

Q. Didn't you issue an executive memorandum wanting the departments not to ask for more?

A. Yes, I told them they would have to use a very sharp pencil and apparently they have because they reduced their requests 20 percent over what they had sent in last year. In other words, instead of asking for 50 percent more they asked for 30 percent more.

Q. When you appeared before the committee of the Constitutional Convention you said something like this, "I don't believe education should be removed from the so-called political arena." Would you repeat that, please?

A. Yes, there's a proposal before the Convention that would mandate the education budget as recommended by the professional educators. In short, it would give the Governor and the Legislature no right of review of the budget. I indicated that I was against this proposal. And I indicated, also, that to remove the education budget from the normal political process would certainly make for a lack of interest on the part of people who are interested in education. I think education is a subject that vitally affects every citizen. And what could be more properly in the political arena than this most important subject? I think it belongs as a matter for discussion and determination by public officials who stand before the electorate each four years to be approved or disapproved.

Q. On education, have you gotten any reports on the City schools?

A. Mr. Cole of my staff is still investigating the complaints in the several schools in the City system and has not reported to me yet.

Q. Governor, Congressman Long seems to be intensifying his attack against the parallel Bay bridge.

A. Oh, is that so? I didn't know it was possible to intensify it.

Q. Do you think he is going to be successful in stopping the bridge?

A. No, I think that he is fighting a solitary battle in which he is receiving no comfort from anyone who is in possession of the information. The fact that the Public Works Committee of the Congress voted 34 to 0 against him, and that every other Congressman in Maryland is aligned against him, and that the Legislative Council of the State threw out the consideration of these contracts after hearing from the State Roads Commission indicates that he's simply trying to use it as a political vehicle to keep his popularity index high and to keep himself alive as a potential Senatorial candidate.