

A. I don't think so. I don't think the chances were ever too good for passage in this session, but I was pleased that the Senate Finance Committee did indicate that it approved the bill in principle, and I sensed that to be the position of most of the legislators.

Q. Governor, I heard some of the legislators indicate that your position on the pinball machines might really be the result of some kind of a political vendetta that came up when you were County Executive.

A. I've heard this theory advanced and mainly by one person who probably finds it very comfortable to look for someplace to run, but I don't see how it makes any sense. How can it be political? Certainly there's no political advantage in being against pinball machines that I can see. Everything I have ever read that represents published statements in the newspapers — in letters in the newspapers — in letters to the editor and that sort of thing seems to condemn me for being against them, so where is the political advantage?

Q. Well as the story goes, Governor, you are supposed to have been upset because they wouldn't offer you any financial aid when you were running for County Executive.

A. I have never had a chance to turn down so much financial assistance in my life as I had from this source since I have been in politics. I have refused it because it is dirty money and I'll continue to refuse it.

Q. Governor, in your supplemental budget you have taken out the \$4.5 million in State money for community mental health programs. Does this mean that if the legislation failed that your program would come to a standstill?

A. We've taken out what?

Q. The \$4.5 million taken out of the community mental health program.

A. I am not aware of that. Is this construction money? (After an explanation from a staff aide, the question was withdrawn.)

Q. Governor, if I may go back to your previous answer, you said that you've never had a chance to turn down so much money and you refused it and will continue to refuse it because it is dirty money. Are you implying that they are still trying to get to you while you're Governor?

A. Oh no, this — we were talking about my experience in the county and when I ran for County Executive and when I ran for Governor.