

A. Well, I can't say whether I'll maintain it at such period as the Republican candidate would become capable of having the information to make some judgment and differentiation from that of the President. My position has been right along that the Republican strategy should be this, if you want to call it strategy: support the President on the basis that we all know he's a loyal American and interested in the welfare of the country and that we have no information available upon which to disagree with him. Then, after the nomination of a Republican presidential candidate, request the President to have the National Security Council give our candidate, the Republican candidate, the most thorough briefing possible on the subject. At that point allow our candidate to take a position either in support, differentiation, or rejection of the President's position. Now, given all that, assuming that after having had such a briefing, the Republican candidate decides to differ with the President's position, he would then be in possession of information which he would make available, I would assume, to the Republican platform committee and on the basis of new information I would feel free to make another judgment on the matter if I thought it was indicated.

Q. Governor, didn't you say sometime ago that you wanted the GOP to concentrate on problems in the cities in its campaign?

A. Yes, I did. I think that the most important single approach to the election, the area in which the people can say, "yes we see the effect of a wrong approach and we do welcome another solution," is in the area of solving the problems of the cities.

Q. Well, do you think the presidential candidate should emphasize Vietnam or the cities?

A. Well, you can't run a presidential campaign on a single issue. I think they both have to be touched upon.

Q. Governor, two days ago the majority of Republicans on the Executive Committee of the Constitutional Convention voted to abolish the offices of Comptroller and Attorney General as elective offices. Did you have any conferences with them before they voted?

A. No, as a matter of fact I have never discussed these questions with any delegate to the Convention, either formally or informally. And I've specifically avoided this for the reason that I may have been accused of interjecting a personal interest into the discussion. I took a position in a formal statement that I delivered to the entire Convention, and that's been the extent of anything I've said with regard to it and will be the extent of anything that I shall say.