

Q. Governor, if we could go to a subject that doesn't please anybody, taxation again. It seems that your committee on business taxes is leaning toward corporate income tax. A study released today by the Chamber of Commerce of Baltimore, as you probably know, throws that out also as a possibility. Have you done any thinking about this as an eventual recommendation from your administration?

A. I haven't even seen any recommendations from the committee yet, so I'd have to look at it first.

Q. What do you think of a corporate income tax increase?

A. I think they are here to stay. I thought you were going to say, What do you think of a corporate income tax? I don't know. It would have to be looked at in conjunction with relief from other burdensome taxes affecting corporations, such as gross receipts taxes and the like. I don't think that we're looking to put unusual burdens, additional burdens, on corporations, but I do think corporate tax reform is a subject that deserves the attention of the committee, which of course is giving it that attention.

Q. Governor, do you think that in light of the recent State tax increase and the proposed Federal tax increase that Maryland motorists can afford to absorb 32 percent on their insurance rates?

A. I don't know. Do we have a reason to believe that what the insurance companies are asking for is going to be what finally comes out to be the amount that the Insurance Commissioner feels is justified? I think, in the past, what's asked is usually not the same as what is wound up as being authorized.

Q. Governor, do you think there should be a reexamination of this whole area of automobile insurance, perhaps more deductible policies, something that takes down the cost?

A. Well, I think this is something that every state insurance commissioner ought to be constantly reappraising, and be in contact with the major insurance carriers in looking for ways to devise better protection at less cost to the public. I don't think there should be a specific study; I think the study should be going on all the time.

Q. Do you think President Johnson can carry Maryland in 1968?

A. I have no way of knowing. I would assume that any major candidate, and particularly an incumbent, would be favored to carry any given state at any given time.