

The economic welfare of the entire State is so closely tied to the activities of the Port of Baltimore that we must be ever watchful to protect ourselves against any action which could injure the Port.

I am satisfied that by attaching to any approval of the proposed merger appropriate conditions requiring prompt consummation of the long promised merger of the Baltimore & Ohio and the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad companies, the Commission can effectively guard against any injury to the Port.

NEWS CONFERENCE

November 30, 1967

There was no opening statement by the Governor.

Q. Governor, in your inaugural address about ten months ago you pledged your administration to the pursuit of excellence. I noticed by pencils that have been readied that it seems to have become a watchword or motto of your administration to pursue excellence. How are you doing with catching up with it?

A. It's an elusive target, Mr. Weiss, excellence, but improvement is something I think we've been able to achieve to some extent. We've reviewed our campaign promises and achievements and we do find that there has been a substantial accomplishment of the objectives we undertook. The tax program, of course, was the principal one. That has been achieved for the most part and I would expect it to be finished this year.

Q. In other words, Governor, are you saying that you don't expect any individual income tax, or sales tax raise?

A. That is right. I have no intentions to increase personal tax burdens during the remainder of this term of office.

Q. Governor, you wouldn't define excellence, I wouldn't think, just in terms of a tax readjustment program.

A. I think really I would, yes. I think it's probably one of the most important things in the pursuit of excellence that there is, because the tax program provides the money to furnish the services that are necessary to upgrade the functioning of the government. And most people look at a tax program like an impediment, which of course it is politically. But there isn't any doubt in my mind that it is the most impor-