

Q. Governor, has Governor Rockefeller indicated to you what he plans to say at his press conference today?

A. No he hasn't, and I'm just as glad to tell you the truth. I haven't really placed any heavy pressure on him to let me know what his decision is because, at the moment, it is more comfortable to be in the dark.

Q. Governor, could we go back a moment to talk about the Police Commissioner? When do you think the accomplishment of the turn-over from your command, as far as the appointment of the Police Commissioner is concerned, to the City command will take place?

A. Well, I suggested when this was brought up before that it should be done in 1969 or 1970. I have no objection to the accomplishment of it sooner, if the matter can be turned over flexibly and without any difficulty. I don't know what statutory arrangements are necessary or what procedural arrangements within the Police Department have to be satisfied. As far as I am concerned, I could be divested of it immediately without it bothering me at all, but I don't want to thrust it on to the Mayor's hands until the City has an opportunity to prepare for it.

Q. Governor, are you still as optimistic about your legislative program as you were last week?

A. Yes, I am even more optimistic about it, and I frankly find it very difficult to take the overall pessimistic view that's been reflected by some. The reason I say this is that bills that are characterized as administration failures are really bills that have been before legislative sessions sometimes for two, and three, and four years. I am talking about bills like implied consent and the abolition of capital punishment. While I think these bills are important enough to deserve my support, and I am not denying that they are part of my program, I don't think that failure again to get them through is a failure on the part of the administration. It just proves that it takes a long time to erode the opposition to some of these measures. The pollution bill is in good shape. I understand the roads bill is in excellent condition. Many other bills that we are interested in have passed one house or another, or are being favorably considered in committee. While I don't want to refer to them specifically until they move along, I don't think that you'll find, when you look at the legislation that's been passed at this session, that the record is bad. I think you'll find it's a pretty good record, and that there have been a lot of failures mainly because there have been a lot of bills introduced.