

"I have asked Mr. Jerome B. Wolff, whom I recently designated chairman-director of the State Roads Commission, to have traffic studies brought up-to-date so that we can proceed in an intelligent manner.

"Meanwhile, recognizing that all of the crossings eventually will be needed, there is no reason not to allow rights of way to be acquired and some preliminary engineering to proceed.

"The costs of rights-of-way are skyrocketing, adding to the ultimate cost of these projects. It would amount to gross negligence on my part, and that of the Legislature, not to do something about it at this session."

The Governor also announced that the Administration will sponsor legislation Friday to repeal the restrictions the Legislature imposed on the State Roads Commission three years ago in the scheduling of primary roads projects.

Substitutions in the long-range highway plan can be made by majority vote of the county commissioners and local legislative delegations. Governor Agnew said this has contributed to delays in the primary roads program and in part has caused increases in costs.

He said restoring jurisdiction over primary projects to the Commission, while leaving with local governments the decision on secondary roads, "will be in keeping with the basic concept of the original Act" which in 1959 established the seven-member roads commission headed by a chairman-director.

ADDRESS, LINCOLN DAY DINNER, PIKESVILLE

February 24, 1967

My Fellow Citizens:

I am here to reassure you that, although a Republican now occupies the Governor's Office in Annapolis, *the city still stands!* . . . the Capitol dome is still firm on its pinnings, and Louis Goldstein's tax return files are more secure from pilferage than at any time in the past eight years.

There are, indeed, some who wondered what the return of Republicanism to the State House would mean. And while a final deter-