

think they are eligible for Federal assistance as well as the roads themselves. But if we are going to build these crossings with our 90-10 money, we're going to exhaust our capability of expanding our Interstate System, and the State Roads Commission is in such terrible shape at the present time because of the escalation of construction costs and the fact that although Federal money is available for construction there's no Federal money available for maintenance of these 90-10 roads, that we must turn to this viable means of providing the public with the road services that they demand and need at the present time. We can't simply, even if the Federal government would put crossings on a 90-10 basis, we can't build what we need to of our Interstate System, pick up an additional \$2 million a year in maintenance costs, and still serve the public. I think we're going to have to turn to more and more toll facilities if we're going to get our road network built. I think we're going to have to turn to a facility, perhaps through Anne Arundel County to parallel the Ritchie Highway, that will utilize the additional Bay crossing in the parallel Bay crossing or crossing near the existing Bay crossing. We've been in touch with the governor of New Jersey and his people about a very interesting idea of extending a connecting toll road all the way from Camden down through the Eastern Shore across the parallel bridge and, if we made the Arundel Expressway a toll road, on through. These are thoughts that we're considering, but I don't think it's possible to contemplate that tolls could be removed or that they should be removed. All over the country, states are turning to toll systems as a means of providing the services and we can't provide them unless we do, because the money is just not there.

Q. Governor, with reference to the parallel bridge, we understand that you're lunching with the Congressional delegation today. Would you perhaps talk to Congressman Long on the parallel bridge situation?

A. Well, I would be glad to discuss anything that Congressman Long or any other member of the delegation wants to discuss. I'm not really hopeful that I can change the Congressman's opinions, because my efforts in this direction and other areas in the past have met with little success. But I'm open to discussing the matter with him.

Q. Governor, would you expand a little bit on this Camden-to-Eastern Shore toll road?

A. Well, it's in the thinking stage at the present time.

Q. Have you met with the governor of New Jersey yet?