

Q. Mr. Agnew, House Speaker Marvin Mandel said last week that he expected that as the Legislature went on and on, that there would be problems.

A. I would expect so.

Q. What problems do you see at this point?

A. Well, as long as there are Republicans and Democrats and as long as we run for high office on tickets, there will be a certain amount of jockeying for position. I think this is only the American system. I don't expect any bed of roses with the Legislature. The only thing I hope to do with the Legislature is to prove to them that when I say something they can depend on it totally, to consult with them and not to surprise them, and to keep them as well informed as I can. And I think that if we cultivate an atmosphere of mutual trust in what we say to each other, meaning the leadership and me, we'll get along. There will be points of political disagreement. There will be things that I want to do that they don't want me to do and vice versa, and there will be contests. But I think there will be a lack of hostility that could have come about were we not approaching the problems together.

Q. Mr. Agnew, the Commission of the District of Columbia is considering a commuter tax for Maryland and Virginia suburbanites who work in Washington. There is a lot of doubt on Capitol Hill that this will go through the House District Committee, but I wonder how you feel about it as the executive of one of the states affected?

A. I feel very much opposed to it, and of course it's normal being a public official in an area that is being taxed and not receiving benefit from a tax, that I would be. But this is not the principal reason that I'm opposed. I'm opposed because of my basic opposition to any tax that is levied at the place of employment, because I think that the majority of services are financed at the place of residence. That is where the money is spent and that is where the tax should be collected.

Q. Mr. Agnew, do you expect Governor Romney or other high Republican leaders to attend your inauguration?

A. I doubt if many of them will. I've received quite a few invitations to inaugural ceremonies for other governors, both Republican and Democratic, and I'm sure that if they find themselves as busy as I am they are not going to have a chance to run out of state to go to other ceremonies.