

Legislative Council bills I see that they have done the same thing. They have attempted to stay out of areas that will of necessity be affected by the Constitution. Yes, I think they should and I think they are doing it.

Q. Governor, what is your reaction to the Constitutional Convention cutting out the so-called Labor Bill of Rights and the charge that pressure was brought to bear by the Chamber of Commerce and other business interests to defeat it?

A. I have told many friends that I have in the labor movement that I didn't think this Labor Bill of Rights belonged in the Constitution. And I don't. I think when you get down to the provinces of collective bargaining and recognition of labor organizations where they relate particularly to employees in the public sector, and to employees in the public sector of a quasi-military nature such as policemen, some very careful and definitive wording is involved in spelling out what is to be done. A constitution is not the instrument to provide this. The general Bill of Rights — Declaration of Rights in our constitution — I believe provides sufficient leeway to allow the Legislature to act in this particular area and I believe it should be left to the Legislature.

STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND ALCOHOLISM

January 4, 1968

The 1966 Maryland General Assembly authorized the construction of community mental health centers, to be financed by State, Federal and local funds at a later date. But thus far it has been largely a paper program and will likely remain one unless positive action is taken now to implement it.

Recently, the courts have ruled that chronic alcoholics cannot be imprisoned for public inebriation. If many of our streets are not to become skid rows, we must provide facilities other than jails for alcoholics. One out of every seven Marylanders either has this disease or is affected directly by it as a family member or employer. Alcoholism is responsible for \$6 million in State welfare costs annually and is estimated to cost Maryland industry \$52.5 million in lost time each year.

In recognition of both of these critical problems, this administration will propose to the 1968 General Assembly an emergency pro-