

A. Not a bit. I think President Johnson wants to end the Viet Nam war. At least he says so fairly frequently, and that's all I just said, that I think it would be wonderful if it could end, and the \$30 billion drain should stop. I didn't mean to suggest, at all, that the way to stop it is to give up, or capitulate, or withdraw and say we shouldn't be there at all. I think we've got to find some rational, legitimate means of getting out compatible with our objective to stabilize the security of Southeast Asia. I don't know whether this is going to come about, but that's all I meant to indicate by that.

Q. Governor, if the situation remains static and there is no end to the Viet Nam war, would you be extremely hesitant in future sessions of the Legislature to ask for additional tax money?

A. Well, again, I would have to wait and see what the Federal picture looks like; and what the thrust of Federal taxation is; and what effect that has on our revenues. It very well may occur that the situation may loosen. I can't foresee what's going to happen, but certainly what happens to Federal taxation has a great and immediate impact upon our own State's picture. Not only in the fact that it affects the taxes we collect, but it also affects how much the Congress is willing to send to assist us with our programs. So I can't forecast that until I see what's going to happen.

Q. Governor, to get back to the Nelson report — for a moment — they not only chastised you for not raising taxes to support the program, they also recommended cutting pharmacists' fees, cutting dental fees, yet they wanted to retain the present level of doctors' payments — but even more significant — they made no mention at all about the hospitals. Do you think this suggests an unwillingness of the hospitals to participate in reducing this load?

A. I must say very candidly that I was not alone in my observation that the total omission of the hospitals from these desperate austerity moves provokes some comment. I think that hospitals have to be included in the austerity measure too, and I think that the pharmacists had a valid point, this morning, when they said that everybody is being asked to pull in his belt but the hospital operation. For this reason I am not willing to accept the Nelson report 100% without making some further investigation. After all, these people came to me originally, and offered to do this very much appreciated study on the basis that they could do something to control spiraling hospital costs — and there's been no comment about that in the report.

Q. Governor, what's the basis behind your strong opposition to Baltimore County's district court plan?