

FIRST YEAR AS GOVERNOR

Interview by Joseph McCaffrey, WMAL-TV, Washington

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Introduction by Mr. McCaffrey. Governors have an advantage, probably, over other officeholders. Political writers tend to lean just a little in their direction because they know that being the chief executive of a state is probably the most trying political job. Most of that is trying to raise money to pay the bills.

In Governor Agnew's case the cards are stacked a little unevenly because as a Republican governor he has a Democratic legislature.

Spiro Agnew is the 55th man to be elected Governor of Maryland. He was inaugurated just about a year ago, the 25th of January, 1967.

Born in Baltimore City in 1918, the son of an immigrant, Spiro Agnew was educated in the City public schools, John Hopkins University where he studied chemistry for three years before he turned to law and the University of Baltimore where he received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1947 after returning from World War II.

During the War he served as a company commander with the 10th Armored Division in Europe and put in another year of army service during the Korean War. Once in public life he moved fast.

In 1957 he was named minority member of the Baltimore County Board of Appeals and later became its chairman. In 1962 he was elected County Executive despite the fact that the Democrats had a four to one edge in registration. And in 1966, he was elected Governor on the day before his 48th birthday.

Q. Governor, to start this on a silly question, how do you enjoy your job?

A. Joe, I guess it's like most other jobs, it has its good days and it has its bad days, but all in all it's interesting, it's challenging. The bad days seem to fade away on the heels of a good one, on the prospect of a good one which we know is going to come.

Q. You have been in the job now for a year. How does the job itself measure up to what you thought it was when you were serving as County Executive of Baltimore County and what you thought it was when you were campaigning for it?

A. Pretty much what I expected. I can't say that I could foresee the depth of the ceremonial demands of the office and the impact of having nearly four million people to be responsive to. But from an ad-