

good of the people of Maryland and not to circumvent their desires. I'm still to some extent worried about what could develop with certain legislation that remains in an undecided category. I'm worried about the open housing legislation. And I feel that we have an opportunity to set a precedent in Maryland, a precedent that will reveal our sensitivity to the needs of other people, a precedent that will keep from our streets this summer any possibility of violence, that will firmly establish our dedication to fairness for all our citizens. And I sincerely trust that this bill will not be blocked as it finally reaches the stages toward enactment. I'm worried about the bridge crossing laws. Our State Roads Commission has indicated very firmly that it is ready to pick up the call for responsibility and do what it thinks is right for the citizens of this State. I think it is wrong for the Legislature or for any outside group to attempt to superimpose its wishes on the State Roads Commission. This is a new Commission under a new Governor and it at least deserves a chance to function properly without being foiled and blocked by maneuvering within the legislative body. And I sincerely hope that that bill, amended or not, will leave us some room to proceed with the orderly development of the transportation system of the State of Maryland. There are other bills that are moving along and it's a little too early to see where they are going, but principally it has been a very productive session. It could be an unprecedentedly productive session if the leadership is able to continue the course it has already chartered. I'm now open for your questions.

**Q.** Governor, the Legislature has cut your budget somewhat and didn't touch their own increase in salary. Do you have any comment on that?

**A.** Not specifically; they have not done as much violence to the budget as they may have done. There is one place that they have cut that disturbs me and that is in the economic development area. I think that the extra monies in this part of the budget were aimed to the improvement of tourism in the State of Maryland, which was one of my campaign positions. I pointed out during the campaign that, for example, the State of Virginia spends a great deal more money in tourism than we spend in economic development and tourism together. And I think it's shortsighted, with Maryland having the wonderful historic heritage that it has, for us not to provide the wherewithal for our Economic Development Commission to stimulate additional activity in these old areas of the State — particularly in areas like Southern Maryland where there becomes immediately apparent the need to replace the slot machine revenues.