

Q. Governor, the State Department of Public Welfare has in Baltimore three experimental halfway houses for disturbed girls who do not adjust in other places. The Federal money by which they have been operating is about to run out. Can the State do anything to save those houses?

A. We're investigating that problem right now to see whether anything can be done to fund these worthy enterprises. I have no word on it, but we'll try to have something for you by the next time we have a conference.

Q. Governor, do these differences between you and Mr. Goldstein signal an end to the longstanding bipartisan harmony?

A. No, not in the slightest. As a matter of fact, when I've said these things that I've had to say in the interest of accuracy about the Comptroller's position in this case, I'm smiling as sweetly at him right now as he smiled at me when he put that property tax zinger into me a few months ago.

Q. Governor, what about the State Racing Commission chairmanship?

A. The question is open to a dual legal interpretation and we haven't come to any conclusion about it yet, either on a factual basis or on a legal basis. In short, the law is somewhat confused as to whether, after the initial appointments under the '59 act, the governor has the power to designate the chairman of the Racing Commission or whether a chairman previously designated must retain his chairmanship until his term runs out. We're looking into this. There may not be any need to test it, and yet there may. If it has to be tested, we'll probably request some declaratory procedure so that there won't be any problem of acts that the Racing Commission may take before it's finally adjudicated. But I would expect I'll have something on that within two days.

Q. Governor, a story in the papers yesterday afternoon stated that you were going to do the hiring as far as the State Insurance Commissioner's office is concerned, rather than the commissioner himself. Would you care to comment on that?

A. No, that's not true. Mr. Steers is a very independent person who has complete faith in his own judgments. I have faith in his judgments too, or I wouldn't have appointed him to such a sensitive post. Now, it's going to be entirely up to him whom he hires within the framework, within the latitude that he's allowed, and how he runs his