accustomed to it as a day when ordinary uses ceased. If it might once -- or elsewhere -- have been equally practicable to fulfill the same need of the workers and traders for periodic relaxation by the selection of some other cycle, it was no longer practicable in England. Some hypothetical man might do better with one-day-in-eight, or one-day-in-four, but the Englishman was used to one-day-in-seven. And that day was Sunday. Through associations fostered by tradition, that day had a character of its own which became, in itself, a cultural asset of importance: a release from the daily grind, a preserve of mental peace, an opportunity for self-disposition. Certainly, legislative fiat could have attempted to switch the day to Tuesday. But Parliament, naturally enough, concluded that such an attempt might prove as futile as the ephemeral decade of the French Republic of 1792.[[40]](#footnote-40) **[p. 484**]

## III

.

In England's American settlements, too, civil Sunday regulation early became an institution of importance in shaping the colonial pattern of life. Every Colony had a law prohibiting Sunday labor. These had been enacted **[p. 485]** in many instances prior to the last quarter of the seventeenth century, and they were continued in force throughout the period that preceded the adoption of the Federal **[p. 486]** Constitution and the Bill of Rights.[[41]](#footnote-41) This is not in itself, of course, indicative of the purpose of those laws, or of their consistency with the guarantee of religious freedom which the First Amendment, restraining the power of the central Government, secured. Most of the States were only partly disestablished in 1789.[[42]](#footnote-42) Only in Virginia[[43]](#footnote-43) and in Rhode Island, which had never had an establishment,[[44]](#footnote-44) had the ideal of complete church-state separation been realized. Other States were fast approaching that ideal, however, and everywhere the spirit of liberty in religion was in the ascendant. Ratifying Conventions in New York, New Hampshire and North Carolina, as well as in Virginia and Rhode Island, proposed an anti-establishment amendment to the Constitution or signified that, in their understanding the Constitution embodied such a safeguard.[[45]](#footnote-45) All of these five States had Sunday laws at the time that their Conventions spoke. Indeed, in four of the five, their legislatures had reaffirmed the Sunday labor ban within five years or less immediately prior to that date.[[46]](#footnote-46) **[p. 487]** The earlier among the colonial Sunday statutes were unquestionably religious in purpose. Their preambles recite that profanation of the Lord's day "to he great Reproach of the Christian Religion,"[[47]](#footnote-47) or "to the great offence of the Godly welaffected among us,"[[48]](#footnote-48) must be suppressed; that "the keeping holy the Lord's day, is a principal part of the true service of God";[[49]](#footnote-49) that neglecting the Sabbath "pulls downe the judgments of God upon that place or people that suffer the same. . . ."[[50]](#footnote-50) The first Pennsylvania Sunday law announces a purpose "That Looseness, irreligion, and Atheism may not Creep in under pretense of Conscience. . . ."[[51]](#footnote-51) Sometimes **[p. 488]** reproach of God is made an operative element of the offense.[[52]](#footnote-52) Prohibitions of Sunday labor are frequently coupled with admonitions that all persons shall "carefully apply themselves to Duties of Religion and Piety, publickly and privately . . . ,"[[53]](#footnote-53) and are found in comprehensive ecclesiastical codes which also prohibit blasphemy,[[54]](#footnote-54) lay taxes for the support of the church,[[55]](#footnote-55) or compel attendance at divine services.[[56]](#footnote-56) **[p. 489]** But even the seventeenth century legislation does not show an exclusively religious preoccupation. The same Pennsylvania law which speaks of the suppression of atheism also ordains Sunday rest "for the ease of the Creation," and shows solicitude that servants, as well as their masters, may be free on that day to attend such spiritual pursuits as they may wish.[[57]](#footnote-57) The Rhode Island Assembly in 1679 enacted:

"Voted, Whereas there hath complaint been made that sundry persons being eville minded, have presumed **[p. 490]** to employ in servile labor, more than necessity requireth, their servants, and alsoe hire other mens' servants and sell them to labor on the first day of the week: . . . bee it enacted . . . That if any person or persons shall employ his servants or hire and employ any other man's servant or servants, and set them to labor as aforesaid [he shall be penalized].[[58]](#footnote-58) " **[p. 491]** In the latter half of the eighteenth century, the Sunday laws, while still giving evidence of concern for the "immorality" of the practices they prohibit, tend no longer to be prefixed by preambles in the form of theological treatises.[[59]](#footnote-59) Now it appears to be the community, rather than the Deity, which is offended by Sunday labor. New York's statute of 1788 no longer refers to the Lord's day, but to "the first day of the week commonly called Sunday."[[60]](#footnote-60) Where preambles do appear, they display a duplicity of purpose. The Massachusetts Act of 1792 begins:

"Whereas the observance of the Lord's Day is highly promotive of the welfare of a community, by affording necessary seasons for relaxation from labour and the cares of business; for moral reflections and conversation on the duties of life . . . ; for public and private worship of the Maker, Governor and Judge of the world, and for those acts of charity which support and adorn a Christian society: And whereas some thoughtless and irreligious persons, inattentive to the duties and benefits of the Lord's Day, profane the same, by unnecessarily pursuing their worldly business and recreations on that day, to their own great damage, as members of a Christian **[p. 492]** society; to the great disturbance of well disposed persons, and to the great damage of the community, by producing dissipation of manners and immoralities of life. . . ."

An enactment of Vermont in 1797 is similar.[[61]](#footnote-61)

More significant is the history of Sunday legislation in Virginia. Even before the English statute of 29 Charles II, that Colony had had laws compelling Sunday attendance at worship[[62]](#footnote-62) and forbidding Sunday labor.[[63]](#footnote-63) In 1776, the General Convention at Williamsburg adopted a Declaration of Rights, providing, *inter alia,* that " . . . all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience . . . ,"[[64]](#footnote-64) and, in the same year, the acts of Parliament compelling church attendance and punishing deviation in belief were declared void, dissenters were exempted from the tax for support of the established church, and the levy of that tax was suspended.[[65]](#footnote-65) Eight years later came the battle over the Assessment Bill. Under Madison's leadership the forces supporting entire freedom of religion wrote the definitive quietus to the Virginia establishment, and Jefferson's Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom was enacted in 1786:

"I. Whereas Almighty God hath created the mind free; that all attempts to influence it by temporal **[p. 493]** punishments or burthens, or by civil incapacitations, tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness, and are a departure from the plan of the Holy author of our religion, who being Lord both of body and mind, yet chose not to . . . propagate it by coercions on either, as was in his Almighty power to do; that the impious presumption of legislators and rulers, civil as well as ecclesiastical, who being themselves but fallible and uninspired men, have assumed dominion over the faith of others, setting up their own opinions and modes of thinking as the only true and infallible, and as such endeavouring to impose them on others, hath established and maintained false religions over the greatest part of the world, and through all time; . . . that to suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion, and to restrain the profession or propagation of principles on supposition of their ill tendency, is a dangerous fallacy, . . . that it is time enough for the rightful purposes of civil government, for its officers to interfere when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order, and finally, that truth is great and will prevail if left to herself. . . ."

"II. *Be it enacted* . . . That no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities.[[66]](#footnote-66) "

In this bill breathed the full amplitude of the spirit which inspired the First Amendment, and this Court has looked **[p. 494]** to the bill, and to the Virginia history which surrounded its enactment, as a gloss on the signification of the Amendment. *See* the opinions in *Everson v. Board of Education,* 330 U. S. 1. The bill was drafted for the Virginia Legislature as No. 82 of the Revised Statutes returned to the Assembly by Jefferson and Wythe on June 18, 1779.[[67]](#footnote-67) Bill No. 84 of the Revision provided:

"If any person on Sunday shall himself be found labouring at his own or any other trade or calling, or shall employ his apprentices, servants or slaves in labour, or other business, except it be in the ordinary household offices of daily necessity, or other work of necessity or charity, he shall forfeit the sum of ten shillings. . . .[[68]](#footnote-68) "

This bill was presented to the Assembly by Madison in 1785,[[69]](#footnote-69) and was enacted in 1786.[[70]](#footnote-70) Apparently neither Thomas Jefferson nor James Madison regarded it as **[p. 495]** repugnant to religious freedom. Nor did the Virginia legislators who thirteen years later reaffirmed the Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom as "a true exposition of the principles of the bill of rights and constitution," by repealing all laws which they deemed inconsistent with it.[[71]](#footnote-71) The Sunday law of 1786 was not among those repealed.

## IV

Legislation currently in force in forty-nine of the fifty States illegalizes on Sunday some form of conduct lawful if performed on weekdays.[[72]](#footnote-72) In several States only one or a few activities are banned -- the sale of alcoholic beverages,[[73]](#footnote-73) hunting,[[74]](#footnote-74) barbering,[[75]](#footnote-75) pawnbroking,[[76]](#footnote-76) trading **[p. 496]** in automobiles[[77]](#footnote-77) -- but thirty-four jurisdictions broadly ban Sunday labor, or the employment of labor, or selling or keeping open for sale, or some two or more of these comprehensive categories of affairs. In many of these States, and in others having no statewide prohibition of industrial or commercial activity, municipal Sunday ordinances are ubiquitous.[[78]](#footnote-78) Most of these regulations are the product of many reenactments and amendments. Although some are still built upon the armatures **[p. 497]** of earlier statutes, they are all, like the laws of Maryland, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania which are before us in these cases,[[79]](#footnote-79) recently reconsidered legislation. As expressions of state policy, they must be deemed as contemporary as their latest-enacted exceptions in favor of moving pictures[[80]](#footnote-80) or severer bans of Sunday motor vehicle trading.[[81]](#footnote-81) In all, they reflect a widely felt present-day need, for whose satisfaction old laws are shaped and new laws enacted.

To be sure, the Massachusetts statute now before the Court, and statutes in Pennsylvania and Maryland, still call Sunday the "Lord's day" or the "Sabbath." So do the Sunday laws in many other States.[[82]](#footnote-82) But the continuation **[p. 498]** of seventeenth century language does not, of itself, prove the continuation of the purposes for which the colonial governments enacted these laws, or that these are the purposes for which their successors of the twentieth have retained them and modified them. We know, **[p. 499]** for example, that Committees of the New York Legislature, considering that State's Sabbath Laws on two occasions more than a century apart, twice recommended no repeal of those laws, both times on the ground that the laws did not involve

"any partisan religious issue, but **[p. 500]** rather economic and health regulation of the activities of the people on a universal day of rest,[[83]](#footnote-83) "

and that a Massachusetts legislative committee rested on the same views.[[84]](#footnote-84) Sunday legislation has been supported not only **[p. 501]** by such clerical organizations as the Lord's Day Alliance, but also by labor and trade groups.[[85]](#footnote-85) The interlocking sections of the Massachusetts Labor Code construct their six-day-week provisions upon the basic premise of "Sunday **[p. 502]** rest."[[86]](#footnote-86) Other States have similar laws.[[87]](#footnote-87) When, in Pennsylvania, motion pictures were excepted from the Lord's day statute, a "day of rest in seven clause" for motion picture personnel was written into the exempting statute to **[p. 503]** fill the gap.[[88]](#footnote-88) Puerto Rico's closing law, which limits the weekday hours of commercial establishments as well as proscribing their Sunday operation, does not express a religious purpose.[[89]](#footnote-89) Rhode Island and South Carolina now enforce portions of their Sunday employment bans through their respective Departments of Labor.[[90]](#footnote-90) It cannot be fairly denied that the institution of Sunday as a time whose occupations and atmosphere differ from those of other days of the week has now been a portion of the American cultural scene since well before the Constitution; that, for many millions of people, life has a hebdomadal rhythm in which this day, with all its particular associations, is the recurrent note of repose.[[91]](#footnote-91) Cultural history establishes not a few practices and prohibitions religious in origin which are retained as secular **[p. 504]** institutions and ways long after their religious sanctions and justifications are gone.[[92]](#footnote-92) In light of these considerations, can it reasonably be said that no substantial nonecclesiastical **[p. 505]** purpose relevant to a well ordered social life exists for Sunday restrictions?

It is urged, however, that, if a day of rest were the legislative purpose, statutes to secure it would take some other form than the prohibition of activity on Sunday.[[93]](#footnote-93) Such statutes, it is argued, would provide for one day's labor **[p. 506]** stoppage in seven, leaving the choice of the day to the individual; or, alternatively, would fix a common day of rest on some other day -- Monday or Tuesday. But, in all fairness, certainly, it would be impossible to call unreasonable a legislative finding that these suggested alternatives were unsatisfactory. A provision for one day's closing per week, at the option of every particular enterpriser, might be disruptive of families whose members are employed by different enterprises.[[94]](#footnote-94) Enforcement might be more difficult, both because violation would be less easily discovered and because such a law would not be seconded, as is Sunday legislation, by the community's moral temper. More important, "one day a week" laws do not accomplish all that is accomplished by Sunday laws

They provide only a periodic physical rest, not that atmosphere of entire community repose which Sunday has traditionally brought and which, a legislature might reasonably believe, is necessary to the welfare of those who, for **[p. 507]** many generations have been accustomed to its recuperative effects.

The same considerations might also be deemed to justify the choice of Sunday as the single common day when labor ceases. For, to many who do not regard it sacramentally, Sunday is nevertheless a day of special, long established associations, whose particular temper makes it a haven that no other day could provide. The will of a majority of the community, reflected in the legislative process during scores of years, presumably prefers to take its leisure on Sunday.[[95]](#footnote-95) The spirit of any people expresses in goodly measure the heritage which links it to its past. Disruption of this heritage by a regulation which, like the unnatural labors of Claudius' shipwrights, does not divide the Sunday from the week, might prove a measure ill-designed to secure the desirable community repose for which Sunday legislation is designed. At all events, Maryland, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, like thirty-one other States with similar regulations, could reasonably so find. Certainly, from failure to make a substitution for Sunday in securing a socially desirable day of surcease from subjection to labor and routine a purpose cannot be derived to establish or promote religion.

The question before the Court in these cases is not a new one. During a hundred and fifty years, Sunday laws have been attacked in state and federal courts as disregarding constitutionally demanded Church-State separation, or infringing protected religious freedoms, or on the ground that they subserved no end within the legitimate compass of legislative power. One California court in 1858 held California's Sunday statute unconstitutional.[[96]](#footnote-96) **[p. 508]** That decision was overruled three years later.[[97]](#footnote-97) Every other appellate court that has considered the question has found the statutes supportable as civil regulations[[98]](#footnote-98) and **[p. 509]** not repugnant to religious freedom.[[99]](#footnote-99) These decisions are assailed as latter-day justifications upon specious civil grounds of legislation whose religious purposes were either overlooked or concealed by the judges who passed upon it. **[p. 510]** Of course, it is for this Court ultimately to determine whether federal constitutional guarantees are observed or undercut. But this does not mean that we are to be indifferent to the unanimous opinion of generations **[p. 511]** of judges who, in the conscientious discharge of obligations as solemn as our own, have sustained the Sunday laws as not inspired by religious purpose. The Court did not ignore that opinion in *Friedman v. New York,* 341 U.S. 907; *McGee v. North Carolina,* 346 U.S. 802; *Kidd v. Ohio,* 358 U. S. 132, and *Ullner v. Ohio,* 358 U. S. 131, dismissing for want of a substantial federal question appeals from state decisions sustaining Sunday laws which were obnoxious to the same objections urged in the present cases.[[100]](#footnote-100) I cannot ignore that consensus of view now. The statutes of Maryland, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania which we here examine are not constitutionally forbidden fusions of church and state.[[101]](#footnote-101) **[p. 512**]

## V

Appellees in the *Gallagher* case and appellants in the Braunfeld case contend that, as applied to them, Orthodox Jewish retailers and their Orthodox Jewish customers, the Massachusetts Lord's day statute and the Pennsylvania Sunday retail sales act violate the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment because, in effect, the statutes deter the exercise and observance of their religion. The argument runs that, by compelling the Sunday closing of retail stores and thus making unavailable for business and shopping uses one-seventh part of the week, these statutes force them either to give up the Sabbath observance -- an essential part of their faith -- or to forego advantages enjoyed by the non-Sabbatarian majority of the community. They point out, moreover, that, because of the prevailing five-day working week of a large proportion of the population, Sunday is a day peculiarly profitable to retail sellers and peculiarly convenient to retail shoppers. The records in these cases support them in this. The claim which these litigants urge assumes a number of aspects. First, they argue that any "one common day **[p. 513]** of closing" regulation which selected a day other than their Sabbath would be *ipso facto*unconstitutional in its application to them because of its effect in preferring persons who observe no Sabbath, therefore creating economic pressures which urge Sabbatarians to give up their usage. The creation of this pressure by the Sunday statutes, it is said, is not so necessary a means to the achievement of the ends of day of rest legislation as to justify its employment when weighed against the injury to Sabbatarian religion which it entails. Six-day week regulation, with the closing day left to individual choice, is urged as a more reasonable alternative.

Second, they argue that, even if legitimate state interests justify the enforcement against persons generally of a single common day of rest, the choice of Sunday as that day violates the rights of religious freedom of the Sabbatarian minority. By choosing a day upon which Sunday-observing Christians worship and abstain from labor, the statutes are said to discriminate between religions. The Sunday observer may practice his faith and yet work six days a week, while the observer of the Jewish Sabbath, his competitor, may work only during five days, to the latter's obvious disadvantage. Orthodox Jewish shoppers whose jobs occupy a five-day week have no week-end shopping day, while Sunday-observing Christians do. Leisure to attend Sunday services, and relative quiet throughout their duration, is assured by law, but no equivalent treatment is accorded to Friday evening and Saturday services. Sabbatarians feel that the power of the State is employed to coerce their observance of Sunday as a holy day; that the State accords a recognition to Sunday Christian doctrine which is withheld from Sabbatarian creeds. All of these prejudices could be avoided, it is argued, without impairing the effectiveness of common day of rest regulation, either by fixing as the rest time some day which is held sacred by no sect, or by providing **[p. 514]** for a Sunday work ban from which Sabbatarians are excepted, on condition of their abstaining from labor on Saturday. Failure to adopt these alternatives in lieu of Sunday statutes applicable to Sabbatarians is said to constitute an unconstitutional choice of means.

Finally, it is urged that if, as means, these statutes are necessary to the goals which they seek to attain, nevertheless the goals themselves are not of sufficient value to society to justify the disadvantage which their attainment imposes upon the religious exercise of Sabbatarians.

The first of these contentions has already been discussed. The history of Sunday legislation convincingly demonstrates that Sunday statutes may serve other purposes than the provision merely of one day of physical stoppage in seven. These purposes fully justify common day of rest statutes which choose Sunday as the day.

In urging that an exception in favor of those who observe some other day as sacred would not defeat the ends of Sunday legislation, and therefore that failure to provide such an exception is an unnecessary -- hence an unconstitutional -- burden on Sabbatarians, the *Gallagher*appellees and *Braunfeld* appellants point to such exceptions in twenty-one of the thirty-four jurisdictions which have statutes banning labor or employment or the selling of goods on Sunday.[[102]](#footnote-102) Actually, in less than half of these twenty-one States does the exemption extend to **[p. 515]** sales activity as well as to labor.[[103]](#footnote-103) There are tenable reasons why a legislature might choose not to make such an exception. To whatever extent persons who come within the exception are present in a community, their activity would disturb the atmosphere of general repose, and reintroduce into Sunday the business tempos of the week. Administration would be more difficult, with violations less evident and, in effect, two or more days to police **[p. 516]** instead of one. If it is assumed that the retail demand for consumer items is approximately equivalent on Saturday and on Sunday, the Sabbatarian, in proportion as he is less numerous, and hence the competition less severe, might incur through the exception a competitive advantage over the non-Sabbatarian, who would then be in a position, presumably, to complain of discrimination against *his* religion.[[104]](#footnote-104) Employers who wished to avail themselves of the exception would have to employ only their co-religionists,[[105]](#footnote-105) and there might be introduced into private employment practices an element of religious differentiation which a legislature could regard as undesirable.[[106]](#footnote-106)

Finally, a relevant consideration which might cause a State's lawmakers to reject exception for observers of another day than Sunday is that administration of such a provision may require judicial inquiry into religious belief. A legislature could conclude that, if all that is made requisite to qualify for the exemption is an abstinence from labor on some other day, there would be nothing to prevent an enterpriser from closing on his slowest business day, to take advantage of the whole of **[p. 517]** the profitable weekend trade, thereby converting the Sunday labor ban, in effect, into a "day of rest in seven" statute, with choice of the day left to the individual. All of the state exempting statutes seem to reflect this consideration. Ten of them require that a person claiming exception "conscientiously" believe in the sanctity of another day or "conscientiously" observe another day as the Sabbath.[[107]](#footnote-107) Five demand that he keep another day as "holy time."[[108]](#footnote-108) Three allow the exemption only to members of a "religious" society observing another day,[[109]](#footnote-109) and a fourth provides for proof of membership in such a society by the certificate of a preacher or of any three adherents.[[110]](#footnote-110) In Illinois the claimant must observe some day as a "Sabbath," and in New Jersey he must prove that he devotes that day to religious exercises.[[111]](#footnote-111) Connecticut, one of the jurisdictions demanding conscientious belief, requires in addition that he who seeks the benefit of the exception file a notice of such belief with the prosecuting attorney.[[112]](#footnote-112) **[p. 518]** Indicative of the practical administrative difficulties which may arise in attempts to effect, consistently with the purposes of Sunday closing legislation, an exception for persons conscientiously observing another day as Sabbath are the provisions of § 53 of the British Shops Act, 1950,[[113]](#footnote-113) continuing in substance § 7 of the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936.[[114]](#footnote-114) These were the product of experience with earlier forms of exemptions which had proved unsatisfactory,[[115]](#footnote-115) and the new 1936 provisions were enacted only after the consideration and rejection of a number of proposed alternatives.[[116]](#footnote-116) They allow shops **[p. 519]** which are registered under the section and which remain closed on Saturday to open for trade until 2 p.m. on Sunday. Applications for registration must contain a declaration that the shop occupier "conscientiously objects on religious grounds to carrying on trade or business on the Jewish Sabbath,"[[117]](#footnote-117) and any person who, to procure registration, "knowingly or recklessly makes an untrue statement or untrue representation," is subject to fine and imprisonment. Whenever upon representations made to them the local authorities find reason to believe that a registered occupier is not a person of the Jewish religion or "that a conscientious objection on religious grounds . . . is not genuinely held," the authorities may furnish particulars of the case to a tribunal established after consultation with the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews,[[118]](#footnote-118) which tribunal, if in their opinion the occupier is not a person of the Jewish religion or does not genuinely hold a conscientious objection to trade on the Jewish Sabbath, shall so report to the local authorities, and upon this report the occupier's registration is to be revoked.[[119]](#footnote-119) Surely, in light of the delicate **[p. 520]** enforcement problems to which these provisions bear witness, the legislative choice of a blanket Sunday ban applicable to observers of all faiths cannot be held unreasonable. A legislature might in reason find that the alternative of exempting Sabbatarians would impede the effective operation of the Sunday statutes, produce harmful collateral effects, and entail, itself, a not inconsiderable intrusion into matters of religious faith. However preferable, personally, one might deem such an exception, I cannot find that the Constitution compels it.

It cannot, therefore, be said that Massachusetts and Pennsylvania have imposed gratuitous restrictions upon the Sunday activities of persons observing the Orthodox Jewish Sabbath in achieving the legitimate secular ends at which their Sunday statutes may aim. The remaining question is whether the importance to the public of those ends is sufficient to outweigh the restraint upon the religious exercise of Orthodox Jewish practicants which the restriction entails. *See Prince v. Massachusetts,* 321 U. S. 158; *Cox v. New Hampshire,* 312 U. S. 569. The nature of the legislative purpose is the preservation of a traditional institution which assures to the community a time during which the mind and body are released from the demands and distractions of an increasingly mechanized and competition-driven society. The right to this **[p. 521]** release has been claimed by workers and by small enterprisers, especially by retail merchandisers, over centuries, and finds contemporary expression in legislation in three-quarters of the States. The nature of the injury which must be balanced against it is the economic disadvantage to the enterpriser, and the inconvenience to the consumer, which Sunday regulations impose upon those who choose to adhere to the Sabbatarian tenets of their faith.

These statutes do not make criminal, do not place under the onus of civil or criminal disability, any act which is itself prescribed by the duties of the Jewish or other religions. They do create an undeniable financial burden upon the observers of one of the fundamental tenets of certain religious creeds, a burden which does not fall equally upon other forms of observance. This was true of the tax which this Court held an unconstitutional infringement of the free exercise of religion in *Follett v. Town of McCormick,* 321 U. S. 573. But unlike the tax in *Follett,* the burden which the Sunday statutes impose is an incident of the only feasible means to achievement of their particular goal. And again unlike *Follett,* the measure of the burden is not determined by fixed legislative decree, beyond the power of the individual to alter. Upon persons who earn their livelihood by activities not prohibited on Sunday, and upon those whose jobs require only a five-day week, the burden is not considerable. Like the customers of Crown Kosher Super Market in the *Gallagher* case, they are inconvenienced in their shopping. This is hardly to be assessed as an injury of preponderant constitutional weight. The burden on retail sellers competing with Sunday-observing and nonobserving retailers is considerably greater. But, without minimizing the fact of this disadvantage, the legislature may have concluded that its severity might be offset by the industry and commercial initiative of the individual merchant. More is demanded of him, admittedly, whether, in the **[p. 522]** form of additional labor or of material sacrifices, than is demanded of those who do not choose to keep his Sabbath. More would be demanded of him, of course, in a State in which there were no Sunday laws and in which his competitors chose -- like "Two Guys from Harrison-Allentown" -- to do business seven days a week. In view of the importance of the community interests which must be weighed in the balance, is the disadvantage wrought by the non-exempting Sunday statutes an impermissible imposition upon the Sabbatarian's religious freedom? Every court which has considered the question during a century and a half has concluded that it is not.[[120]](#footnote-120) This Court so concluded in *Friedman v. New York,*341 U.S. 907. On the basis of the criteria for determining constitutionality, as opposed to what one might desire as a matter of legislative policy, a contrary conclusion cannot be reached.

## VI

Two further grounds of unconstitutionality are urged in all these cases, based upon the selection in the challenged statutes of the activities included in, or excluded **[p. 523]** from, the Sunday ban. First it is argued that, if the aim of the statutes is to secure a day of peace and repose, the laws of Massachusetts and Maryland, by their exceptions, and the retail sales act of Pennsylvania, by its enumeration of the articles whose sale is forbidden, operate so imperfectly in the service of this aim show so little rational relation to it -- that they must be accounted as arbitrary and therefore violative of due process. The extensive range of recreational and commercial Sunday activity permitted in these States is said to deprive the statutes of any reasonable basis. The distinctions drawn by the laws between what may be sold or done and what may not, it is claimed, are unsupported by reason. Second, these claimants argue that the same discriminations between items which may and may not be sold, and in some cases between the persons who may and those who may not sell identical items, deprive them of the equal protection of the laws.

Although these contentions require the Court to examine separately and with particularity the provisions of each of the three States' statutes which are attacked, the general considerations which govern these cases are the same. It is clear that, in fashioning legislative remedies by fine distinctions to fit specific needs, "The range of the State's discretion is large." *Bain Peanut Co. v. Pinson,* 282 U. S. 499, 282 U. S. 501. This is especially so where, by the nature of its subject, regulation must take account of traditional and prevailing local customs. *See Kotch v. Board of River Port Pilot Comm'rs,* 330 U. S. 552. "The Constitution does not require things which are different, in fact, or opinion to be treated in law as though they were the same." *Tigner v. Texas,* 310 U. S. 141, 310 U. S. 147.

"Evils in the same field may be of different dimensions and proportions, requiring different remedies. Or so the legislature may think. . . . Or the reform may take one step at a time, addressing itself to the phase of the **[p. 524]** problem which seems most acute to the legislative mind. . . . The legislature may select one phase of one field and apply a remedy there, neglecting the others."

*Williamson v. Lee Optical, Inc.,* 348 U. S. 483, 348 U. S. 489.

Neither the Due Process nor the Equal Protection Clause demands logical tidiness. *Metropolis Theatre Co. v. City of Chicago,* 228 U. S. 61. No finicky or exact conformity to abstract correlation is required of legislation. The Constitution is satisfied if a legislature responds to the practical living facts with which it deals. Through what precise points in a field of many competing pressures a legislature might most suitably have drawn its lines is not a question for judicial reexamination. It is enough to satisfy the Constitution that, in drawing them the principle of reason has not been disregarded. *See Goesaert v. Cleary,* 335 U. S. 464. And what degree of uniformity reason demands of a statute is, of course, a function of the complexity of the needs which the statute seeks to accommodate.

In the case of Sunday legislation, an extreme complexity of needs is evident. This is so, first, because one of the prime objectives of the legislation is the preservation of an atmosphere -- a subtle *desideratum,* itself the product of a peculiar and changing set of local circumstances and local traditions. But in addition, in the achievement of that end, however formulated, numerous compromises must be made. Not all activity can halt on Sunday. Some of the very operations whose doings most contribute to the rush and clamor of the week must go on throughout that day as well, whether because life depends upon them, or because the cost of stopping and restarting them is simply too great, or because to be without their services would be more disruptive of peace than to have them continue. Many activities have a double aspect: providing entertainment or recreation for some persons, they **[p. 525]** entail labor and workday tedium for others.[[121]](#footnote-121) Cogent expression of the intricate problems which these various countervalent pressures pose was given by Mr. Lloyd in the course of the debate in Commons on the English Sunday closing act of 1936:

". . . We should all like to see shopkeepers and their staffs as far as possible in a position to observe Sunday in a normal way, like most other people. On the other hand, we know that there are certain reasonable needs of the public which require to be met even on a Sunday, and I think we should also all agree that the fewest possible number of people should have to give up their Sunday in order to cater for those public needs. I think we should probably reach a large measure of general agreement on the principle that only those shops should remain open which are essential to meet the requirements of the public, and only to the extent that they are essential. . . . Therefore, the problem is to strike a just balance between the reasonable needs of the **[p. 526]** public and the equally reasonable desire of the great bulk of those engaged in the distributive trades to enjoy their share of Sunday rest and recreation."

"If that is accepted, it follows at once that the crux of any Bill of this kind lies in the scope and the nature of the exemptions to the general principle of closing on Sunday. . . .[[122]](#footnote-122) "

Moreover, the variation from activity to activity in the degree of disturbance which Sunday operation entails, and the similar variation in degrees of temptation to flout the law, and in degrees of ability to absorb and ignore various legal penalties, make exceedingly difficult the devising of effective, yet comprehensively fair, schemes of sanctions.

Early in the history of the Sunday laws, there developed mechanisms which served to adapt their wide general prohibitions both to practical exigencies and to the evolving concerns and desires of the public. Where it was found that persons in certain activities tended with particular frequency to engage in violations, those activities were singled out for harsher punishment.[[123]](#footnote-123) On the other hand, practices found necessary or convenient to popular habits were specifically excepted from the ban.[[124]](#footnote-124) Under the basic English Sunday statute, 29 Charles II, c. 7, a wide general exception obtained for "Works of Necessity **[p. 527]** and Charity";[[125]](#footnote-125) this provision found its way into the American colonial laws,[[126]](#footnote-126) and has descended into all of their successors currently in force.[[127]](#footnote-127) The effect of the phrase has been to give the courts a wide range of discretion in determining exceptions. But reasonable men can and do differ as to what is "necessity."[[128]](#footnote-128) In every jurisdiction **[p. 528]** legislatures, presumably deeming themselves fitter tribunals for decisions of this sort than were courts, acted to resolve the question against, or in favor of, various particular activities. Some pursuits were expressly declared not works of necessity, or were specially banned.[[129]](#footnote-129) **[p. 529]** Others were expressly permitted: series of exceptions, giving the laws resiliency in the course of cultural change, proliferated.[[130]](#footnote-130) Today, as Appendix II to this opinion, *post,* p.366 U. S. 551, shows, the general pattern in over half of the States and in England[[131]](#footnote-131) is similar. Broad general prohibitions **[p. 530]** are qualified by numerous precise exemptions, often with provision for local variation within a State, and are frequently bolstered by special provisions more heavily penalizing named activities. The regulations of Maryland, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania are not atypical in this regard, although they are undoubtedly among the more complex of the statutory patterns.

The degree of explicitness of these provisions in so many jurisdictions demonstrates the intricacy of the adjustments which they are designed to make. How delicate those adjustments can be is strikingly illustrated, once again, by a remark of the sponsor of the British closing bill of 1936, the most extensively documented modern Sunday statute. Supporting an amendment which permitted local authority to authorize the opening, during **[p. 531]** a portion of the year, of shops in areas frequented as seaside resorts, Mr. Loftus said:

". . . In a Bill such as this one must have elasticity. . . . We had a unanimous demand from the Association of Fish Fryers, representing the trade all over England, asking that fish-frying shops should be closed on Sundays, and we agreed and took them out of the First Schedule [which exempts shops selling meals or refreshments]. But then we heard from Blackpool, which is visited every year by, I suppose, millions of poor people, cotton operatives and others, who like to get cheap meals of fried fish on Sunday afternoons and Sunday evenings, and we feel there must be some provision in the Bill to allow the grant of exemptions in such a case. The difficulty is to avoid putting in a Clause which is open to abuse and I submit that there are two provisions which provide a safeguard. The first is that the local authority must approve the granting of exemptions, and the second is that the local authority cannot approve unless two-thirds of those particular shops in its locality are in favour of exemption. Having no desire that hardships should be inflicted on poor class people I would ask the House to accept the Clause.[[132]](#footnote-132) "

Certainly, when relevant considerations of policy demand decisions and distinctions so fine, courts must accord to the legislature a wide range of power to classify and to delineate. It is true that, unlike their virtually unanimous attitude on the issue of religious freedom, state courts have not always sustained Sunday legislation against the charge of unconstitutional discrimination. Statutes and ordinances have been struck down as arbitrary[[133]](#footnote-133) or as violative of state constitutional prohibitions **[p. 532]** of special legislation.[[134]](#footnote-134) A far greater number of courts, in similar classes of cases, have sustained the legislation.[[135]](#footnote-135) But the very diversity of judicial opinion a to what is reasonable **[p. 533]** classification -- like the conflicting views on what is such "necessity" as will justify Sunday operations -- testifies that the question of inclusion with regard to Sunday bans is one where judgments rationally differ, and hence **[p. 534]** where a State's determinations must be given every fair presumption of a reasonable support in fact. The restricted scope of this Court's review of state regulatory legislation under the Equal Protection Clause is of longstanding. **[p. 535]** *Lindsley v. Natural Carbonic Gas Co.,* 220 U. S. 61, 220 U. S. 78-79. The applicable principles are that a state statute may not be struck down as offensive of equal protection in its schemes of classification unless it is obviously arbitrary, and that, except in the case of a statute whose discriminations are so patently without reason that no conceivable situation of fact could be found to justify them, the claimant who challenges the statute bears the burden of affirmative demonstration that, in the actual state of facts which surround its operation, its classifications lack rationality.

When these standards are applied, first, to the Maryland statute challenged in the *McGowan*case, appellants' claims under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses show themselves clearly untenable. Counsel contend that the Sunday sales prohibition, Md.Code Ann., 1957, Art. 27, § 521, is rendered arbitrary by its exception of retail sales of tobacco items and soft drinks, **[p. 536]** ice and ice cream, confectionery, milk, bread, fruit, gasoline products, newspapers and periodicals, and of drugs and medical supplies by apothecaries -- by the further exemption in Anne Arundel County, under § 509, of certain recreational activities and sales incidental to them -- and by the permissibility under other state and local regulations of various amusements and public entertainments on Sunday, Sunday beer and liquor sales, and Sunday pinball machines and bingo. The short answer is that these kinds of commodity exceptions, and most of these exceptions for amusements and entertainments, can be found in the comprehensive Sunday statutes of England, Puerto Rico, a dozen American States, and many other countries having uniform day of rest legislation.[[136]](#footnote-136) Surely unreason cannot be so widespread. The notion that, with these matters excepted, the Maryland statute lacks all rational foundation is baseless. The exceptions relate to products and services which a legislature could reasonably find necessary to the physical and mental health of the people or to their recreation and relaxation on a day of repose. Other sales activity and, under Art. 27, § 492, all other labor, are forbidden. That more or fewer activities than fall within the exceptions could with equal rationality have been excluded from the general ban does not make irrational the selection which has actually been made. There is presented in this record not a trace of evidence as to the habits and customs of the population of Maryland or of Anne Arundel County, nothing that suggests that the pattern of legislation which their representatives have devised is not reasonably related to local circumstances determining their ways of **[p. 537]** life. Appellants have wholly failed to meet their burden of proof.

Counsel for McGowan urge that the allowance, limited to Anne Arundel County, of retail sales of merchandise customarily sold at bathing beaches, bathhouses, amusement parks and dancing saloons, violates the equal protection of the laws both by discriminating between Anne Arundel retailers and those in other counties and by discriminating among classes of persons within Anne Arundel County who compete in sales of the same articles.[[137]](#footnote-137) Clearly appellants, who were convicted for selling within the county, would not ordinarily have standing to raise the issue of possible discrimination against out-of-county merchants; in any event, on this record, it is dubious that the contention was adequately raised below. Suffice to say, for purposes of the due process issue which appellants did raise, that the provision of different Sunday regulations for different regions of a State is not *ipso facto*arbitrary. *See Salsburg v. Maryland,* 346 U. S. 545; *Missouri v. Lewis,* 101 U. S. 22, 101 U. S. 31.[[138]](#footnote-138)

As for the asserted discrimination in favor of those who sell at the beach or the park articles not permitted to **[p. 538]** be sold elsewhere, the answer must be that between such beach-side enterprisers and the general suburban merchandising store at which appellants are employed there is a reasonable line of demarcation. The reason of the exemption dictates the human logic of its scope. The legislature has found it desirable that persons seeking certain forms of recreation on Sunday have the convenience of purchasing on that day items which add enjoyment to the recreation and which, perhaps, could not or would not be provided for by a vacationer prior to the day of his Sunday outing. On the other hand, the policy of securing to the maximum possible number of distributive employees their Sunday off might reasonably preclude allowing every retail establishment in the county to open to serve this convenience. A tenable resolution, surely, is to permit these particular sales only on the premises where the items will be needed and used. The enforcement problem which could arise from permitting general merchandising outlets to open for the sale of these items alone, but not for the sale of thousands of other items at adjacent counters and shelves, might, in itself, justify the limitation of the exception to the group of on-the-premises merchants who are less likely to stock articles extraneous to the use of the enumerated amusement facilities.

The Massachusetts statute attacked in the *Gallagher* case contains a wider range of exceptions but, again, none that this record shows to be patently baseless and therefore constitutionally impermissible. The court below believed that reason was offended by such provisions as those which allow, apparently, digging for clams but not dredging for oysters, or which permit certain professional sports during the hours from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. while restricting their amateur counterparts to 2 to 6, or which make lawful (as the court below read the statute) Sunday pushcart vending by conscientious Sabbatarians, but not **[p. 539]** Sunday vending within a building. But the record below, on the basis of which a federal court has been asked to enjoin the enforcement of a state statute, contains no evidence concerning clam-digging or oyster-dredging, nothing to indicate that these two activities have anything more in common -- requiring similar treatment -- than that, in each, there is involved the pursuit of mollusca. There is nothing in the record concerning professional or amateur athletic events, and certainly nothing to support the conclusion that the problem of Sunday regulation of pushcarts is so similar to the problem of Sunday regulation of indoor markets as to require uniform treatment for both.[[139]](#footnote-139) These various differently treated situations may be different in fact or they may not. A statute is not to be struck down on supposition.

It is true, as appellees there claim, that Crown Kosher Super Market may not sell on Sunday products which other retail establishments may sell on that day: bread (which may be sold during certain hours by innkeepers, common victuallers, confectioners and fruiterers, and, along with other bakery products, by bakers), confectionery, frozen desserts and dessert mix, and soda water (which may be sold by innkeepers, common victuallers, confectioners and fruiterers, and druggists), tobacco (which may be sold by innkeepers, common victuallers, druggists, and regular newsdealers), etc. (The sale of drugs and newspapers on Sunday is permitted generally.) But although Crown Kosher undoubtedly suffers an element of competitive disadvantage from these provisions, the provisions themselves are not irrational. Their purpose, apparently, is to permit dealers specializing in certain products whose distribution on Sunday is regarded as necessary, to sell those products and also such other among the same group **[p. 540]** of necessaries as are generally found sold together with the products in which they specialize, thus fostering the maximum dissemination of the permitted products with the minimum number of retail employees required to work to disseminate them. Shops such as newsdealers, druggists, and confectioners may in Massachusetts tend, for all we know, to be smaller, less noisy, more widely distributed, so that access to them from residential areas entails less traveling, than is the case with other stores. They may tend to hire fewer employees. They may present, because they specialize in products whose sale is permitted, less of a policing problem than would general markets selling these and many other products.[[140]](#footnote-140) Again, there is nothing in the record to support the conclusion that Massachusetts has failed to afford to the Crown Kosher Super Market treatment which is equivalent to that enjoyed by all other retailers of a class not rationally distinguishable from Crown.

"The prohibition of the Equal Protection Clause goes no further than the invidious discrimination. We cannot say that that point has been reached here."

*Williamson v. Lee Optical, Inc.,* 348 U. S. 483, 348 U. S. 489.

Nor, on the record of the *McGinley* case, can any other conclusion be reached as to the 1959 Pennsylvania Sunday retail sales act. Appellants in this case argue that to punish by a fine of up to one hundred dollars per sale -- or two hundred dollars per sale within one year after the first offense -- the retail selling of some twenty enumerated broad categories of commodities while punishing all other sales and laboring activity by the four dollars per Sunday **[p. 541]** fine fixed by the earlier Lord's day statute[[141]](#footnote-141) is arbitrary and violative of equal protection. But the court below found, and in this it is supported by the legislative history of the 1959 act,[[142]](#footnote-142) that the enactment providing severer penalties for these classes of sales was responsive to the appearance in the Commonwealth, only shortly before the act's passage, of a new kind of large-scale mercantile enterprise which, absorbing without difficulty a four dollar a week fine, made a profitable business of persistent violation of the earlier statute. These new enterprises may have attracted a disturbing volume of Sunday traffic; they may have employed more retail salesmen, and under different conditions, than other kinds of businesses in the State; some of the legislators, apparently, so believed.[[143]](#footnote-143) The danger may have been apprehended that not only would these violations of longstanding State legislation continue, but that competition would force open other enterprises which had for years closed on Sunday. Under this threat, the 1959 statute was designed. I t applies not only to the new merchandisers -- if that were so, quite obviously, different constitutional problems would arise. Rather it singles out the area where a danger has been made most evident and, within that area, treats all business enterprises equally. That in so doing it may have drawn the line between the sale of a sofa cover, punished by a hundred-dollar fine, and the sale of an automobile seat cover, punished by a four dollar fine, is not sufficient to void the legislation.

"[A] State may classify with reference to the evil to be prevented, and . . . , if the class discriminated against is or reasonably might be considered to define those from whom the evil mainly is to be feared, it properly may be **[p. 542]** picked out. A lack of abstract symmetry does not matter. The question is a practical one dependent upon experience. The demand for symmetry ignores the specific difference that experience is supposed to have shown to mark the class. It is not enough to invalidate the law that others may do the same thing and go unpunished, if, as a matter of fact, it is found that the danger is characteristic of the class named."

Mr. Justice Holmes, in *Patsone v. Pennsylvania,* 232 U. S. 138, 232 U. S. 144.

Even less should a legislature be required to hew the line of logical exactness where the statutory distinction challenged is merely one which sets apart offenses subject to penalties of differing degrees of severity, not one which divides the lawful from the unlawful.

"Judgment on the deterrent effect of the various weapons in the armory of the law can lay little claim to scientific basis. Such judgment as yet is largely a prophecy based on meager and uninterpreted experience. . . ."

". . . Moreover, the whole problem of deterrence is related to still wider considerations affecting the temper of the community in which law operates. The traditions of a society, the habits of obedience to law, the effectiveness of the law-enforcing agencies, are all peculiarly matters of time and place. They are thus matters within legislative competence."

*Tigner v. Texas,* 310 U. S. 141, 310 U. S. 148, 310 U. S. 149. Appellants in *McGinley,* like appellants in the *McGowan* and appellees in the *Gallagher* cases, have had full opportunity to demonstrate the arbitrariness of the statute which they challenge. On this record, they have entirely failed to satisfy the burden which they carry. *Friedman v. New York,* 341 U.S. 907; *McGee v. North Carolina,* 346 U.S. 802; *Towery v. North Carolina,* 347 U.S. 925. *Cf. Missouri, K. & T. R. Co. v. Cade,*233 U. S. 642.

The *Braunfeld* case, however, comes here in a different posture. Appellants, plaintiffs below, allege in their **[p. 543]** amended complaint that the 1959 Pennsylvania Sunday retail sales act is irrational and arbitrary. The three-judge court dismissed the amended complaint for failure to state a claim. Speaking for myself alone, and not for MR. JUSTICE HARLAN on this point, I think that this was too summary a disposition. However difficult it may be for appellants to prove what they allege, they must be given an opportunity to do so if they choose to avail themselves of it, in view of the Court's decisions in this series of cases. I would remand No. 67 to the District Court.

\* [NOTE: This opinion applies also to No. 36, *Two Guys From Harrison-Allentown, Inc. v. McGinley, District Attorney, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, et al., post,* p. 366 U. S. 582; No. 67, *Braunfeld et al. v. Brown, Commissioner of Police of Philadelphia, et al., post,* p. 366 U. S. 599, and No. 11, *Gallagher, Chief of Police of Springfield, Massachusetts, et al. v. Crown Kosher Super Market, Inc., et al., post,* p. 366 U. S. 617.]

\*\* "In pursuance of my practice in giving an opinion on all constitutional questions, I must present my views on this." Mr. Justice Johnson, concurring, in *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia,* 5 Pet. 1, 30 U. S. 20. *See* Mr. Justice Story, dissenting, in *Briscoe v. Bank of the Commonwealth of Kentucky,* 11 Pet. 257, 36 U. S. 329; Mr. Chief Justice Taney, dissenting, *Rhode Island v. Massachusetts,* 12 Pet. 657, 37 U. S. 752. *And see* Mr. Justice Bradley, concurring, in the *Legal Tender Cases,* 12 Wall. 457, 79 U. S. 554:

"I . . . should feel that it was out of place to add anything further on the subject were it not for its great importance. On a constitutional question involving the powers of the government, it is proper that every aspect of it, and every consideration bearing upon it, should be presented, and that no member of the court should hesitate to express his views."

|366 U.S. 420app1|

## APPENDIX I TO OPINION OF MR. JUSTICE FRANKFURTER

*PRINCIPAL COLONIAL SUNDAY STATUTES*

*AND THEIR CONTINUATION UNTIL THE END OF*

*THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY*

CONNECTICUT:

*New Haven Colony:*

1656: Prophanation of the Lord's Day, New Haven's Settling in New England. And Some Laws for Government (1656), reprinted in Hinman, The Blue Laws (1838), 132, 206.

*See also* Prince, An Examination of Peters' "Blue Laws," H.R.Doc. No. 295, 55th Cong., 3d Sess. 95, 109, 113-114, 123-125.

*Connecticut Colony:*

1668: 2 Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1665-1678 (1852), 88 (traveling, playing).

1672: Prophanation of the Sabbath, Laws of Connecticut, 1673 (Brinley reprint 1865) 58.

1676: 2 Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1665-1678 (1852) 280. **[p. 544]** *See* An Act for the due Observation, and keeping the Sabbath, or Lord's Day, and for Preventing, and Punishing Disorders, and Prophaneness on the same, Acts and Laws of His Majesty's English Colony of Connecticut in New-England (1750), 139; An Act for the due Observation of the Sabbath or Lord's-Day, Acts and Laws of the State of Connecticut (1784), 213; An Act for the due Observation of the Sabbath or Lord's-Day, Acts and Laws of the State of Connecticut (1796), 368.

*DELAWARE:*

1740: An Act to prevent the Breach of the Lord's Day commonly called Sunday, Laws of the Government of New-Castle, Kent and Sussex Upon Delaware (1741) 121.

1795: An Act more effectually to prevent the profanation of the Lord's day, commonly called Sunday, 2 Laws of Delaware, 1700-1797 (1797) 1209.

*GEORGIA:*

1762: An Act For preventing and punishing Vice, Profaneness, and Immorality, and for keeping holy the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, Acts Passed by the General Assembly of Georgia, 1761-1762 (ca. 1763) 10.

*See* Marbury and Crawford, Digest of the Laws of Georgia, 1755-1800 (1802) 410.

*MARYLAND:*

1649: An Act concerning Religion, 1 Archives of Maryland (Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly), 1637/8-1664 (1883) 244.

1654: Concerning the Sabbath Day, *id.* at 343.

1674: An Act against the Prophaning of the Sabbath day, 2 Archives of Maryland (Proceedings and Acts of **[p. 545]** the General Assembly), 1666-1676 (1884) 414 (innkeepers).

1692: An Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of the Protestant Religion within this Province, 13 Archives of Maryland (Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly), 1684-1692 (1894) 425.

1696: An Act for Sanctifying & keeping holy the Lord's Day Commonly called Sunday, 19 Archives of Maryland (Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly), 1693-1697 (1899) 418.

1723: An Act to punish Blasphemers, Swearers, Drunkards, and Sabbath-Breakers . . . , Bacon, Laws of Maryland (1765) Sf2.

*See* 1 Dorsey, General Public Statutory Law of Maryland, 1692-1839 (1840) 65.

MASSACHUSETTS:

*Plymouth Colony:*

1650: Prophanacon the Lord's Day, Compact with the Charter and Laws of the Colony of New Plymouth (1836) 92.

1658: *Id.* at 113 (traveling).

1671: General Laws of New Plimouth, c. III, §§ 9, 10 (1672), in *id.* at 247.

*Massachusetts Bay Colony:*

1653: Sabbath, Colonial Laws of Massachusetts (reprinted from the edition of 1672 with the supplements through 1686) (1887) 132 (traveling, sporting, drinking).

1668: For the better Prevention of the Breach of the Sabbath, *id.* at 134.

1692: An Act for the better Observation and Keeping the Lord's Day, Acts and Laws of His Majesty's Province **[p. 546]** of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, in Charter of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England (1759 [*sic*]) 13.

1761: An Act for Repealing the several Laws now in Force which relate to the Observation of the Lord's-Day, and for making more effectual Provision for the due Observation thereof, *id.* at 392.

1782: An Act for Making More Effectual Provision for the Due Observation of the Lord's Day . . . , Acts and Laws of Massachusetts, 1782 (reprinted 1890) 63.

1792: An Act providing for the due Observation of the Lord's Day, 2 Laws of Massachusetts, 1780-1800 (1801) 536.

*See also* the act of 1629 set forth in Blakely, American State Papers on Freedom in Religion (4th rev. ed.1949), at 29-30.

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

1700: An Act for the better Observation and Keeping the Lords Day, Acts and Laws Passed by the General Court of His Majesties Province of New-Hampshire in New-England, 1726 (reprinted 1886) 7.

1715: An Act for the Inspecting, and Suppressing of Disorders in Licensed Houses, *id.* at 57 (innkeepers).

1785: An Act for the Better Observation and Keeping the Lords Day, 5 Laws of New Hampshire (First Constitutional Period), 1784-1792 (1916) 75.

1789: An Act for the better Observation of the Lord's day . . . , *id.* at 372.

1799: An Act for the better observation of the Lords day . . . , 6 Laws of New Hampshire (Second Constitutional Period), 1792-1801 (1917) 592. **[p. 547]** NEW JERSEY:

1675: Leaming and Spicer, Grants, Concessions and Original Constitutions of the Province of New-Jersey with the Acts Passed during the Proprietary Governments (ca. 1752) 98.

1683: Against prophaning the Lord's Day, *id.* at 245.

1693: An Act for preventing Profanation of the Lords Day, *id.* at 519.

1704: An Act for Suppressing of Immorality, 1 Nevill, Acts of the General Assembly of the Province of New Jersey, 1703-1752 (1752) 3.

1790: An Act to promote the Interest of Religion and Morality, and for suppressing of Vice . . . , Acts of the Fourteenth General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, c. 311 (1790) 619.

1798: An Act for suppressing vice and immorality, Laws of New Jersey, Revised and Published under the Authority of the Legislature (1800) 329.

NEW YORK:

1685: A Bill against Sabbath breaking, 1 Colonial Laws of New York, 1664-1775 (1894) 173.

1695: An Act against profanation of the Lords Day, called Sunday, *id.* at 356.

1788: An Act for suppressing immorality, Laws of New York, 1785-1788 (1886) 679.

NORTH CAROLINA:

1741: An Act for the better observation and keeping of the Lord's day, commonly called Sunday, and for the more effectual suppression of vice and immorality, 1 Laws of North Carolina (1821), 142. **[p. 548]** PENNSYLVANIA:

1682: The Great Law or The Body of Laws, in Charter and Laws of the Province of Pennsylvania, 1682-1700 (with the Duke of Yorke's Book of Laws, 1676-1682) (1879) 107.

1690: The Law Concerning Liberty of Conscience (A Petition of Right, First Law), *id.* at 192.

1700: The Law Concerning Liberty of Conscience, 2 Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania (1896) 3.

1705: An Act to Restrain People from Labor on the First Day of the Week, *id.* at 175.

1779: An Act for the Suppression of Vice and Immorality, 9 Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania (1903) 333.

1786: An Act for the Prevention of Vice and Immorality . . 12 Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania (1906) 313.

1794: An Act for the Prevention of Vice and Immorality . . . , 15 Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania (1911) 110.

RHODE ISLAND:

1673: 2 Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1664-1677 (1857) 503 (alcoholic beverages).

1679: 3 Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1678-1706 (1858) 30 (employing servants).

1679: An Act Prohibiting Sports and Labours on the First Day of the Week, Acts and Laws, of His Majesty's Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence-Plantations (1730) 27. **[p. 549]** 1784: Rhode Island Acts and Resolves, Aug. 1784 (1784) 9 (excepting members of Sabbatarian societies; but exception does not extend to opening shops, to mechanical work in compact places, etc.).

1798: An Act prohibiting Sports and Labour on the first Day of the Week, Public Laws of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations (1798) 577.

SOUTH CAROLINA:

1692: An Act for the better Observance of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, 2 Statutes at Large of South Carolina (1837) 74.

1712: An Act for the better observation of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, *id.* at 396.

*See* Grimke, Public Laws of South-Carolina (1790) 19.

VIRGINIA:

1610: For the Colony in Virginea Britannia, Lawes Divine, Morall and Martially (1612), in 3 Force, Tracts Relating to the Colonies in North America (1844) II, 10 (gaming).

1629: 1 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1823) 144.

1642-1643: *Id.* at 261 (traveling, shooting).

1657: The Sabbath to bee kept holy, *id.* at 434 (traveling, shooting, lading).

1661-1662: Sundays not to bee profaned, 2 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1823) 48.

1691: An act for the more effectual suppressing the severall sins and offences of swaring, cursing, profaineing Gods holy name, Sabbath abuseing, drunkenness, fornication, and adultery, 3 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1823) 71. **[p. 550]** 1705: An act for the effectual suppression of vice, and restraint and punishment of blasphemous, wicked, and dissolute persons, *id.* at 358.

1786: An act for punishing disturbers of Religious Worship and Sabbath breakers, 12 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1823) 336.

In some of the Colonies the English Sunday laws were also in effect. *See, e.g.,* Martin, Collection of the Statutes of England in Force in North-Carolina (1792) 379. **[p. 551]** |366 U.S. 420app2|

## APPENDIX II TO OPINION OF MR. JUSTICE FRANKFURTER

*ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT STATE SUNDAY STATUTES*

*CURRENTLY IN FORCE*

This Appendix sets forth the important state legislative provisions currently in force prohibiting or regulating private activity on Sunday. In reducing these often complex laws to tabular form, a certain simplification has been required. Provisions in different States which are found in a single category, *e.g.,* "Trade in Alcoholic Beverages," or "Racing," may differ considerably in detail. This Appendix does not include references to: (1) provisions declaring Sunday a holiday or non-business day; (2) provisions closing the courts on Sunday or prohibiting the service of judicial process on that day; (3) provisions giving various government employees Sunday off or excepting Sunday from the days of labor for state prisoners; (4) penalty sections where Sunday laws are parts of general regulatory codes, *e.g.,* fish and game laws; (5) jurisdictional provisions or provisions authorizing arrest and detention on Sunday of offenders against the various Sunday laws, unless these are of special interest, and (6) definition provisions, statutes of limitation of prosecution, and similar ancillary provisions. **[p. 552]** [Refer to vol. 366 U.S., pp. 552-560 for an extensive statutory tabulation not presently suitable for electronic presentation.] **[p. 561]**

1. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . . ." Madison had proposed an amendment that

"The civil rights of none shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established, nor shall the full and equal rights of conscience be in any manner, or on any pretext, infringed."

I Annals of Cong. 434. Commenting on a subsequent form of what was to become the First Amendment, he said that

"he apprehended the meaning of the words to be that Congress should not establish a religion and enforce the legal observation of it by law, nor compel men to worship God in any manner contrary to their conscience."

Id. at 730. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See Cobb, The Rise of Religious Liberty in America (1902), passim; Sweet, The Story of Religion in America (rev. ed.1939), 54, 76-77, 98-112, 129, 139-142; Sweet, Religion in Colonial America (1942), passim; I Channing, History of the United States (1933), 356-381, 470-474. And seeJefferson's Notes on Virginia, in II Writings of Thomas Jefferson (Memorial ed.1903) 217-219. The Virginia Convention which ratified the Federal Constitution proposed as a needed amendment to it:

"That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence, and therefore all men have an equal, natural, and unalienable right to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience, and that no particular religious sect or society ought to be favored or established, by law, in preference to others."

III Elliot's Debates (2d ed. 1836) 659. See also the amendment proposed by the North Carolina Convention which declined to ratify, IV id. at 244, and the understanding of the Constitution expressed by Rhode Island, I id. at 334, and New York, I id. at 328. Cf. the amendment proposed by New Hampshire, I id. at 326. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See James, The Struggle for Religious Liberty in Virginia (1900); Eckenrode, Separation of Church and State in Virginia (1910); I Randall, Life of Thomas Jefferson (1858), 219-223; Cobb, The Rise of Religious Liberty in America (1902), 490-499; Sweet, The Story of Religion in America (rev. ed.1939), 276-279. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The history of the Virginia episode is treated extensively in the opinions in Everson v. Board of Education, 330 U. S. 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 12 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1823), 84, 85. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. As appellant retailers and retail employees in the McGowan and McGinley cases have urged neither here nor below any question of infringement of their own rights of conscience, I agree with THE CHIEF JUSTICE that they have no standing to raise the "free exercise" issue. United States v. Raines, 362 U. S. 17. The Court need not determine at this time what averments or what proofs, in a proper case, would be required in order to raise such issues in their behalf. Unlike appellants in Braunfeld and appellees in Gallagher, they have not urged that their remaining shut on any day of the week for any reason causes Sunday closing to disadvantage them peculiarly. They assert a right to operate seven days a week -- a right in which they claim an economic, not a conscientious, interest. Nor, on this record, is it necessary to decide whether these Sunday retail sellers might have standing to complain of the disadvantage of their enforced Sunday closing to conscientious Sabbatarian customers or potential customers.Cf. Barrows v. Jackson, 346 U. S. 249; Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U. S. 510. Nowhere below have they presented evidence that any such actual or hypothetical customer is thus disadvantaged. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. See Exodus 20:8-11, 23:12, 31:12-17; Deuteronomy 5:12-15. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Codex Justin., liber III, Tit. XII, 3. See II Schaff, History of the Christian Church (1867), 380, n. 1. Later edicts of the emperors were more unequivocally Christian in temper, e.g., that of 386 A. D., Codex Theo., liber VIII, Tit. VIII, 3. See Pharr, The Theodosian Code (1952), 209. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. See Lewis, A Critical History of Sunday Legislation (1888), 1-90; Neale, Feasts and Fasts (1845), 86-137; Johnson and Yost, Separation of Church and State (1948), 219-221; XII Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics (Hastings ed.1921), 103-106; Savage, Sunday in Church History, in How Shall We Keep Sunday (1898) 27. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. 27 Henry VI, c. 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 5 & 6 Edw. VI, c. 3.

"Forasmuch as at all times men be not so mindful to laud and praise God, so ready to resort and hear God's holy word, and to come to the holy communion and other laudable rites, which are to be observed in every christian congregation, as their bounden duty doth require: . . . therefore to call men to remembrance of their duty, and to help their infirmity, it hath been wholsomly provided, that there should be some certain times and days appointed, wherein the christian should cease from all other kind of labours, and should apply themselves only and wholly unto the aforsaid holy works, properly pertaining unto true religion. . . ."

Violations were to be punished by the censures of the church, administered by the bishops, archbishops and other persons having ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The purpose of this ordinance was apparently to restrict to a fixed and relatively limited number the days upon which labor should cease, the multiplication of saints' days having risen until they came to consume an alarming proportion of the year. It was repealed under Queen Mary. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. 1 Charles I, c. 1. This regulation, while prescribing civil penalties, preserved the concurrent jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts to punish Sabbath breaking. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. 3 Charles I, c. 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. For a survey of the extensive Sunday regulations promulgated under the Commonwealth, seeLewis, op. cit. supra, note 9, at 115-142. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Work was punished by penalty of five shillings, selling by forfeiture of the goods. The ban against butchers and herders traveling on Sunday was repeated, under fine of twenty shillings. Dressing of meat in families and dressing or selling of meat in inns and victualling houses "for such as otherwise cannot be provided" was permitted, as was the crying or selling of milk before 9 a.m. and after 4 p.m. Later statutes made numerous other exceptions to the English Sunday ban: see, e.g., 9 Anne, c. 23, § 20, exempting hackney coaches; the Sunday Entertainments Act, 1932, 22 & 23 Geo. V, c. 51, exempting motion pictures at the option of local authority and under stipulated conditions, and also making lawful certain musical entertainments, lectures and debates, and the operation of museums, galleries zoological and botanical gardens, etc., and the evolving regulation of Sunday baking, 34 Geo. III, c. 61; 1 & 2 Geo. IV, c. 50, § 11; 3 Geo. IV, L. & P., c. 106, § 16; 6 & 7 Wm. IV, c. 37, § 14; Baking Industry (Hours of Work) Act, 1954, 2 & 3 Eliz. II, c. 57, § 12. The Sunday Observation Prosecution Act, 1871, 34 & 35 Vict., c. 87, provided that no prosecutions under the statute, 29 Charles II, c. 7, might be brought without the consent of a chief police officer, a stipendiary magistrate, or two justices of the peace. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Common informer practice under this statute has since been abolished. Common Informers Act, 1951, 14 & 15 Geo. VI, c. 39. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. See Fennell v. Ridler, 5 B. & C. 406, 407-408 (1826):

"The spirit of the act [of 29 Charles II] is to advance the interests of religion, to turn a man's thoughts from his worldly concerns, and to direct them to the duties of piety and religion, and the act cannot be construed according to its spirit unless it is so construed as to check the career of worldly traffic. . . . Labour may be private and not meet the public eye, and so not offend against public decency, but it is equally labour, and equally interferes with a man's religious duties." [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. The Book of Sports published by James I in 1618 and republished by Charles I in 1633 provided:

"as for our good people's lawful recreation, our pleasure . . . is that, after the end of divine service, our good people be not disturbed . . . from any lawful recreation, such as dancing, . . . leaping, vaulting, or any other such harmless recreation. . . ."

"And likewise we bar from the benefit and liberty all such known recusants, either men or women, as will abstain from coming to church or divine service, being therefore unworthy of any lawful recreation after said service, that will not first come to church and serve God. Prohibiting in like sort the said recreations to any that, though conform in religion, are not present in the church at the service of God, before their going to the said recreations."

"Our pleasure, likewise is, that they to whom it belongeth in office, shall present and punish sharply all such as in abuse of this our liberty will use their exercises before the end of all divine services for that day."

Lewis, op. cit. supra, note 9, at 106-107. See Govett, The King's Book of Sports (1890). See alsothe excepting proviso to the statute, 10 & 11 Wm. III, c. 24, § 14, respecting Billingsgate Market. Certain importation and selling of fish "before or after Divine Service on Sundays" is not to be deemed prohibited. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Such a spirit may be seen in various royal proclamations enjoining strict enforcement of the Sunday laws, see Whitaker, The Eighteenth-Century English Sunday (1940), 56, 172-173, and in the language of charges to the grand juries encouraging their performance of their duties under the laws, see id. at 53, 57-58. Private societies formed as self-appointed agents of administration of the Sunday laws ere religious in orientation. See id. at 62, 69, 121-123, 195-197. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. The injunction to observe the Sabbath day in Deuteronomy 5:14 is that, on that day,

". . . thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou."

Among Christian explicators of the Old Testament, a social inspiration was early ascribed to this language. See Milton, A Treatise on Christian Doctrine, book 2, c. 7, in V Prose Works of John Milton (Sumner trans. 1877) 67. Luther, in the Large Catechism, part I, Third Commandment, wrote:

". . . we keep holydays not for the sake of intelligent and learned Christians, for they have no need of it. We keep them, first, for the sake of bodily necessity. Nature teaches and demands that the mass of the people -- servants and mechanics, who the whole week attend to their work and trades -- retire for a day of rest and recreation."

I Lenker, Luther's Catechetical Writings (1907), 60. See also Luther's Treatise on Good Works (1520), Third Commandment, XVII, in I Works of Martin Luther (1915), 241. Compare Calvin's Institutes: among the three reasons for Sabbath observance, the Lord

"resolved to give a day of rest to servants and those who are under the authority of others, in order that they should have some respite from toil."

Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion (Battles trans.1960), book II, c. 8, § 28, at p. 395. And see Early Writings of John Hooper, D. D. (Carr ed. 1843) 337:

"Then likewise God by this commandment provideth for the temporal and civil life of man, and likewise for all things that be necessary and expedient for man in this life. If man, and beast that is man's servant, should without repose and rest always labour, they might never endure the travail of the earth. God therefore, as he that intendeth the conservation and wealth of man and the thing created to man's use, commandeth this rest and repose from labour, that his creatures may endure and serve as well their own necessary affairs and business, as preserve the youth and offspring of man and beast. . . ." [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. In 1778, there appeared an essay by Vicesimus Knox, M. A. supporting state-enforced Sunday observance on grounds of health and custom as well as of religion. See Whitaker, The Eighteenth-Century English Sunday (1940), 148. It is reported that, in 1728, the members of the Gloucester Company or Fraternity of Barbers had undertaken to enforce by fine a self-imposed prohibition of Sunday labor, apparently to assure that those who wanted a six-day work week would not be compelled by competition to labor on the whole seven. See id. at 59-60. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. IV Blackstone Commentaries (Lewis ed. 1897) \*63. Compare the Report of the Committee on the Judiciary on the petition praying "the repeal of all laws . . . enforcing the observation of a day of the week as the Sabbath . . . ," Mass.Leg.Docs., H.Doc. No. 125 (1851), 9-10. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Report from Select Committee on the Observance of the Sabbath Day, in 7 H.C., Sessional Papers (1831-1832), at pp. 116-117. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Id. at p. 6. See id. at pp. 5-8. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Id. at pp. 9-10. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. See Trevelyan's comment quoted in the foreword to Skottowe, The Law Relating to Sunday (1936); Whitaker, Sunday in Tudor and Stuart Times (1933); Whitaker, The Eighteenth-Century English Sunday (1940), especially at 192, 199-201. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Addison, writing in No. 112 of the Spectator, July 9, 1711:

"I am always very well pleased with a country Sunday, and think, if keeping holy the seventh day were only a human institution, it would be the best method that could have been thought of for polishing and civilizing of mankind. It is certain the country people would soon degenerate into a kind of savages and barbarians were there not such frequent returns of a stated time in which the whole village meet together with their best faces, and in their cleanest habits, to converse with one another upon different subjects, hear their duties explained to them, and join together in adoration of the supreme Being. Sunday clears away the rust of the whole week, not only as it refreshes in their minds the notions of religion, but as it puts both the sexes upon appearing in their most agreeable forms, and exerting all such qualities as are apt to give them a figure in the eye of the village."

The Spectator (Am. ed. 1859), at 160. See the attempt to capture the peculiar atmosphere of Sunday in the opening lines to the second book of Crabbe's The Village (1783). [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. In 1895, the late president of a grocers' association, testifying on a proposed bill regulating the closing hours of shops, urged that the Commons Committee recommend Sunday closing to the House; the many English grocers who wanted their Sunday off were alarmed at the threat of increased trade by competitors which would force their own opening on Sunday. Report from the Select Committee on Shops (Early Closing) Bill (Commons 1895) 158-159. The Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Sunday Closing (Shops) Bill [H.L.] (1905) did recommend Sunday closing legislation, which it found supported by all but one of the more than three hundred shopkeepers associations whose views were ascertained. The Committee's Report, at VI-VII, quotes the testimony of a witness (a clergyman, it may be noted), that

". . . the great need that impresses all of us busy workers in my part of London is the fact that, because of the noise and rush, we do want to safeguard the lives of our people by their having one day in seven. It is necessary for brain and for body, quite apart from the religious aspect of the question, for the moment, and by the stress at which we are all living down there Sunday has become practically like any other day. . . . The British population say that they would lose their custom in a great measure if they, in self-defence, did not open on Sunday. The feeling is very dominant that the result is that many of them have to work, whether they like it or not, seven days a week."

(See also testimony to the same effect, id. at 3-4, 17, 20, 30, 36, 40.) [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. 1 Edw. VII, c. 22, § 34. Continued, as amended, in the Factories Act, 1937, 1 Edw. VIII & 1 Geo. VI, c. 67, § 77. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. 2 Geo. V, c. 3, §§ 1, 4, provides for a half-day closing and a half-day off for employees "[o]n at least one week day in each week." (§ 1.) Other twentieth century legislation indicates recognition of the interweaving effects of the Sunday laws and other hours-of-labor legislation. The statute of 2 & 3 Eliz. II, c. 57, § 12, repealed the Sunday laws affecting the baking industry as part of a new program of hours regulation for that industry. The Sunday Entertainments Act, 1932, 22 & 23 Geo. V, c. 51, permitting Sunday cinema at local option, subjects the allowance of Sunday operation to the condition that no person may be employed therein who has worked on each of the six days next preceding, except in emergencies, in which case the employee must get his day's rest subsequently. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Ministry of Munitions, Health of Munition Workers Committee, Report on Sunday Labour, Memorandum No. 1 [Cmd. 8132] (1915), 3, 5. The Committee had not been directed specifically to investigate the Sunday labor question, but in its inquiries generally into hours of labor, it discovered that "employers and workers were specially concerned at the present time with the problem of Sunday labour," and the Committee was "so impressed with the urgency and importance of this question," that it determined to submit a preliminary report on this subject alone. Id. at 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. 26 Geo. V & 1 Edw. VIII, c. 53. See also the Retail Meat Dealers' Shops (Sunday Closing) Act, 1936, 26 Geo. V & 1 Edw. VIII, c. 30. These acts are continued in the Shops Act, 1950, 14 Geo. VI, c. 28, part IV. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. See 308 H. C. Deb. 2216 and 2223 (5th ser.1935-1936) (suggesting that persons ought not be made to work on a day when they would want to attend religious services); id. at 2211. The strongest Christian religious sentiment was demonstrated by an opponent of the bill, see 311, id. at 497. Other opposing speakers waved the shibboleth of religious motive in an attempt to discredit the measure. See 308, id. at 2190-2191; 311, id. at 2097; but see 308, id. at 2179-2182; 101 H.L.Deb. 262 (5th ser. 1935-1936) (two opponents admit absence of religious purpose or effect). [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. This is especially significant in England where, of course, no constitutional compulsion exists to encourage Parliament to "make a record" concealing a clandestine sectarian aim. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. 308 H.C.Deb. 2157-2159 (5th ser.1935-1936). See also id. at 2165-2167, 2174, 2183, 2186, 2207, 2211, 2213, 2223-2224; 101 H.L.Deb. 254-255, 266 (5th ser.1935-1936). [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. 308 H.C.Deb. 2209 (5th ser.1935-1936). See also 311, id. at 453-454, 490. Throughout the debates, it is emphasized that the bill was "a Sunday Trading Restriction Bill, and not . . . a Bill to have one day's rest in seven." 311, id. at 456; see id. at 2106. Yet it was not the sacred quality of the day that was meant. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. 308, id. at 2197-2198. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. See 308, id. at 2186, 2194-2195, 2206; 311, id. at 2095. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Although a private member's bill, the measure passed on the second reading in Commons by a 191-to-8 vote. 308, id. at 2230. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Even on the Continent, the forces which in the latter half of the nineteenth century pressed for the amelioration of the working conditions of the laborer expressed themselves in part in Sunday legislation. Germany, Austria, the Swiss Federal Government, Denmark, Norway and Russia in the 1870's, 80's and 90's promulgated regulations prohibiting Sunday employment -- in some cases only for women and children; in others, for all workers in enumerated industries -- or closing factories or commercial establishments during part or all of the day. See Congress International du Repos Hebdomadaire, Paris, 1889, Compte-Rendu (1890), 339-344; Congress International du Repos du Dimanche, Bruxelles, 1897, Rapports et Compte Rendu (1898), 9-24, 139-159, 229-234; Congress International du Repos du Dimanche, Paris, 1900, Rapports et Compte Rendu (1900), Rapports No. I, II, VII; Mackenzie, ed., The World's Rest-Day, An Account of the Thirteenth International Congress on the Lord's Day, Edinburgh, 1908 (1909), 168-187; Report of the Joint Special Committee to Revise, Consolidate and Arrange the General Laws . . . Relating to the Observance of the Lord's Day, Mass.Leg.Docs., H.Doc. No. 1160 (1907), Appendix, at 57-66. In the late 1880's, a German plebiscite conducted by Bismarck showed strong popular support among both employers and employees for Sunday closing. SeeCongress International du Repos Hebdomadaire, Paris, 1889, Compte-Rendu (1890), 360-364. The development of the European Sunday closing movement is reflected in the proceedings of the various conventions of an institution which convened sometimes as the International Congress on Sunday rest, sometimes as the International Congress for weekly rest. See the reports cited, supra; see also, e.g., Jackson, ed., Sunday Rest in the Twentieth Century, An Account of the International Sunday Rest Congress at St. Louis, 1904 (1905); Congresso Internazionale Pro Riposo Settimanale, Resoconto, Milano, 1906 (undated); Sunday, The World's Rest Day, Fourteenth International Lord's Day Congress, Oakland, California, 1915 (1916). At the first meeting of this group, in Geneva in 1876, the delegates displayed a primarily religious outlook, although much was also said of the physical and moral betterment of the worker through periodic rest. Congress sur l'observation du Dimanche, Geneve, 1876, Actes (1876), 120, 187-191, 353-367. A major objective of the Conference was to secure Sunday off for the railroad employees. When, after several intervening conventions, the International Congress met in Paris in 1889, it was under the presidency of Leon Say, and its temper was rather secular than clerical. It took the name of the Congress International du Repos Hebdomadaire, and though it contained members both of conservative-religious and of socialist tendencies, the latter were more vocal, and especially took the lead in formulating the Congress' program of state-enforced, rather than merely voluntary, industrial closing. SeeCongress International du Repos Hebdomadaire, Paris 1889, Compte-Rendu (1890), 83-93, 103-108, 344-380. Yet the group resolved to demand not merely some one indiscriminate day of rest weekly, but Sunday:

"1. Sunday rest is possible to varying degrees in every industry. 2. This is the day of rest which is most suitable both to the employer and to the worker, as well from the point of view of the individual as from that of the family, and because it is good that the day of rest should be, as much as possible, the same for all."

Id. at 160 (translated from the French); see also id. at 126, 167, 197. (Compare the Convention Concerning Weekly Rest in Commerce and Offices, 1957, Convention 106 of the General Conference of the International Labour Organization, Geneva, 1957, H.R.Doc. No. 432, 85th Cong., 2d Sess. 7-12, providing for a weekly day of rest which shall, where possible, "coincide with the day of the week established as a day of rest by the traditions or customs of the country or district." Art. 6, § 3. So far as possible, the traditions and customs of religious minorities are to be respected. Art. 6, § 4. Similarly, The International Labour Conference's Draft Convention Concerning the Application of the Weekly Rest in Industrial Undertakings, adopted at the Third Session of the General Conference in Geneva in 1921, establishes 24 consecutive hours of rest per seven days for industrial workers, to be fixed, wherever possible "so as to coincide with the days already established by the traditions or customs of the county or district." Art. 2. International Labour Conference, 3d Sess., Draft Conventions & Recommendations (1921), 30.)

At Chicago, four years later, both clerical and laborite perspectives were again represented; George E. McNeill, one of the pioneers of the American labor movement, spoke, and the representative of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and other railroad workers' organizations, L. S. Coffin, supported Sunday rest. The Sunday Problem, Its Present Day Aspects, Papers Presented at the International Congress on Sunday Rest, Chicago, 1893 (1894), 43, 95. In 1897, at Brussels, the spirit was again predominantly secular; the Congress debated extensively the question whether governmental action to compel a day of rest was advisable, or whether the matter could best be handled by persuasion of individual employers, and the sense of the meeting strongly favored governmental intervention. Congress International du Repos du Dimanche, Bruxelles 1897, Rapports et Compte Rendu (1898), 35-47, 161-171, 377-385, 387-393, 538-559. See also Congress International du Repos du Dimanche, Paris, 1900, Rapports et Compte Rendu (1900). Later meetings of the Congress tended to be religion-oriented, although secular interests continued to find voice. See Jackson, ed., op. cit. supra, at 59-77, 85-96; Mackenzie, ed., op. cit. supra, at 187. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. See Appendix I to this opinion, post, p. 366 U. S. 543. Hereafter the colonial Sunday statutes will be cited by date and Colony. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Cobb, The Rise of Religious Liberty in America (1902), 482-517; Sweet, The Story of Religion in America (rev. ed.1939), 274-280. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. See James Madison's essay, "Monopolies. Perpetuities. Corporations. Ecclesiastical Endowments," in Fleet, Madison's "Detatched Memoranda," 3 Wm. & Mary Q. 534, 551, 554-556 (1946). See authorities cited in note 3, supra. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. See Proceedings of the First General Assembly of "The Incorporation of Providence Plantations," and the Code of Laws, 1647 (1847), 50: ". . . and, otherwise than thus what is herein forbidden, all men may walk as their consciences persuade them, every one in the name of his GOD. . . ." See Cobb, The Rise of Religious Liberty in America (1902), 423-440. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. See note 2, supra. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. New Hampshire enacted Sunday laws in 1785 and 1789, New York in 1788, Virginia in 1786. Rhode Island in 1784 exempted from her Sunday labor ban members of Sabbatarian societies, but specified that the exemption did not extend to allow such persons to keep shops open or to do mechanical labor in compact places; in 1798, Rhode Island again enacted a comprehensive Sunday law with the same exceptions. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. Delaware, 1740. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. Massachusetts (Plymouth), 1658. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. Georgia, 1762. See also Maryland, 1696; New York, 1685; South Carolina, 1712. See the statute of 1 Charles I, quoted in text at note 12, supra. The law of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1653 recited that playing, walking, drinking, sporting, and traveling on the Lord's day tend

"much to the Dishonour of God, the Reproach of Religion, Grieving the Souls of Gods Servants, and the Prophanation of his Holy Sabbath, the Sanctification whereof is sometimes put for all Duties, immediately respecting the service of God contained in the first Table. . . ." [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. Connecticut, 1668. [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. Pennsylvania, 1682; see also the statutes of 1690, 1700. The "Body of Laws" of 1682 declared religious tolerance for all persons believing in a Supreme Being:

"But to the end That Looseness, irreligion, and Atheism may not Creep in under pretense of Conscience in this Province, Be It further Enacted . . . That, according to the example of the primitive Christians, and for the ease of the Creation, Every first day of the week, called the Lord's day, People shall abstain from their usual and common toil and labour, That whether Masters, Parents, Children, or Servants, they may the better dispose themselves to read the Scriptures of truth at home, or frequent such meetings of religious worship abroad, as may best sute their respective persuasions." [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. The New Haven Code of 1656 provides:

"Whosoever shal prophane the Lord's Day, or any part of it, either by sinful servile work, or by unlawful sport, recreation or otherwise, whether willfully, or in a careless neglect, shal be duly punished by fine, imprisonment, or corporally, according to the nature and measure of the sinn, and offence. But if the court upon examination, by clear and satisfying evidence, find that the sin was proudly, presumptuously, and with a high hand committed against the known command and authority of the blessed God, such a person, therein despising and reproaching the Lord, shal be put to death, that all others may fear and shun such provoaking Rebellious courses. Numb. 15: from 30 to 36 verse."

The Plymouth Colony law of 1671 is similar. And see the act published in the Bay Colony in 1647, by which to "deny the moralities of the fourth commandement" is branded among other heresies and made punishable by banishment.Laws and Liberties of Massachusetts, 1648 (reprinted 1929), 24. [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. Massachusetts, 1692. See also New Hampshire, 1700; North Carolina, 1741. These statutes are patterned on 29 Charles II, c. 7, quoted in text at note 15, supra. [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. Maryland, 1649; cf. Virginia, 1705 (atheism). [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. Maryland, 1692, "An Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of the Protestant Religion within this Province." [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. See the Connecticut statute set forth in the Acts and Laws, 1750; Georgia, 1762; Massachusetts, 1761. Compulsory church attendance laws in the New England Colonies dated from before the middle of the seventeenth century. See the Code of 1650 of the General Court of Connecticut (1822) 46, and the Bay Colony's act published in 1647, Laws and Liberties of Massachusetts, 1648 (reprinted 1929), 20. [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. See note 51, supra. This latter object, not the compulsion of conscience, but the liberation of all individuals from Sunday labor and Sunday disturbance so that they might worship God as their own consciences dictated, was, at one period, not infrequently put forward as the justifying purpose of the Sunday laws. State v. Ambs, 20 Mo. 214, 218 (1854); George v. George,47 N.H. 27, 34 (1866); Lindemnuller v. People, 33 Barb. 548, 564 (N.Y.Sup.Ct. 1861); Johnston v. Commonwealth, 22 Pa. 102, 115 (1853). As the habits and preoccupations of the people themselves changed, it was but a short step from this reasoning to the recognition that Sunday laws serve the purpose of providing leisure and peace favorable to the pursuit of whatever aspirations, religious or secular, various individuals may choose. See text at note 35, supra.Sensitive to emerging new popular needs and desires, legislatures were later to reshape the Sunday laws by complex patterns of exceptions permitting numerous recreational activities which, far from according with the original puritanical inspiration of the Lord's day acts, were precisely those games and sports which colonial legislation most severely condemned. See, e.g., Virginia, 1610; Connecticut, 1668. The development of these evolving exceptions is discussed briefly in text at notes 124-131, infra; its product may be seen in Appendix II to this opinion, post, p. 366 U. S. 551. What it is significant to note at this point is that the continuity which marks the history of the Sunday laws is a continuity both of enduring and changing social demands. The enduring feature has been man's need for a day set apart, a day of community repose: this he has persistently, continuingly demanded. The changing feature has been the way in which he chooses to spend his day. The need which the "Body of Laws" recognized in Pennsylvania in 1682 was both the same and different than that expressed by Luther, see note 20, supra, and that which twentieth century Sunday legislation accommodates. It is the need for a recurrent time when the common concerns of the working week cease to make their demands, and there is a peace that is general to the community -- whether the individual finds it at church, at home, at the beach, in the country, or at the baseball game. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. 3 Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1678-1706 (1858), 30-31. The first Rhode Island Sunday law was an enactment of 1673 prohibiting the dispensing of alcoholic beverages on Sunday. Its preamble is this:

"Voted, this Assembly consideringe that the King hath granted us that not any in this Collony are to be molested in the liberty of their consciences, who are not disturbers of the civille peace, and wee are perswaded that a most flourishing civil government with loyalty may be best propagated where liberty of conscience by any corporall power is not obstructed that is not to any unchastness of body, and not by a body doeinge any hurt to a body, neither indeavoringe soe to doe, and although wee know by man not any can be forced to worship God or for to keep holy or not to keep holy any day; but forasmuch as the first dayes of weeks, it is usuall for parents and masters not to imploy their children or servants as upon other dayes, and some others alsoe that are not under such government, accountinge it as a spare time, and soe spend it in debaistness or tipplinge and unlawfull games and wantonness, and most abhominably there practiced by those that live with the English at such times to resort to townes. Therefore, this Assembly, not to oppose or propagate any worship, but as by preventinge debaistnes, although wee know masters or parents cannot and are not by violence, to indeavor to force any under their govornment, to any worshipper from any worshipp, that is not debaistness or disturbant to the civille peace, but they are to require them, and if that will not prevaile, if they can they should compell them not to doe what is debaistnes, or unciville or inhuman, not to frequent any imodest company or practices." [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. See New Jersey, 1798: Delaware, 1795 (this statute does recite that its purpose is to deter those who "profane" the Lord's day); New Hampshire, 1785 and 1789 (these acts were, however, recommended to be read by ministers to their congregations). It is true that the Pennsylvania statute of 1794 is an act for the prevention of immorality and that the New Jersey statute of 1790 is "An Act to promote the Interest of Religion and Morality, and for suppressing of Vice . . . ," but even these enactments show a very different tenor than that of earlier legislation in the same Colonies. See, e.g., Pennsylvania, 1682; New Jersey, 1693. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. Compare New York's legislation of 1685, 1695. [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. An Act to enforce the due observation of the Sabbath. 1 Laws of Vermont (1808) 275. [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. The earliest law was that of 1610. For the Colony in Virginea Britannia, Lawes Divine, Morall and Martially (1612), in 3 Force, Tracts Relating to the Colonies in North America (1844), II, 10-11. This was followed by an Act of 1623-1624. 1 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1823), 123. And see id. at 144. [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. See Appendix I to this opinion, post, p. 366 U. S. 549. The most important statutes are those of 1629 and 1705, 1 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1823), 144; 3 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1823), 358. [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. 9 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1821), 109, 111-112. [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. Id. at 164. [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. 12 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1823), 84-86. [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. 2 Papers of Thomas Jefferson (Boyd ed.1950) 305-324, 545-553. For the story of the Revision, see Jefferson's Autobiography, in I Writings of Thomas Jefferson (Memorial ed.1903) 62-67; I Randall, Life of Thomas Jefferson (1858), 202-203, 208, 216 et seq. [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. 2 Papers of Thomas Jefferson (Boyd ed.1950) 555. The bill was entitled: "A Bill for Punishing Disturbers of Religious Worship and Sabbath Breakers." It also forbade the arrest for any civil cause of any minister of the gospel while engaged in public preaching or performing religious worship in any church, and punished any person who should maliciously disturb any worshipping congregation or misuse any minister therein. There is evidence to attribute the original draft of the provision to Jefferson, id. at 314-321; in any event, we know that, with the other revisers, he studied and reworked every bill in the revision until it satisfied him. Autobiography, in I Writings of Thomas Jefferson (Memorial ed.1903) 66. [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. Journal of the House of Delegates, Commonwealth of Virginia, Oct. 17, 1785 (1828), 12-14. [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. 12 Hening, Statutes of Virginia (1823), 336. The wording of the statute as passed differs slightly from that of the bill reported by the revisers. [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. 2 Shepherd, Statutes of Virginia (1835), 149. [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. Appendix II to this opinion, post, p. 366 U. S. 551. Only Alaska has no such legislation. [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. See Delaware, Iowa, Wyoming. Many States which have broader Sunday statutes also provide special regulations for the sale of intoxicants on Sunday. Significantly, even those who have assailed the ban on Sunday labor as an unconstitutional religious establishment assert the constitutionality of Sunday alcohol control. See, e.g., Lewis, A Critical History of Sunday Legislation (1888), ix. They point to the contemporary justification for the prohibition of liquor sales on that day: the greater danger of abusive use of alcohol during a time when virtually all persons are at leisure. Admitting that there are also cogent contemporary reasons for a Sunday labor ban, they assert that the history of Sunday labor legislation reveals that these legitimate reasons are not those which, in fact, underlie it. But the roots of Sunday alcohol control are as deeply bedded in early Sabbath anti-tippling statutes as are those of Sunday labor laws in Lord's day acts. See the Connecticut statute set forth in the Acts and Laws, 1750; Delaware, 1740; Maryland, 1674; Massachusetts Bay, 1653; Massachusetts, 1761; New Hampshire, 1715; New York, 1685. See State v. Eskridge, 31 Tenn. 413 (1852). Indeed, the most severe efforts to enforce Sunday prohibitions in England were for centuries directed against tippling. See Whitaker, The Eighteenth-Century English Sunday (1940), passim; Whitaker, Sunday in Tudor and Stuart Times (1933), passim. [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. See North Carolina. Many States with more comprehensive bans also specifically proscribe hunting. See, e.g., Connecticut, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia. [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. See, e.g., Arizona, Colorado, Montana. [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. Oregon. Cf. Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. Colorado, Wisconsin. Cf., e.g., Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Pennsylvania. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. Some States have specific legislation enabling municipalities to regulate Sunday business (e.g.,Nebraska, North Dakota), or to suppress desecration of the Sabbath (e.g., Michigan, Mississippi, Rhode Island). Often such authority is written into a city's charter. See, e.g., State v. McGee, 237 N.C. 633, 75 S.E.2d 783 (1953), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question,346 U.S. 802. In some cases charter authority to regulate a given business or activity has been held to support Sunday regulation of that business or activity. See, e.g., Hicks v. City of Dublin, 56 Ga.App. 63, 191 S.E. 659 (1937). Where no other enabling provision is found, it is virtually unanimously held that power to enact Sunday ordinances exists under the general grant of police power to a municipality. E.g., In re Sumida, 177 Cal. 388, 170 P. 823 (1918); Theisen v. McDavid, 34 Fla. 440, 16 So. 321 (1894); Karwisch v. Mayor of Atlanta, 44 Ga. 204 (1871); Humphrey Chevrolet, Inc. v. City of Evanston, 7 Ill.2d 402, 131 N.E.2d 70 (1955); Komen v. City of St. Louis, 316 Mo. 9, 289 S.W. 838 (1926) (subsequently overruled on another point); City of Elizabeth v. Windsor-Fifth Avenue, Inc., 31 N.J.Super. 187, 106 A.2d 9 (1954); Ex parte Johnson, 20 Okla.Cr. 66, 201 P. 533 (1921); Mayor of Nashville v. Linck, 80 Tenn. 499 (1852); City of Seattle v. Gervasi, 144 Wash. 429, 258 P. 328 (1927); State ex rel. Smith v. Wertz, 91 W.Va. 622, 114 S.E. 242 (1922). [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. There have been more than seventy amendments to the Massachusetts Sunday regulation over the past century. See the opinion below, 176 F.Supp. 466, 472, n. 2. The latest amendments prior to the bringing of suit in the Gallagher case were in 1957. Mass.Acts 1957, cc. 300, 356, §§ 16, 17, 18. By Mass.Acts 1960, c. 812, § 3, the provisions of chapter 136, Massachusetts' general Sunday regulations, were made applicable to all or part of certain legal holidays, e.g., January first, July fourth, Thanksgiving Day. The Pennsylvania statute which is considered here was enacted in 1959. Pa.Laws 1959, No. 212. And in the same year that State's Lord's Day statute was three times amended. Pa.Laws 1959, Nos. 278, 540, 684. Maryland amended the provisions which are now its Code, Art. 27, §§ 492 to 534A, seven times in 1959. Maryland Laws 1959, cc. 232, 236, 248, 503, 510, 715, 811. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. E.g., N.D.Laws 1959, c. 131; Tenn. Acts 1957, c. 219. [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. E.g., Fla.Laws 1959, c. 59-295; Me.Laws 1959, c. 302; Okla.Laws 1959, p. 210. [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma, West Virginia. Cf. Indiana, Missouri.But see Alabama, Illinois, New Mexico, Ohio.

Language can also be found in judicial opinions interpreting Sunday statutes which attributes religious purpose to them. See O'Donnell v. Sweeney, 5 Ala. 467, 469 (1843); Weldon v. Colquitt, 62 Ga. 449, 451-452 (1879); State v. Beaudette, 122 Me. 44, 45, 118 A. 719, 720 (1922); Pearce v. Atwood, 13 Mass. 324, 346-348 (1816); Bennett v. Brooks, 91 Mass. 118, 119-121 (1864); Davis v. City of Somerville, 128 Mass. 594, 596 (1880); Commonwealth v. White, 190 Mass. 578, 580-582, 77 N.E. 636, 637 (1906); Commonwealth v. McCarthy, 244 Mass. 484, 486, 138 N.E. 835, 836-837 (1923); Allen v. Duffie, 43 Mich. 1, 7-9, 4 N.W. 427, 431-433 (1880); Brimhall v. Van Campen, 8 Minn. 13, 22 (1862); Kountz v. Price, 40 Miss. 341, 348 (1866); People v. Ruggles, 8 Johns. 290, 296-297 (N.Y.Sup.Ct. 1811); Sellers v. Dugan, 18 Ohio 489, 490, 492 (1849); Commonwealth v. American Baseball Club, 290 Pa. 136, 143, 138 A. 497, 499 (1927); Commonwealth v. Coleman, 60 Pa.Super. 380, 385-386 (1915); Parker v. State, 84 Tenn. 476, 477 479, 1 S.W. 202-203 (1886); Graham v. State, 134 Tenn. 285, 292, 183 S.W. 983, 985 (1915). And see Smith v. Boston & Maine R. Co., 120 Mass. 490, 493 (1876); Society for the Visitation of the Sick v. Commonwealth, 52 Pa. 125, 135 (1866). Even some decisions sustaining the constitutionality of the statutes have found their justification, in part, in the preservation of Christian traditions. Shover v. State, 10 Ark. 259 (1850); State v. Ambs, 20 Mo. 214 (1854); State ex rel. Temple v. Barnes, 22 N.D. 18, 132 N.W. 215 (1911); City Council v. Benjamin, 2 Strob.L. 508 (S.C. 1848). Cf. Varney v. French, 19 N.H. 233 (1848); Adams v. Gay, 19 Vt. 358, 366 (1847). But most of these latter decisions date from an era when day of rest conceptions were not yet fully developed: the then prevailing notions of the police power did not accord to state legislatures authority to protect a man from the harm to himself of uninterrupted labor. Compare Thomasson v. State, 15 Ind. 449, 454 (1860) (speaking of the "patriarchal theory of government") with, e.g., People v. Klinck Packing Co., 214 N.Y. 121, 108 N.E. 278 (1915) (sustaining New York's six-day week statute by analogy to the Sunday law cases). The large majority of decisions applying the Sunday laws in cases where their constitutionality as possible infringements of religious liberty was not in issue have regarded the laws as having either an exclusively secular function or a function accommodating both the civil and religious needs of the community. As to the former, see, e.g., State v. Shuster, 145 Conn. 554, 145 A.2d 196 (1958); Rogers v. State, 60 Ga.App. 722, 4 S.E.2d 918 (1939); Carr v. State, 175 Ind. 241, 93 N.E. 1071 (1911); Tinder v. Clarke Auto Co., 238 Ind. 302, 149 N.E.2d 808 (1958); City of Harlan v. Scott, 290 Ky. 585, 162 S.W.2d 8 (1942); Levering v. Park Commissioners, 134 Md. 48, 106 A. 176 (1919); State ex rel. Hoffman v. Justus, 91 Minn. 447, 98 N.W. 325 (1904); City of St. Louis v. Delassus, 205 Mo. 578, 104 S.W. 12 (1907) (subsequently overruled on another point); State v. Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. Co., 239 Mo.196, 143 S.W. 785 (1912); State v. Malone, 238 Mo.App. 939, 192 S.W.2d 68 (1946); More v. Clymer, 12 Mo.App. 11 (1882); Auto-Rite Supply Co. v. Mayor of Woodbridge, 25 N.J. 188, 135 A.2d 515 (1957); Rodman v. Robinson, 134 N.C. 503, 47 S.E.19 (1904); State v. Ricketts, 74 N.C. 187 (1876); Bloom v. Richards, 2 Ohio St. 387 (1853); McGatrick v. Wason, 4 Ohio St. 566 (1855); Krieger v. State, 12 Okla.Cr. 566, 160 P. 36 (1916); State v. Smith, 19 Okla.Cr. 184, 198 P. 879 (1921); State v. James, 81 S.C.197, 62 S.E. 214 (1908); Francisco v. Commonwealth, 180 Va. 371, 23 S.E.2d 234 (1942); State v. Baltimore & Ohio R. Co., 15 W.Va. 362 (1879); State ex rel. Smith v. Wertz, 91 W.Va. 622, 114 S.E. 242 (1922), and see Stark v. Backus, 140 Wis. 557, 123 N.W. 98 (1909). As to the latter, see Rosenbaum v. State, 131 Ark. 251, 199 S.W. 388 (1917); State v. Hurliman, 143 Conn. 502, 123 A.2d 767 (1956); Richmond v. Moore,107 Ill. 429 (1883); State v. Mead, 230 Iowa 1217, 300 N.W. 523 (1941); Cleveland v. City of Bangor,87 Me. 259, 32 A. 892 (1895); Matter of Rupp, 33 App.Div. 468, 53 N.Y.S. 927 (1898); People v. Moses, 140 N.Y. 214, 35 N.E. 499 (1893); Moore v. Owen, 58 Misc. 332, 109 N.Y.S. 585 (N.Y.Sup.Ct.1908); Melvin v. Easley, 52 N.C. 356 (1860); Johnston v. Commonwealth, 22 Pa. 102 (1853). Cf. the cases finding foundation for the laws in long-established usage. Commonwealth v. Louisville & Nashville R. Co., 80 Ky. 291 (1882); Mohney v. Cook, 26 Pa. 342 (1855); Commonwealth v. Nesbit, 34 Pa. 398 (1859); Commonwealth v. Jeandelle, 3 Phila. 509 (Pa.Q.S. 1859). And see People v.Law, 142 N.Y.S.2d 440 (Spec.Sess.1955); People v. Binstock, 7 Misc.2d 1039, 170 N.Y.S.2d 133 (Spec.Sess.1957). [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. State of New York, Second Report of the Joint Legislative Committee on Sabbath Law, N.Y.Leg.Doc. No. 48 (1953) 9. See Report of the Committee on the Judiciary, on the petition praying the repeal of the laws for the observance of the sabbath, &c., 5 State of New York, Assembly Docs., Doc. No. 262 (1838). This latter report, denying any intention to enforce the duties of religious conscience, id. at 7, regarded retention of the Sunday law as advisable,

"Viewing the sabbath merely as a civil institution, venerable from its age, consecrated as a day of rest by the usage of our fathers, and cherished by the common consent of mankind throughout the nations of christendom. . . ."

Id. at 5.

"The experience of mankind has shewn that occasional rest is necessary for the health of the laborer and for his continued ability to toil; that"

"the interval of relaxation which Sunday affords to the laborious part of mankind, contributes greatly to the comfort and satisfaction of their lives, both as it refreshes them for the time, and as it relieves their six days' labor by the prospect of a day of rest always approaching. . . ."

Id. at 7. The Committee did regard as a third consideration of importance the necessity of taking account of the moral temper of the Christian majority of the community, and of affording the laborer an opportunity to attend church if he so wished. Id. at 6-8. [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. "The committee are of one mind as to the need of a weekly day of rest for the preservation of the health and strength of the community, and would therefor recommend legislation to secure to all citizens the right of one clear day's rest in seven. Insofar as possible, Sunday should be maintained as the weekly day of rest, and whenever the needs of the community, public convenience or demand compel labor on Sunday, persons thus employed should be given a legal right to rest on some other day of the week."

Report of the Joint Special Committee to Revise, Consolidate and Arrange the General Laws . . . Relating to the Observance of the Lord's Day, Mass.Leg.Docs., H.Doc. No. 1160 (1907) 9. For a similar, more recent expression, see Report Submitted by the Legislative Research Council Relative to Legal Holidays and Their Observance, Mass.Leg.Docs., S.Doc. No. 525 (1960), 24-25.

In the legislative debates on the bill which became the 1959 Pennsylvania Sunday retail sales act, the charge of religious purpose was persistently made by the bill's opponents, but such a purpose was disavowed by every speaker who favored the bill. 36 Pennsylvania Legislative Journal, 143d General Assembly (1959), 1137-1140, 2564-2565, 2682-2685. See, e.g., the remarks of Mr. Walker, id. at 1139:

"As I read this bill, I find nothing in it which is of a religious nature. The bill is prompted by the thousands of letters that we have all received in the Senate of Pennsylvania asking us to do something for the men and women who work in the department stores. These people are not asking to go to church; they are asking for a day of rest."

It is apparent even from the objections raised by the opponents that various economic interests, among them those of organized retailers' and labor groups, were influential in supporting the measure. See especially id. at 2682-2683. [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. Jacoby, Remember the Sabbath Day? -- The Nature and Causes of the Changes in Sunday Observance Since 1800 (Dissertation in Sociology, Microfilm, University of Pennsylvania Library (1942)), pp. 137-140, 147-148, 154-155, 200-202, c. 9; Kirstein, Stores and Unions (1950), 19-21; State of New York, Second Report of the Joint Legislative Committee on Sabbath Law, N.Y.Leg.Doc. No. 48 (1953) 16 et seq.; Report of the Unpaid Special Commission to Investigate . . . the Laws Relating to the Observance of the Lord's Day, Mass.Leg.Docs., H.Doc. No. 2413 (1954), 6; 36 Pennsylvania Legislative Journal, 143d General Assembly (1959), 1139, 2553. Seethe Sunday Business resolution of the 1959 and 1960 Conventions of the National Retail Merchants Association, 41 Stores 6-7 (Feb.1959); 42 Stores 13 (Feb.1960), and see note 40 supra. Frequently legislation closing establishments of a given trade is the product of lobbying efforts by associations of traders seeking to quash the competitive pressures which force unwanted Sunday labor. See Gundaker Central Motors, Inc. v. Gassert, 23 N.J. 71, 127 A.2d 566 (1956), app.dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 354 U.S. 933; Breyer v. State, 102 Tenn. 103, 50 S.W. 769 (1899). But see Sunday Observance, Hearings before the Subcommittee on Judiciary of the Committee on the District of Columbia, House of Representatives, on H.R. 7189 and H.R. 10311, 69th Cong., 1st Sess. (1926) (labor and trade groups oppose Sunday legislation supported primarily by clerical faction). Increasingly, the religious proponents of Sunday legislation have themselves come to couch their arguments in terms of hygienic and social, rather than transcendental, values. See Gilfillan, The Sabbath Viewed in the Light of Reason, Revelation, and History (Am. ed. 1862), 209-227; Floody, Scientific Basis of Sabbath and Sunday (2d ed.1906), 311-315; McMillan, Influence of the Weekly Rest-Day on Human Welfare (1927). [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. Mass.Gen.Laws Ann., 1958, c. 149, §§ 47 to 51. Section 47 provides:

"Whoever, except at the request of the employee, requires an employee engaged in any commercial occupation or in the work of any industrial process not subject to the following section or in the work of transportation or communication to do on Sunday the usual work of his occupation, unless he is allowed during the six days next ensuing twenty-four consecutive hours without labor, shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars; but this and the following section shall not be construed as allowing any work on Sunday not otherwise authorized by law."

Section 48 provides:

"Every employer of labor engaged in carrying on any manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishment or workshop . . . shall allow every person . . . [with exceptions: see §§ 49, 50] employed in such manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishment or workshop at least twenty-four consecutive hours of rest, which shall include an unbroken period comprising the hours between eight o'clock in the morning and five o'clock in the evening, in every seven consecutive days. No employer shall operate any such manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishment or workshop on Sunday unless he has complied with section fifty-one. . . ."

Section 51 is:

"Before operating on Sunday, every employer subject to section forty-eight . . . shall post in a conspicuous place on the premises a schedule containing a list of his employees who are required or allowed to work on Sunday, and designating the day of rest for each. No employee shall be required or allowed to work on the day of rest designated for him."

Note the evolution of these sections through Mass.Acts 1907, c. 577, codified in the Labor Code of 1909, Mass.Acts 1909, c. 514, § 52; Mass.Acts 1913, c. 619. [↑](#footnote-ref-86)
87. See Ill.Rev.Stat., 1959, c. 48, §§ 8a to 8g; N.H.Rev.Stat.Ann., 1955, §§ 275.32, 275.33; N.Y.Lab.Law § 161; Ore.Wage and Hour Comm'n Orders Nos. 8 (1959), 9 (1952), 12 (1953), CCH Lab.Law Rep. State Laws (1960), pp. 57,561, 57,562, 57,564. Cf. West's Wis.Stat.Ann., 1957, § 103.85. And seePurdon's Pa.Stat.Ann., 1952, Tit. 43, § 361. [↑](#footnote-ref-87)
88. Purdon's Pa.Stat.Ann., 1960 Supp., Tit. 4, § 60. See also Me.Rev.Stat., 1954, c. 134, § 41; Sunday Entertainments Act, 1932, 22 & 23 Geo. V, c. 51, § 1(1)(a). Cf. P.R.Laws Ann., 1955, Tit. 29, § 295. [↑](#footnote-ref-88)
89. P.R.Laws Ann., 1955, Tit. 33, § 2201. Cf. Colo.Rev.Stat.Ann., 1953, § 27-1-4; R.I.Gen.Laws, 1956, § 5-16-5. [↑](#footnote-ref-89)
90. R.I.Gen.Laws, 1956, §§ 25-1-6, 25-1-8; S.C.Code, 1952, Tit. 64, § 5. See also Mllis v. Celanese Corp.,234 S.C. 380, 108 S.E.2d 547 (1959). [↑](#footnote-ref-90)
91. See Mead, The Pattern of Leisure in Contemporary American Culture, 313 Annals of The American Academy of Political and Social Science 11-12 (Sept.1957). [↑](#footnote-ref-91)
92. Among the many examples that might be found in Frazer's Golden Bough, see his discussions of incest and murder, The Golden Bough (3d ed., A. reprint 1951), II The Magic Art 107-117; Taboo and the Perils of the Soul 218-219. For other classic instances in various fields, seeWeston, From Ritual to Romance (Anchor ed.1957), passim, especially 81-100; Gilbert Murray, "Excursus on the Ritual Forms Preserved in Greek Tragedy," in Harrison, Themis (1912), 341 et seq.; Kluckhohn and Leighton, The Navaho (1946), 162-163; Tawney, Religion and The Rise of Capitalism (3d Mentor ed.1950), passim.

See Weekly Rest in Commerce and Offices, Report A, International Labour Conference, 26th Sess., Geneva, 1940 (1939), 2:

"Sunday rest laws, from the Fourth Commandment downwards, have always been social as well as religious in intention, seeking to provide a periodic rest from daily toil as well as an opportunity for religious observance."

Among the weekly rest legislation of the many nations surveyed by the International Labor Organization's pertinent reports, the system most common is to provide for a uniform rest day, usually on Sunday. See id., passim, especially at 71-74; Weekly Rest in Commerce and Offices, Report VII(1), International Labour Conference, 39th Sess., Geneva, 1956 (1955), passim, especially at 18, 24-26.

"This tendency to ensure that the weekly rest is taken at the same time by all workers on the day established by tradition or custom has an obvious social purpose, namely to enable the workers to take part in the life of the community and in the special forms of recreation which are available on certain days."

Id. at 24. Commenting on the worldwide practice of weekly rest, the ILO reporters observe:

"Quite often, the practice originated as a religious observance and developed into a tradition which has persisted despite the disappearance of the original reasons or the decline in the part played by religious institutions in the social structure. At a very early stage, this religious observance was backed by civil law, and even today traces of this can often be found in constitutions and civil codes, in municipal by laws, and in the regulations of many countries concerning opening and closing hours of commercial and other establishments. Labour legislation has endeavoured to maintain and extend this practice in the light of the economic needs of modern society. . . ."

Id. at 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-92)
93. The District Court in the Gallagher case believed that the Massachusetts Lord's day statute could not reasonably be regarded as a day of rest provision, first, because its extensive exceptions allowed many persons to labor seven days a week and, second, because Massachusetts has other statutes providing for twenty-four consecutive hours of rest every seven days. Mass.Gen.Laws Ann., 1958, c. 149, §§ 47 to 51. These latter provisions, however, by their express terms, supplement, do not supplant, the Sunday prohibitions. The two objections to some extent answer each other: the existence of the six-day law is justified by, and in part provides for, the deficiencies of the Lord's day statute as day of rest legislation. But, in any event, the Lord's day statute is not merely day of rest legislation. It is common day of rest legislation. To certain persons who, for reasons deemed compelling by the Massachusetts Legislature, cannot share in this common day -- simply because not all activity can cease, even on Sunday -- the Labor Code at least assures a day of physical rest. Compare the conclusions found in Weekly Rest in Commerce and Offices, Report VII(1), International Labour Conference, 39th Sess., Geneva, 1956 (1955), 52. It may be noted that a large majority of the thirty-four States having comprehensive Sunday restrictions also have some six-day week provisions in their labor or child labor codes or regulations. See Appendix II to this opinion, post, p. 366 U. S. 551.

The District Court, in concluding that the Massachusetts Lord's day statute is religious legislation, took account of its origins in colonial laws, of its language and the language of the Massachusetts courts in cases applying it, of the statutory exceptions permitting certain recreational activity only in the afternoon hours and, in some cases, at a designated distance from places of worship, and of statements in an amicus brief indicating that amici had an interest in preventing the secularization of Sunday. The implications of history and of the statutory language have already been discussed herein. The opinions in the Massachusetts cases adverted to by the court below, the latest decided in 1923, are insufficient to establish that the Massachusetts legislation as applied in 1960 to prohibit the Sunday operation of supermarkets lacks substantial secular purposes and effects. See note 101, infra. The validity of applications of the statute possibly affected by the afternoon hour exceptions is not now presented; suffice to say that these exceptions do not render the legislation unconstitutional in its entirety or in the circumstances of this litigation. And the purposes, views and intentions of amici, of course, cannot be attributed to the legislature of the State of Massachusetts. [↑](#footnote-ref-93)
94. See text at note 37, supra. Cf. Report of the Unpaid Special Commission to Investigate . . . the Laws Relating to the Observance of the Lord's Day, Mass.Leg.Docs., H.Doc. No. 2413 (1954), 9:

"The wave of materialism which is sweeping the country makes it most important that one day be set aside for worship, rest and to give all persons an opportunity to strengthen the bulwark of our American civilization -- the home."

Compare Report on the Weekly Rest Day in Industrial and Commercial Employment, Report VII, International Labour Conference, 3d Sess., Geneva, 1921 (1921), 127:

"Social custom requires that the same rest day should, as far as possible, be accorded to the members of the same working family and to the working class community as a whole." [↑](#footnote-ref-94)
95. See note 92, supra. See also the resolution of the International Congress for weekly rest, 1889, quoted in note 40, supra. [↑](#footnote-ref-95)
96. Ex parte Newman, 9 Cal. 502. Justice Field's dissent in this case has become a leading pronouncement on the constitutionality of Sunday laws. [↑](#footnote-ref-96)
97. Ex parte Andrews, 18 Cal. 678. The controlling California constitutional guarantee of religious freedom comports only an analogue to the First Amendment's "free exercise," not an analogue to the "establishment" clause. [↑](#footnote-ref-97)
98. E.g., Petit v. Minnesota, 177 U. S. 164. Cf. Hennington v. Georgia, 163 U. S. 299; Soon Hing v. Crowley, 113 U. S. 703, 113 U. S. 710. In re Sumida, 177 Cal. 388, 170 P. 823 (1918); McClelland v. City of Denver, 36 Colo. 486, 86 P. 126 (1906) (barbering prohibited); Rosenbaum v. City & County of Denver, 102 Colo. 530, 81 P.2d 760 (1938) (automobile sales prohibited); Mosko v. Dunbar, 135 Colo. 172, 309 P.2d 581 (1957) (automobile sales prohibited); Walsh v. State, 33 Del. [3 W. W. Harr.] 514, 139 A. 257 (1927), semble; Gillooley v. Vaughan, 92 Fla. 943, 956, 110 So. 653, 657 (1926) (cabarets and cinema prohibited); State v. Dolan, 13 Idaho 693, 92 P. 995 (1907); State v. Cranston, 59 Idaho 561, 85 P.2d 682 (1938); McPherson v. Village of Chebanse, 114 Ill. 46, 28 N.E. 454 (1885) (ordinance held authorized by police power); Voglesong v. State, 9 Ind. 112 (1857); Foltz v. State, 33 Ind. 215 (1870); State v. Linsig, 178 Iowa 484, 159 N.W. 995 (1916); People v. DeRose, 230 Mich. 180, 203 N.W. 95 (1925) (ordinance closing markets held authorized by police power); In re Berman, 344 Mich. 598, 75 N.W.2d 8 (1956) (ordinance prohibiting sale of furniture held authorized by police power); State v. Dean, 149 Minn. 410, 184 N.W. 275 (1921); Power v. Nordstrom, 150 Minn. 228, 184 N.W. 967 (1921) (ordinance closing cinema, shows, theater, held authorized by police power); Paramount-Richards Theatres, Inc. v. City of Hattiesburg, 210 Miss. 271, 49 So.2d 574 (1950); State v. Loomis, 75 Mont. 88, 242 P. 344 (1925) (closing dance halls); Gundaker Central Motors, Inc. v. Gassert, 23 N.J. 71, 127 A.2d 566 (1956), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 354 U.S. 933 (automobile trading prohibited); People v. Havnor, 149 N.Y.195, 43 N.E. 541 (1896), writ of error dism'd, 170 U. S. 408 (barbering prohibited); State v. Weddington, 188 N.C. 643, 125 S.E. 257 (1924) (ordinance held authorized by police power); State v. Haase, 97 Ohio App. 377, 116 N.E.2d 224 (1953); Ex parte Johnson, 20 Okla.Cr. 66, 201 P. 533 (1921) (ordinance closing cinema and theaters held authorized by police power); Ex parte Johnson, 77 Okla.Cr. 360, 141 P.2d 599 (1943) (barbering prohibited); Ex parte Northrup, 41 Ore. 489, 69 P. 445 (1902) (barbering prohibited); State v. Nicholls, 77 Ore. 415, 151 P. 473 (1915); Breyer v. State, 102 Tenn. 103, 50 S.W. 769 (1899) (barbering prohibited); State v. Sopher, 25 Utah 318, 71 P. 482 (1903); Norfolk & Western R. Co. v. Commonwealth, 93 Va. 749, 24 S.E. 837 (1896) (statute prohibiting operation of railroads held sustainable as exercise of police power); State v. Nichols, 28 Wash. 628, 69 P. 372 (1902); City of Seattle v. Gervasi, 144 Wash. 429, 258 P. 328 (1927) (comprehensive ordinance found authorized by police power). See also Kreider v. State,103 Ark. 438, 440, 147 S.W. 449, 450 (1912); State v. Miller, 68 Conn. 373, 377-378, 36 A. 795, 796 (1896); State v. Diamond, 56 N.D. 854, 857-858, 219 N.W. 831, 832-833 (1928); Rich v. Commonwealth, 198 Va. 445, 449, 453, 94 S.E.2d 549, 552, 555 (1956). Compare Pacesetter Homes, Inc. v. Village of South Holland, 18 Ill.2d 247, 163 N.E.2d 464 (1960), admitting legislative power to prohibit Sunday activity disturbing to the community, but striking down a blanket closing ordinance with virtually none of the usual exceptions as too extreme to be justified under this rationale. [↑](#footnote-ref-98)
99. E.g., Frolickstein v. Mayor of Mobile, 40 Ala. 725 (1867); Lane v. McFadyen, 259 Ala. 205, 66 So.2d 83 (1953) (issue not raised by litigants; court nevertheless considers it); Elliott v. State, 29 Ariz. 389, 242 P. 340 (1926) (dictum); Shover v. State, 10 Ark. 259 (1850); Scales v. State, 47 Ark. 476, 1 S.W. 769 (1886); Ex parte Koser, 60 Cal. 177 (1882); Karwisch v. Mayor of Atlanta, 44 Ga. 204 (1871), settling the issue left open in Sanders v. Johnson, 29 Ga. 526 (1859); Humphrey Chevrolet, Inc. v. City of Evanston, 7 Ill.2d 402, 131 N.E.2d 70 (1955) (at least as applied to corporate and non-Sabbatarian parties); State v. Blair, 130 Kan. 863, 288 P. 729 (1930); State v. Haining, 131 Kan. 853, 293 P. 952 (1930); Strand Amusement Co. v. Commonwealth, 241 Ky. 48, 43 S.W.2d 321 (1931), semble; State v. Bott, 31 La.Ann. 663 (1879) (forbidding liquor sales); State ex rel. Walker v. Judge, 39 La.Ann. 132, 1 So. 437 (1887); Judefind v. State, 78 Md. 510, 28 A. 405 (1894) (considered dictum); Hiller v. State, 124 Md. 385, 92 A. 842 (1914) (prohibiting sports); Commonwealth v. Has, 122 Mass. 40 (1877); Commonwealth v. Chernock, 336 Mass. 384, 145 N.E.2d 920 (1957); Scougale v. Sweet, 124 Mich. 311, 82 N.W. 1061 (1900) (considered dictum); State v. Petit, 74 Minn. 376, 77 N.W. 225 (1898), aff'd, 177 U. S. 164: State v. Weiss, 97 Minn. 125, 105 N.W. 1127 (1906); State v. Ambs, 20 Mo. 214 (1854); Komen v. City of St. Louis, 316 Mo. 9, 289 S.W. 838 (1926) (closing bakeries) (subsequently overruled on another point); In re Caldwell, 82 Neb. 544, 118 N.W. 133 (1908), semble; Stewart Motor Co. v. City of Omaha, 120 Neb. 776, 235 N.W. 332 (1931) (prohibiting automobile sales), semble; Two Guys from Harrison, Inc. v. Furman,32 N.J.199, 160 A.2d 265 (1960); Lindemnuller v. People, 33 Barb. 548 (N.Y.Sup.Ct. 1861) (closing theaters); Newendorff v. Duryea, 69 N.Y. 557 (1877) (same); People v. Friedman, 302 N.Y. 75, 96 N.E.2d 184 (1950), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 341 U.S. 907; State v. McGee, 237 N.C. 633, 75 S.E.2d 783 (1953), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question,346 U.S. 802; State ex rel. Temple v. Barnes, 22 N.D. 18, 132 N.W. 215 (1911) (closing theaters); State v. Powell, 58 Ohio St. 324, 50 N.E. 900 (1898) (prohibiting sports); State v. Kidd, 167 Ohio St. 521, 150 N.E.2d 413 (1958), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 358 U. S. 131, 132; Commonwealth v. Wolf, 3 S. & R. 48 (Pa. 1817); Specht v. Commonwealth, 8 Pa. 312 (1848); Commonwealth v. Bauder, 188 Pa.Super. 424, 145 A.2d 915 (1958); City Council v. Benjamin, 2 Strob.L. 508 (S.C. 1848); Yepapas v. Richardson, 149 S.C. 52, 146 S.E. 686 (1929); Ex parte Sundstrom, 25 Tex.App. 133, 8 S.W. 207 (1888); Sayeg v. State, 114 Tex.Cr.R. 153, 25 S.W.2d 865 (1930), semble; Clark v. State, 167 Tex.Cr.R. 204, 319 S.W.2d 726 (1959), semble; Pirkey Bros. v. Commonwealth, 134 Va. 713, 114 S.E. 764 (1922) (issue not raised by litigants; court nevertheless considers it); Crook v. Commonwealth, 147 Va. 593, 136 S.E. 565 (1927) (same); State v. Bergfeldt, 41 Wash. 234, 83 P. 177 (1905), writ of error dism'd, 210 U.S. 438 (prohibiting barbering); State v. Grabinski, 33 Wash.2d 603, 206 P.2d 1022 (1949). Following the decision in the Gallagher case below, and relying on it, a Pennsylvania Court of Quarter Sessions recently held the 1959 Pennsylvania Sunday retail sales act unconstitutional on the grounds that its incidence is discriminatory and arbitrary, and that it operates to prefer Sunday-observing religions. Commonwealth v. Cavalerro, 142 Legal Intelligencer 519 (Phila., Apr. 22, 1960) (Pa.Q.S. 1960). Another Pennsylvania court of first impression shortly thereafter reached the same conclusions. Bargain City U.S.A. Inc. v. Dilworth, 142 Legal Intelligencer 813 (Phila., June 22, 1960) (Pa.C.P. 1960). These appear to be the only two standing state court decisions striking down Sunday laws, as, in part, violative of religious freedom, in a century and a half of litigation.

In District of Columbia v. Robinson, 30 App.D.C. 283 (1908), the Court of Appeals, while recognizing the validity as civil regulations of modern Sunday closing statutes, held the 1723 Maryland Sunday law obsolete and inapplicable in the District of Columbia, largely on the ground that its purpose was religious. Compare O'Hanlon v. Myers, 10 Rich.L. 128 (S.C. 1856). In Brunswick-Balke-Collander Co. v. Evans, 228 F. 991 (D.C.D.Ore.1916), app. dism'd, 248 U.S. 587, a Federal District Court sustained Oregon's general closing law against contentions that it violated religious freedom. Cf. Swann v. Swann, 21 F. 299 (C.C.E.D. Ark. 1884); In re King, 46 F. 905 (C.C.W.D.Tenn. 1891). [↑](#footnote-ref-99)
100. Appeals in cases challenging Sunday laws as violative of the Due Process Clause were also dismissed for want of a substantial federal question in Gundaker Central Motors, Inc. v. Gassert,354 U.S. 933, and Grochowiak v. Pennsylvania, 358 U. S. 47. [↑](#footnote-ref-100)
101. This does not, of course, imply an opinion of the legitimacy of all the Sunday provisions of all the States, or of every application of the statutes now before this Court. It is true that the Massachusetts courts have at times expressed an intention to apply the Massachusetts Lord's day statute in accordance with the temper in which its historical antecedents were enacted.Compare the language of Davis v. City of Somerville, 128 Mass. 594 (1880); Commonwealth v. Dextra, 143 Mass. 28, 8 N.E. 756 (1886); Commonwealth v. White, 190 Mass. 578, 77 N.E. 636 (1906); Commonwealth v. McCarthy, 244 Mass. 484, 138 N.E. 835 (1923), with the Virginia cases, Francisco v. Commonwealth, 180 Va. 371, 23 S.E.2d 234 (1942), and Rich v. Commonwealth, 198 Va. 445, 94 S.E.2d 549 (1956). See Commonwealth v. Sampson, 97 Mass. 407 (1867). But see Stone v. Graves, 145 Mass. 353, 13 N.E. 906 (1887). It will be time enough to pass upon the constitutionality of such applications as do not reasonably come within the rationale of the present decision, and of Commonwealth v. Has, 122 Mass. 40, 42 (1877), if and when those cases arise. See Brattle Films, Inc. v. Commissioner of Public Safety, 333 Mass. 58, 127 N.E.2d 891 (1955). [↑](#footnote-ref-101)
102. Wisconsin, which does not have a general ban on Sunday labor, but does have a statute prohibiting automobile trading on that day, also makes an exception in favor of those who conscientiously observe the Jewish Sabbath. West's Wis.Stat.Ann., 1961 Supp. § 218.01(3)(a) 21. Other jurisdictions having statutes which cover only one or a few enumerated activities provide no Sabbatarian exception. Fla.Laws 1959, Special Acts, c. 59-1650, a local option shop-closing statute applicable to Orange County, does contain such an exception, and, in Michigan, there are similar excepting clauses attached to barbering and auto-trading bans, as well as to the general Sunday laws. Mich.Stat.Ann., 1957 Rev. Vol., §§ 18.122, 9.2702. [↑](#footnote-ref-102)
103. In Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and probably in Connecticut and Maine, the exception does not cover the sale of goods. Kan.Gen.Stat.Ann., 1949, § 21-953, State v. Haining, 131 Kan. 853, 293 P. 952 (1930); Mass.Gen.Laws Ann., 1958, c. 136, § 6, Commonwealth v. Has, 122 Mass. 40 (1877); Commonwealth v. Starr, 144 Mass. 359, 11 N.E. 533 (1887); Commonwealth v. Kirshen, 194 Mass. 151, 80 N.E. 2 (1907); Vernon's Mo.Stat.Ann., 1953, § 563.700; N.J.Stat.Ann., 1953, § 2A:171-4; McKinney's N.Y.Laws, Pen.Law § 2144, People v. Friedman, 302 N.Y. 75, 96 N.E.2d 184 (1950), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 341 U.S. 907; cf. People v. Adler, 174 App.Div. 301, 160 N.Y.S. 539 (1916) (manufacturing activities); N.D.Century Code, 1960, § 12-21-17; R.I.Gen.Laws, 1956, § 11-40-4 (shops, mechanical work in compact places, etc.); S.D.Code, 1939, § 13.1710; Vernon's Tex.Stat., 1952, Pen.Code, Art. 284; Wash.Rev.Code, 1959, § 9.76.020, State v. Grabinski, 33 Wash.2d 603, 206 P.2d 1022 (1949); Conn.Gen.Stat.Rev.1958, § 53-303; Me.Rev.Stat., 1954, c. 134, § 44. Cf. State v. Weiss, 97 Minn. 125, 105 N.W. 1127 (1906). The exemption in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia and West Virginia does extend to selling, but in the last two named States an exempted person may not employ other persons not of his belief on Sunday. Burns' Ind.Stat.Ann., 1956 Replacement Vol., § 10-4301; Ky.Rev.Stat., 1960, § 436.160, Cohen v. Webb, 175 Ky. 1, 192 S.W. 828 (1917); Mich.Stat.Ann., 1957 Rev.Vol., §§ 18.855, 18.856(1), Builders Assn. v. City of Detroit, 295 Mich. 272, 294 N.W. 677 (1940), semble; Neb.Rev.Stat., 1956 Reissued Vol., § 28-940; Page's Ohio Rev.Code Ann., 1954, § 3773.24; Okla.Stat.Ann., 1958, Tit. 21, § 909, Krieger v. State, 12 Okla.Cr. 566, 160 P. 36 (1916); Va.Code, 1960 Replacement Vol., § 18.1-359: W.Va.Code Ann., 1955, c. 61, Art. 8, § 18 [6073]. The meaning of the provision in Illinois, Ill.Rev.Stat., 1959, c. 38, § 549, is not clear. [↑](#footnote-ref-103)
104. See 101 H.L.Deb. 430 (5th ser.1935-1936); 311 H.C.Deb. 492 (5th ser.1935-1936). On this ground some state courts have even held Sabbatarian exceptions invalid as discriminatory. City of Shreveport v. Levy, 26 La.Ann. 671 (1874); Kislingbury v. Treasurer of Plainfield, 10 N.J. Misc. 798, 160 A. 654 (C.P. 1932). See State v. Grabinski, 33 Wash.2d 603, 206 P.2d 1022 (1949), reserving the question. However, in Johns v. State, 78 Ind. 332 (1881), the exemption was sustained. [↑](#footnote-ref-104)
105. See Va.Code, 1960 Replacement Vol., § 18.1-359; W.Va.Code Ann., 1955, c. 61, Art. 8, § 18 [6073]; Factories Act, 1937, 1 Edw. VIII & 1 Geo. VI, c. 67, § 91. [↑](#footnote-ref-105)
106. Both Pennsylvania and Massachusetts have fair employment practices acts prohibiting religious discrimination in hiring. Purdon's Pa.Stat.Ann., 1960 Supp., Tit. 43, §§ 951 to 963; Mass.Gen.Laws Ann., 1958, c. 151B, §§ 1 to 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-106)
107. Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia. Wisconsin's statute is similar. [↑](#footnote-ref-107)
108. New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Washington. [↑](#footnote-ref-108)
109. Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri. [↑](#footnote-ref-109)
110. Rhode Island. [↑](#footnote-ref-110)
111. This New Jersey excepting statute appears to be currently inoperative. The State's general labor ban has recently been held impliedly repealed by the enactment of a Sunday retail sales prohibition, Two Guys from Harrison, Inc. v. Furman, 32 N.J.199, 160 A.2d 265 (1960), and the excepting provision, by its terms, does not extend to Sunday selling by Sabbatarians. [↑](#footnote-ref-111)
112. And see In re Berman, 344 Mich. 598, 75 N.W.2d 8 (1956), determining the posture under a conscientious-Sabbatarian exception of a Sabbatarian owner of three stores who operated one himself, closing on Saturdays and opening on Sundays, and the other two through agents, opening Saturdays and closing Sundays. [↑](#footnote-ref-112)
113. 14 Geo. VI, c. 28. [↑](#footnote-ref-113)
114. 26 Geo. V & 1 Edw. VIII, c. 53. [↑](#footnote-ref-114)
115. Principally the Jewish exemption in the Hairdressers' and Barbers' Shops (Sunday Closing) Act, 1930, 20 & 21 Geo. V, c. 35, § 3. See 101 H.L.Deb. 439, 442 (5th ser.1935-1936); 311 H. C. Deb. 502 (5th ser.1935-1936). The 1930 act was repealed by the Shops Act, 1950, 14 Geo. VI, c. 28, Eighth Schedule, although § 67 of the latter act continues similar provisions for Scotland. The problem of special Sunday regulation for the Jewish population had involved Parliament at least since the turn of the century. Sections 47, 48 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, 1 Edw. VII, c. 22, permitted Jewish employers certain exemptions from that act's prohibition of Sunday employment of women and children. The terms of the exemption are altered by the Factories Act, 1937, 1 Edw. VIII & 1 Geo. VI, c. 67, § 91. See also Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Sunday Closing (Shops) Bill [H.L.] (1905), 71-83, 142-147, 153-157. [↑](#footnote-ref-115)
116. Among these was a provision permitting any shopkeeper in London to elect to close on Saturdays instead of Sundays. See 311 H. C. Deb. 447-461 (5th ser.1935-1936). The Jewish exemption provisions of § 7 were the most strenuously debated provisions of the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act. See 308 H.C.Deb. 2188-2192, 2202-2203, 2217 (5th ser.1935-1936); 101 H.L.Deb. 263, 270, 427-434 (5th ser.1935-1936); 311 H.C.Deb. 447 461, 478-507 (5th ser.1935-1936). The recognized inadequacy of the exemption was in part responsible for the act's special provisions (§ 8) for the London area, where the bulk of the English Jewish trading population does business. Id. at 2087, 2090-2091, 2103-2104. [↑](#footnote-ref-116)
117. See the statutory form prescribed by the Shops Regulations, 1937, S. R. & O., 1937, No. 271, Schedules IV(a) and IV(b). [↑](#footnote-ref-117)
118. The constitution of the tribunals for Jews and for Seventh Day Adventists (see note 119, infra) and the procedures of the tribunals are prescribed by the Shops Regulations, 1937, S. R. & O., 1937, No. 271, Reg. 4, and the Shops (Procedure for Jewish Tribunals) Regulations, 1937, S. R. & O., 1937, No. 1038. [↑](#footnote-ref-118)
119. Other provisions indicate the intricate problems of administration which the exemption raises. Section 53(3) provides that, in the case of shops occupied by a partnership or company, the application of the exemption is determined by the religion of the majority of the partners or directors. Section (5) prohibits the occupier of a shop registered for the exemption from keeping open any other shop on Saturday, and prohibits any person who has made a statutory declaration of conscientious objection for purposes of registration from working in, or employing any other person in, or being concerned in the control of, a firm which employs any other person in, a shop open on Saturday. Compare In re Berman, note 112, supra. Subsection (9) permits cancellation of the registration of any shop at the application of the occupier, but provides that registration shall not be cancelled within twelve months of the date upon which application for registration was made, and subsection (10) precludes the same occupier's again registering the shop for exemption. Section 53(12) makes the exception provisions applicable as well to members of any religious body regularly observing the Jewish Sabbath as to Jews, and provides that for such persons the function served in the case of Jews by the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews shall be served by "such body as appears to the Secretary of State to represent such persons." [↑](#footnote-ref-119)
120. Frolickstein v. Mayor of Mobile, 40 Ala. 725 (1867); Scales v. State, 47 Ark. 476 (1886); State v. Haining, 131 Kan. 853, 293 P. 952 (1930); Commonwealth v. Has, 122 Mass. 40 (1877); Commonwealth v. Chernock, 336 Mass. 384, 145 N.E.2d 920 (1957); State v. Weiss, 97 Minn. 125, 105 N.W. 1127 (1906); Komen v. City of St. Louis, 316 Mo. 9, 289 S.W. 838 (1926) (subsequently overruled on another point); State v. Fass, 62 N.J.Super. 265, 162 A.2d 608 (County Ct.1960); People v. Friedman, 302 N.Y. 75, 96 N.E.2d 184 (1950), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 341 U.S. 907; Silverberg Bros. v. Douglass, 62 Misc. 340, 114 N.Y.S. 824 (Sup.Ct.1909); Commonwealth v. Wolf, 3 S. & R. 48 (Pa. 1817); Specht v. Commonwealth, 8 Pa. 312 (1848); City Council v. Benjamin, 2 Strob.L. 508 (S.C. 1848); Xepapas v. Richardson, 149 S.C. 52, 146 S.E. 686 (1929), semble; State v. Bergfeldt, 41 Wash. 234, 83 P. 177 (1905), writ of error dism'd, 210 U.S. 438 (prohibiting barbering). And see State ex rel. Walker v. Judge, 39 La.Ann. 132, 141, 1 So. 437 444 (1887); cf. Ex parte Sundstrom, 25 Tex.App. 133 (1888). [↑](#footnote-ref-120)
121. Consider Mr. Loftus' comments on the proposed Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Bill before the House of Commons in 1936:

"During the last 20 years, there has been a very great change in the habits of our people -- a change for the better. Vast masses of our people, in fact, literally millions, go out into the countryside on fine Sunday afternoons in the Summer, and that is good for their health; it is good for the mind, as well as the body, that they should do so. Going into the country . . . , they have been accustomed to certain facilities in the way of obtaining refreshment, fresh fruit, flowers and vegetables to bring home, and it would be regretted, particularly by the working classes, if there was any interference by legislation that would stop those facilities or check the tendency of our people to go into the country and to take advantage of the amenities of the countryside."

". . . The first principle is to frame such exemptions as will not unduly interfere with the ordinary health and habits of our people. . . ."

308 H.C.Deb. 2159 (5th ser.1935-1936). [↑](#footnote-ref-121)
122. Id. at 2200-2201. [↑](#footnote-ref-122)
123. The statute 29 Charles II, c. 7, punished worldly labor of one's ordinary calling by a forfeiture of five shillings, punished traveling by drovers or butchers by a forfeiture of twenty shillings, and punished the exhibition of merchandise for sale by forfeiture of the goods. Early American colonial legislation similarly provided greater fines for engaging in some than in other Sunday activity. See, e.g., 1., Delaware, 1740; Massachusetts, 1692; New Hampshire, 1700; New Jersey, 1798. [↑](#footnote-ref-123)
124. The statute 29 Charles II, c. 7, itself contained several exceptions, and subsequent statutes added others. See notes 15, 18, supra. The original Sunday edict of Constantine in 321 A.D. had exempted farm labor. [↑](#footnote-ref-124)
125. The statute 27 Henry VI, c. 5, had excepted "necessary victual" from its prohibition of sales at fairs and markets; 5 & 6 Edw. VI, c. 3, had contained a broad exception for labor at harvest or at any other time in the year when necessity required. [↑](#footnote-ref-125)
126. See, e.g., Jefferson's bill quoted in text at note 68, supra. Other laws made specific exceptions as well: the Pennsylvania statute of 1705, for example, exempted not only works of necessity and charity, but the dressing of victuals in cookshops, watermen landing passengers, butchers slaughtering and selling meat or fishermen selling fish in the morning in summer, and the sale of milk before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. [↑](#footnote-ref-126)
127. Where statutes ban the keeping open of places of business as well as laboring, the exception is frequently worded to apply only to the latter. See Commonwealth v. Detra, 143 Mass. 28 (1886). [↑](#footnote-ref-127)
128. See Williams v. State, 167 Ga. 160, 144 S.E. 745 (1928) (sale of gasoline is necessity); Jacobs v. Clark, 112 Vt. 484, 28 A.2d 369 (1942) (same is not necessity); Commonwealth v. Louisville & Nashville R. Co., 80 Ky. 291 (1882) (operating railroad is necessity); cf. Philadelphia, W. & B.R. Co. v. Lehman, 56 Md. 209 (1881); Sparhawk v. Union Passenger R. Co., 54 Pa. 401 (1867) (same is not necessity); State v. Needham, 134 Kan. 155, 4 P.2d 464 (1931) (distribution of newspapers is necessity); Commonwealth v. Matthews, 152 Pa. 166, 25 A. 548 (1893) (same is not necessity); Augusta & S. R. Co. v. Renz, 55 Ga. 126 (1875) (operating streetcar is necessity); Johnston v. Commonwealth, 22 Pa. 102 (1853) (operating bus is not necessity); Turner v. State, 67 Ind. 595 (1879) (cutting ripe wheat is necessity); State v. Goff, 20 Ark. 289 (1859) (same is not necessity); Wilkinson v. State, 59 Ind. 416 (1877) (hauling ripe watermelons is necessity), Commonwealth v. White, 190 Mass. 578, 77 N.E. 636 (1906) (picking ripe cranberries is not necessity); Rich v. Commonwealth, 198 Va. 445, 94 S.E.2d 549 (1956) (where evidence of widespread retail sale of groceries is not rebutted, jury cannot find that sale of groceries is not necessity); State v. James,81 S.C.197, 62 S.E. 214 (1908) (sale of ice and meat is not necessity); State v. Corologos, 101 Vt. 300, 143 A. 284 (1928) (sale of confectionery is not necessity as matter of law, although jury could so find); cf. State ex rel. Smith v. Wertz, 91 W.Va. 622, 114 S.E. 242 (1922); Thompson v. City of Atlanta, 178 Ga. 281, 172 S.E. 915 (1934), and Rosenbaum v. State, 131 Ark. 251, 199 S.W. 388 (1917) (operation of motion picture theater is not necessity); Williams v. Commonwealth, 179 Va. 741, 750, 20 S.E.2d 493, 496 (1942) (concurring opinion) (operation of motion picture theater is necessity); McGatrick v. Wason, 4 Ohio St. 566 (1855) (loading ship with navigation-closing weather impending is necessity); Commonwealth v. Sampson, 97 Mass. 407 (1867) (gathering seaweed which tide threatens to float away is not necessity); Hennersdorf v. State, 25 Tex.App. 597, 8 S.W. 926 (1888) (manufacturing ice is necessity); State v. McBee, 52 W.Va. 257, 43 S.E. 121 (1902) (pumping oil is not necessity as matter of law, although jury could so find); State v. Ohmer, 34 Mo.App. 115 (1889) (retail sale of tobacco is not necessity); Francisco v. Commonwealth, 180 Va. 371, 23 S.E.2d 234 (1942) (jury may find retail sale of beer necessity). [↑](#footnote-ref-128)
129. In Petit v. Minnesota, 177 U. S. 164, this Court sustained against a claim of arbitrary classification a statute which, in express terms, provided that its exception for works of necessity should not include barbering. In other jurisdictions, the same result was reached by judicial interpretation of the "necessity" clause. State v. Linsig, 178 Iowa 484, 159 N.W. 995 (1916); Ex parte Kennedy, 42 Tex.Cr.R. 148, 58 S.W. 129 (1900); State v. Sopher, 25 Utah 318, 71 P. 482 (1903). Cf. Commonwealth v. Dextra, 143 Mass. 28, 8 N.E. 756 (1886); Stark v. Backus, 140 Wis. 557, 123 N.W. 98 (1909). Statutes prohibiting Sunday barbering were enacted in a number of States. These were voided as discriminatory in Ex parte Jentzsch, 112 Cal. 468, 44 P. 803 (1896); Eden v. People, 161 Ill. 296, 43 N.E. 1108 (1896); Armstrong v. State, 170 Ind. 188, 84 N.E. 3 (1908); State v. Granneman, 132 Mo. 326, 33 S.W. 784 (1896); cf. Ragio v. State, 86 Tenn. 272, 6 S.W. 401 (1888), but have been generally sustained. McClelland v. City of Denver, 36 Colo. 486, 86 P. 126 (1906); State v. Murray, 104 Neb. 51, 175 N.W. 666 (1919); People v. Bellet, 99 Mich. 151, 57 N.W. 1094 (1894); People v. Havnor, 149 N.Y.195, 43 N.E. 541 (1896), writ of error dism'd, 170 U. S. 408; Ex parte Johnson, 77 Okla.Cr. 360, 141 P.2d 599 (1943); Ex parte Northrup, 41 Ore. 489, 69 P. 445 (1902); Breyer v. State, 102 Tenn. 103, 50 S.W. 769 (1899); State v. Bergfeldt, 41 Wash. 234, 83 P. 177 (1905), overruling City of Tacoma v. Krech, 15 Wash. 296, 46 P. 255 (1896). [↑](#footnote-ref-129)
130. One may trace in these exceptions the evolving habits of life of the people. Compare State v. Hogreiver, 152 Ind. 652, 53 N.E. 921 (1899), sustaining a statute specifically prohibiting Sunday baseball, with Carr v. State, 175 Ind. 241, 93 N.E. 1071 (1911), sustaining a statute excepting baseball from the general Sunday prohibition. [↑](#footnote-ref-130)
131. The Shops Act, 1950, 14 Geo. VI, c. 28, excepts from the general Sunday ban the keeping open of a shop to sell liquor, meal or refreshments (whether or not for consumption on the premises, but excluding fried fish and chips sold at a fish and chip shop), newly cooked provisions and cooked tripe, table waters, chocolates, sweets, sugar confectionery and ice cream, flowers, fruit and vegetables (other than tinned), milk and cream (other than tinned), medicines and medical and surgical appliances (by certain registered shops), aircraft, motor or cycle supplies or accessories, tobacco and smokers' requisites, newspapers, periodicals and magazines, books and stationery at rail and bus terminals and aerodromes, guide books, photographs, reproductions, photographic films and plates and souvenirs at public or specially approved galleries, museums, etc., passport photos, requisites for games or sports sold on the premises where the sport is played, fodder for horses, mules, etc. Post office and funeral business is permitted. (§ 47 & Fifth Schedule.) Local authority may permit the opening of shops before 10 a.m. for the sale of bread and flour, confectionery, fish, groceries and grocer's products. (§ 48 & Sixth Schedule.) Local authority may prohibit sales of meals and refreshments for consumption off the premises (exempted by the Fifth Schedule) in the case of classes of shops in which sales for on-the-premises consumption do not constitute a substantial part of the business carried on. (§ 49.) Where the area of a local authority is a district frequented as a holiday resort during certain seasons of the year, the local authority may provide by order that shops of such classes as it designates may open on specified Sundays (not to exceed eighteen per year) for the sale of bathing and fishing articles, photographic requisites, toys, souvenirs and fancy goods, books, stationery, photographs, reproductions and postcards, and food. (§ 51 & Seventh Schedule.) Special provisions applicable to the London area permit local councils to authorize the opening before 2 p.m. of shops where street markets or (in some regions) shops were customarily opened on Sunday prior to the date of the original act, 1936, where, in the latter case, the councils find that "having regard to the character and habits of the population in the district," Sunday closing would cause undue hardship; but if such an exempting order is made, it must fix some weekday closing day for these shops, which may differ for different classes of shops. (§ 54.) In the case of these local exempting orders, provision is made for a plebiscite among the shopkeepers affected. (§§ 52, 54(1), par. 2.) The act further excepts the sale and delivery of stores or necessaries to arriving or departing ships and aircraft and of goods to private clubs for club purposes, the cooking before 1:30 p.m. of food brought by customers to be cooked for consumption that day, and attendance as a barber upon invalids or upon residents of hotels or clubs therein. (§ 56.) This summary digest can scarcely suggest the complexity of the text. [↑](#footnote-ref-131)
132. 311 H.C.Deb. 465 (5th ser.1935-1936). [↑](#footnote-ref-132)
133. Elliott v. State, 29 Ariz. 389, 242 P. 340 (1926) (banning enumerated businesses; court distinguishes general closing statute with exceptions); Bocci & Sons Co. v. Town of Lawndale, 208 Cal. 720, 284 P. 654 (1930) (exceptions for classes of businesses); Justesen's Food Stores, Inc. v. City of Tulare, 12 Cal.2d 324, 84 P.2d 140 (1938) (closing food stores; exceptions for classes of businesses); Deese v. City of Lodi, 21 Cal.App.2d 631, 69 P.2d 1005 (1937) (exceptions for classes of businesses); Allen v. City of Colorado Springs, 101 Colo. 498, 75 P.2d 141 (1937) (exceptions for classes of businesses and commodities); Henderson v. Antonacci, 62 So.2d 5 (Fla.1952) (exceptions for classes of businesses and commodities); Kelly v. Blackburn, 95 So.2d 260 (Fla.1957) (exceptions for newspapers and cinema); City of Mt. Vernon v. Julian, 369 Ill. 447, 17 N.E.2d 52 (1938) (exceptions for classes of businesses); Auto-Rite Supply Co. v. Mayor of Woodbridge, 41 N.J.Super. 303, 124 A.2d 612 (1956), aff'd on other grounds, 25 N.J. 188, 135 A.2d 515 (1957) (banning sale of enumerated classes of commodities); Chan Sing v. Astoria, 79 Ore. 411, 155 P. 378 (1916) (closing shops selling enumerated classes of commodities); Broadbent v. Gibson, 105 Utah 53, 140 P.2d 939 (1943) (exceptions for classes of businesses, some restricted to sale of specified commodities); Gronlund v. Salt Lake City, 113 Utah 284, 194 P.2d 464 (1948) (sales ban with exceptions for classes of commodities; court distinguishes statutory scheme banning all labor and sales with exceptions). Cf. State v. Trahan, 214 La. 100, 36 So.2d 652 (1948), and Arrigo v. City of Lincoln, 154 Neb. 537, 48 N.W.2d 643 (1951) (exceptions for classes of businesses), holding unconstitutional Sunday statutes in particular applications deemed discriminatory. [↑](#footnote-ref-133)
134. City of Denver v. Bach, 26 Colo. 530, 58 P. 1089 (1899) (closing classes of businesses); City of Springfield v. Smith, 322 Mo. 1129, 19 S.W.2d 1 (1929) (banning enumerated entertainments); Ex parte Ferguson, 62 Okla.Cr. 145, 70 P.2d 1094 (1937) (banning sale of enumerated commodities) (alternative holding); Ex parte Hodges, 65 Okla.Cr. 69, 83 P.2d 201 (1938) (exceptions for classes of businesses) (alternative holding). Cf. McKaig v. Kansas City, 363 Mo. 1033, 256 S.W.2d 815 (1953) (automobile sales), disapproving City of St. Louis v. Delassus, 205 Mo. 578, 104 S.W. 12 (1907), and Komen v. City of St. Louis, 316 Mo. 9, 289 S. W, 838 (1926). [↑](#footnote-ref-134)
135. Lane v. McFadyen, 259 Ala. 205, 66 So.2d 83 (1953) (banning merchandising with exceptions for classes of businesses); Taylor v. City of Pine Bluff, 226 Ark. 309, 289 S.W.2d 679 (1956) (ordinance applied only to single class of business); Hickinbotham v. Williams, 227 Ark. 126, 296 S.W.2d 897 (1956) (banning enumerated businesses); Ex parte Koser, 60 Cal. 177 (1882) (exceptions for classes of businesses); In re Sumida, 177 Cal. 388, 170 P. 823 (1918) (exceptions for classes of businesses); State v. Hurliman, 143 Conn. 502, 123 A.2d 767 (1956) (exceptions for classes of services, activities and commodities, the latter to be sold by persons who sell them on weekdays); State v. Shuster, 145 Conn. 554, 145 A.2d 196 (1958) (same); Theisen v. McDavid, 34 Fla. 440, 16 So. 321 (1894) (excepting sales of classes of commodities); State v. Dolan, 13 Idaho 693, 92 P. 995 (1907) (exceptions for classes of services and commodities); State v. Cranston, 59 Idaho 561, 85 P.2d 682 (1938) (exceptions for classes of businesses, services and commodities); Humphrey Chevrolet, Inc. v. City of Evanston, 7 Ill.2d 402, 131 N.E.2d 70 (1955) (exceptions for classes of commodities); Ness v. Supervisors of Elections, 162 Md. 529, 160 A. 8 (1932) (unspecified); People v. DeRose, 230 Mich. 180, 203 N.W. 95 (1925) (banning classes of businesses and sales of classes of commodities); People v. Krotkiewicz, 286 Mich. 644, 82 N.W. 852 (1938) (banning sales of classes of commodities); People's Appliance, Inc. v. City of Flint, 358 Mich. 34, 99 N.W.2d 522 (1959) (banning businesses selling classes of commodities); State ex rel. Hoffman v. Justus, 91 Minn. 447, 98 N.W. 325 (1904) (exceptions for classes of commodities); Liberman v. State, 26 Neb. 464, 42 N.W. 419 (1889) (exceptions for classes of businesses and commodities); In re Caldwell, 82 Neb. 544, 118 N.W. 133 (1908) ("common" labor banned); State v. Somberg, 113 Neb. 761, 204 N.W. 788 (1925) (banning classes of businesses and sales of classes of commodities); City of Elizabeth v. Windsor-Fifth Avenue, Inc., 31 N.J.Super. 187, 106 A.2d 9 (1954) (banning businesses selling classes of commodities); Masters-Jersey, Inc. v. Mayor of Paramus, 32 N.J. 296, 160 A.2d 841 (1960) (exceptions for classes of commodities); Richman v. Board of Comm'rs, 122 N.J.L. 180, 4 A.2d 501 (1939) (banning businesses selling a class of commodities, semble); People v. Friedman, 302 N.Y. 75, 96 N.E.2d 184 (1950), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 341 U.S. 907 (exceptions for classes of businesses, commodities, other activities); State v. Medlin, 170 N.C. 682, 86 S.E. 597 (1915) (exception for a class of business, restricted to sale of specified classes of commodities); State v. Trantham, 230 N.C. 641, 55 S.E.2d 198 (1949) (exceptions for classes of commodities to be sold by classes of businesses); State v. McGee, 237 N.C. 633, 75 S.E.2d 783 (1953), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 346 U.S. 802 (exceptions for classes of businesses, commodities, other activities); State v. Towery, 239 N.C. 274, 79 S.E.2d 513 (1954), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 347 U.S. 925 (exceptions for classes of businesses, some restricted to sales of specified classes of commodities); State v. Diamond, 56 N.D. 854, 219 N.W. 831 (1928) (exceptions for classes of commodities); State v. Haase, 97 Ohio App. 377, 116 N.E.2d 224 (1953) (exceptions for classes of recreational activities); State v. Kidd, 167 Ohio St. 521, 150 N.E.2d 413 (1958), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 358 U. S. 132 (exceptions for classes of recreational activities); Commonwealth v. Bauder, 188 Pa.Super. 424, 145 A.2d 915 (1958) (exceptions for classes of recreational activities); Bothwell v. York City, 291 Pa. 363, 140 A. 130 (1927) (banning classes of recreational activities); Mayor of Nashville v. Linck, 80 Tenn. 499 (1883) (exceptions for sales of classes of commodities by classes of businesses); Kirk v. Olgiati, 203 Tenn. 1, 308 S.W.2d 471 (1957) (banning classes of businesses); Ex parte Sundstrom, 25 Tex.App. 133, 8 S.W. 207 (1888) (exceptions for classes of commodities); Searcy v. State, 40 Tex.Cr.R. 460, 51 S.W. 1119 (1899) (exceptions for classes of commodities); Sayeg v. State, 114 Tex.Cr.R. 153, 25 S.W.2d 865 (1930) (exceptions for classes of commodities); City of Seattle v. Gervasi, 144 Wash. 429, 258 P. 328 (1927) (exceptions for classes of commodities); State v. Grabinski, 33 Wash.2d 603, 206 P.2d 1022 (1949) (exceptions for classes of commodities). See also Rosenbaum v. City & County of Denver, 102 Colo. 530, 81 P.2d 760 (1938) (banning automobile trading); Moskco v. Dunbar, 135 Colo. 172, 309 P.2d 581 (1957) (banning automobile trading); Gillooley v. Vaughan,92 Fla. 943, 110 So. 653 (1926) (banning classes of amusements); Stewart Motor Co. v. City of Omaha, 120 Neb. 776, 235 N.W. 332 (1931) (banning automobile trading); ABC Liquidators, Inc. v. Kansas City, 322 S.W.2d 876 (Mo.1959) (banning auctions); State v. Loomis, 75 Mont. 88, 242 P. 344 (1925) (banning, e.g., classes of dance halls); Gundaker Central Motors, Inc. v. Gassert, 23 N.J. 71, 127 A.2d 566 (1956), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 354 U.S. 933 (banning automobile trading); Ex parte Johnson, 20 Okla.Cr. 66, 201 P. 533 (1921) (banning cinema and theaters); Consolidated Enterprises, Inc. v. State, 150 Tenn. 148, 263 S.W. 74 (1924) (banning cinema and theaters). Statutory provisions whose effect was to punish some Sunday activities more severely than others have been sustained. State v. Hogreiver, 152 Ind. 652, 53 N.E. 921 (1899); Tinder v. Clarke Auto Co., 238 Ind. 302, 149 N.E.2d 808 (1958); State v. Murray,104 Neb. 51, 175 N.W. 666 (1919); Commonwealth v. Grochowiak, 184 Pa.Super. 522, 136 A.2d 145 (1957), app. dism'd for want of a substantial federal question, 358 U. S. 47; Breyer v. State, 102 Tenn. 103, 50 S.W. 769 (1899). Cf. Sherman v. Mayor of Paterson, 82 N.J.L. 345, 82 A. 889 (1912). For cases sustaining state statutes applicable in some, but not all, localities, see People v. Havnor, 149 N.Y.195, 43 N.E. 541 (1896); Bohl v. State, 3 Tex.App. 683 (1878), and compare Sarner v. Township of Union, 55 N.J.Super. 523, 151 A.2d 208 (1959), with Two Guys from Harrison, Inc. v. Furman, 32 N.J.199, 160 A.2d 265 (1960). [↑](#footnote-ref-135)
136. See note 131, supra; Appendix II to this opinion, post, p. 366 U. S. 551; Weekly Rest in Commerce and Offices, Report VII(1), International Labour Conference, 39th Sess., Geneva, 1956 (1955), 27-52; Weekly Rest in Commerce and Offices, Report A, International Labour Conference, 26th Sess., Geneva, 1940 (1939), 82-127. [↑](#footnote-ref-136)
137. It is unclear whether the exception here assailed permits the sale of merchandise essential to, or customarily sold at, bathing beaches, bathhouses, etc., only at those enumerated places or by all retailers within the county. Since the Maryland Court of Appeals left this question of construction open below, I assume the interpretation most favorable to appellants' claim. [↑](#footnote-ref-137)
138. Many of the jurisdictions which have Sunday laws provide some form of local option procedure for the creation of exceptions. This is only to recognize the obvious fact that conditions of limited geographical range may be determinative in striking the balance of forbidden and permissible Sunday activity which best accords with popular habits and desires. In Maryland, the State Legislature itself does the job of adapting the general statewide law to local circumstances. This difference in method can scarcely entail different federal constitutional consequences. [↑](#footnote-ref-138)
139. See Eldorado Ice Cream Co. v. Clark, [1938] 1 K.B. 715, holding the sale of ice cream from a box tricycle without the prohibition of the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-139)
140. Consider the alternative suggested by the ordinance sustained in In re Sumida, 177 Cal. 388, 170 P. 823 (1918), requiring that, where an establishment housing both permitted and prohibited businesses remains open on Sunday for transaction of the former, a five-foot-high permanent partition or screen must be erected to separate the two business areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-140)
141. See Friedeborn v. Commonwealth, 113 Pa. 242, 6 A. 160 (1886). [↑](#footnote-ref-141)
142. See 36 Pennsylvania Legislative Journal, 143d General Assembly (1959), 1139. [↑](#footnote-ref-142)
143. See id. at 1142-1143, 2568. [↑](#footnote-ref-143)