

justify in my opinion the Democratic governors or any other group of individuals, for partisan considerations, attempting to obtain a blanket endorsement on the part of all the Republican governors of the President's actions in Vietnam.

Quite obviously there are people in my party who may become Presidential candidates who don't agree with the President's action. And I don't believe it's fair to attempt, through a group action, to obtain a consensus where no consensus exists. I feel that any potential Republican Presidential nominee should be allowed to go into the campaign with the utmost flexibility to discuss this issue. But again, as an individual, I'm not running out on my commitment to the President's position. I think at this time, that a man who is carrying the load that the President of the United States is, is entitled to a little understanding and certainly some forbearance, and I'm certainly 100 percent with him in the Vietnam situation.

Q. Governor, did you get a chance to see the telegram?

A. I never did see that telegram. I only heard what it contained, and I only heard that after it became a news item.

Q. How about the Presidential situation Republicanwise now, Governor?

A. I don't think there's really any change. There hasn't been any crystallization of one candidate, as is perfectly obvious to you. I see no change whatsoever in Mr. Rockefeller's position. He's just as strongly a noncandidate as ever, and I believe, as I indicated once before, he will become a candidate only under very limited circumstances which would involve certainly the withdrawal of Mr. Romney and a genuine draft on his behalf within the Republican Party. I don't think, however, that this is impossible.

Q. Governor, the Anne Arundel County administration wants to drop the Arundel Expressway. What will be the position of your administration?

A. Well, I talked about this problem with Mr. Wolff yesterday and there are some alternatives to be pursued. We're looking at the possibility of attempting to accommodate, in part, the view of the delegation of Anne Arundel County, but we also have to look at the broad situation from the State's standpoint. I would expect that within the next month or so we will be able to take a definite position. But there are avenues of compromise that I would prefer to investigate with Anne Arundel County before the State goes on record as irretrievably accepting one course over another.