

undertaking. I have no doubt that the men and women who will succeed us in administering the government of the State will measure up to their responsibilities in this important area of government. And I know that they will be able to rely upon Maryland's highway contractors in helping them to do the job.

Let me say once again that it is both a pleasure and an honor to be with you on this occasion. Let me express my gratification to you for the help you have given me, and those around me, in the efforts we have been making to modernize and develop to the highest standards our highway system. And finally, let me say that I hope that the friendly relations I have enjoyed with you will continue in the years ahead.

STATEMENT ON SIGNING SENATE BILLS 153 AND 359

ANNAPOLIS

May 6, 1966

Last Monday I received final clearance from the Attorney General and special counsel that the bill authorizing the construction of a second bridge across the Chesapeake Bay between Sandy Point and Kent Island and the bill authorizing the construction of a second harbor tunnel were valid and constitutional. I am, therefore, today signing these two bills into law.

Perhaps no other proposed law has generated so much dissension, misinformation and conscious distortions of the truth during my Administration as has the parallel bridge bill. This unhappy situation compels me to attempt once again to place this matter in its proper perspective.

Many people still do not understand that there was no legal necessity for this bill. I was advised more than two years ago both by local and New York counsel that my Administration had ample legal authority to begin the parallel bridge without any additional legislation. However, because I felt that such an important undertaking should be submitted to the people, I placed this matter before the people's elected representatives in the General Assembly more than a year ago. Now, regarding the recent outcry for submission of this bill to referendum, I fully recognize that the referendum is an integral part of the legislative process. But, to state that I invoke a part of that process—by having the bill introduced into the General Assembly—while at the same time attempt to block another part of that process—by delaying