

Q. Governor, on the subject of roads, you have made a couple of visits to Montgomery County and you have encountered a preoccupation by officialdom and lay residents in clearing up some of Montgomery County's highway problems. What do you see that can be done to try to alleviate these problems short of waiting until 1972, as Mr. Wolff suggested?

A. I don't want to leave any misconceptions about how difficult the solution to this particular problem is. It's terribly important to Montgomery County, and yet it's so difficult to solve that I have no ready answer available. Interstate 70S is a road that is carrying burdens that were not conceived during its design and construction. The growth of science-oriented industry along that corridor has been so astounding that serious traffic problems have resulted. Mr. Wolff is presently engaged in a study to try to devise some method of combating that situation. The only thing of any definiteness, that I can see at this point, is that he is leaning toward utilization of what money we have left in trouble spots, sort of a pinpoint approach to the most difficult problems we have. When you consider that the cost of constructing roads is double since 1963—we spent twice as much since that time as we intended we should—and that this is a general construction problem, I think you see what problems the State Roads Commission has. The money that was carried in the six-year needs program just isn't doing the job for six years, and the needs study originally was a very modest designation of what was required. So we're seriously lacking in money. I don't know how we are going to solve it. We have many things under study at the present time, and I hope to comment more on that in future sessions. But it is a terribly difficult question.

Q. How high is the rank of Montgomery County in your priority?

A. Well, Montgomery County has a very high priority, obviously, because it's in the most rapidly growing part of our State. We would be very foolish if we did not encourage the wonderful science-oriented industry that's pouring in there, and get as much of it as we can, because that will help our tax base too. In this regard, let me parenthetically state that I'm not too concerned about the testimony before the Legislative Council, from a gentleman who is a representative of Baltimore area industry, indicating that the tax program is scaring industry out of Maryland. If he went over and looked at Fairchild Hiller and some of these other new science-oriented industries in Baltimore County it would become perfectly obvious that we are in a very healthy state of growth. I don't know the gentleman who wrote the letter to the