

bill, regional detention centers and quite a few other bills such as the housing code and particularly these roads bills — the Redding Committee bills — and the business tax reform. And I'm expecting that the administration program is going to do as well this year as it did last year.

I think the Community Mental Health bill is in some trouble and I feel a considerable amount of sadness because I think these bills are terribly important. I am willing to discuss with the legislative leadership any amendments which might make it possible to implement these bills. I am worried about the *Easter* and the *Driver* decisions and the impact on how alcoholic cases are being handled or will be handled, and I sincerely hope that these bills won't fail in their entirety. If they need to be delayed in certain aspects, I am perfectly willing to accede to a waiting period while a committee of the Legislative Council goes further into the area of how they are to be implemented. But I did present the bills to meet a need and I provided the financing for them. Let me say this much in addition. I think this is most important. Local governments are bringing the constant position before the State government that everything that comes out of Annapolis must be financed at the State level. I don't think this is realistic. Last year we provided the subdivisions with over 100 million dollars of new financial ability to meet local needs. In addition to that we provided the subdivisions with new tax resources by making for the first time the income tax available to them, collected by the State. I think with this new taxing ability and with the new help that was given them last year on a continuing basis, it's not logical for them to expect the State to finance everything they need to spend. And I think the position that keeps being advanced that a bill is no good because it requires a local effort is not a valid position. Certainly there has to be local effort. Certainly they have to take the responsibility for raising the taxes to meet these needs. We've given them the ability to do that. That's why we gave them the income tax.

Q. Governor, what are the chances for the passage of the anti-pinball machine bill?

A. I'd say not too good. From what I hear I think it's effectively dead. I'm sad about that. I'm very sorry that the Legislature's not able at this moment to continue with its obvious statement of principle in favor of that bill by doing something to abolish pinball machines, but apparently it's not going to happen this year.

Q. About a month ago the chances looked a little better for passage, did they not?