

they have passed one house, when they got to the other house by virtue of the development of discussion on them either have been amended to be more workable or discarded.

Q. What about a lieutenant governor, as was discussed at a meeting?

A. Well, I think it's a wise system that seems to be in effect in most states, the idea of an elective lieutenant governor. I'm sure that the removal of elective offices for the Comptroller and Attorney General will generate a great amount of resistance and discussion. But I do feel that probably this is in the best interest of an efficient executive branch.

Q. We have a short ballot system in Maryland, now, I think, compared to many states. Why shorten it more?

A. I don't think our ballots are very short.

Q. Statewide, I mean.

A. I don't think it's just a matter of shortening the ballot. I think it's a matter of centralizing the executive power and the executive responsibility in one person, which I think is desirable. I'm very fortunate as a Republican governor with a Democratic Comptroller of the Treasury and a Democratic State Treasurer comprising a majority in the opposition party in the Board of Public Works that we've been able to work fairly effectively together. I'd be in a very tough spot as the Governor if the Board of Public Works happened to be completely hostile to me and didn't care about their own public image, and they just wanted to embarrass the Governor by preventing the enactment of his programs. I don't think this makes sense for the Governor to be placed where he can be intentionally handcuffed by the Attorney General and by the Comptroller of the Treasury and the Treasurer.

Q. Governor, you seem to feel that the special session of the General Assembly will handle this tax problem with quite a bit of ease. How is this assessed by members of the Legislature, the leaders you met with this morning? What is their point of view?

A. They don't seem to be very concerned about it, after all it's only a routine housekeeping problem that is being taken care of, the appropriation of the money to the subdivisions, which it had seemed like everybody was in favor of. I wouldn't want to see about 35 or 40 county commissioners jump off the Bay bridge when they didn't get this money. It would seem to me that there will be sufficient heat generated from the counties to assure the quick and expeditious passage of the appropriations section.