

deciding the complexion of the representatives to the national convention.

Q. On the same subject, *Newsweek* magazine this week says that you and other governors are conspiring, really, to give the nomination to some moderate or unnamed new man other than the candidates that we hear the most about. Is that accurate?

A. No, the *Newsweek* article as far as I'm concerned — and I can't speak for the whole country — is not accurate. I have not been in communication in any way with those people that were mentioned, the governors of these other states. When I say that I have not been in communication with them, I mean since my visit to New York to see Governor Rockefeller. I did talk with Governor McCall prior to that time.

Q. Opponents of the Agnew-Hughes tax bill are collecting signatures in an effort to get you to recall the Legislature to repeal the tax measure. They say they will come up with close to a million signatures. How do you feel about that?

A. Well, I don't think the tax bill is subject to a referendum. The best legal opinion that I can find indicates that the Court of Appeals decided not too long ago in a case involving the sales tax that it could not be petitioned to referendum. I'm relying on these legal judgments, and therefore I don't think the matter will require any attention at all.

Q. So, no matter how many signatures they get, the Legislature will not be recalled?

A. That's the interpretation.

Q. Governor, is there any progress in the selection of a new man to run the prison system?

A. Yes, I'm in the process of scheduling personal interviews with the four top nominees of the ad hoc committee, and I can't tell you from memory when these appointments are scheduled, but appointments are presently being set up by my staff.

Q. Are any of the men from Maryland?

A. One of the men is the existing Acting Director of Corrections, Mr. White.

Q. Who are the others?