

Q. Governor, Governor Rockefeller in his press conference clearly indicated that he thought Mr. Nixon was the choice of the Republican Party. That being the case, if Mr. Nixon is nominated, will you take an active part in supporting him?

A. Yes, I certainly would. I have indicated even during the time I have been most outspoken for Governor Rockefeller, I have indicated that Mr. Nixon is a very acceptable candidate to me and in fact said on several occasions he may be my second choice.

Q. You don't want to say either way whether or not you're going to continue your efforts?

A. No, I want time to analyze the situation as it has developed. As I indicated to you, this comes as a complete surprise to me. As I said during my press conference in response to a question before the Governor's statement came on, I had scrupulously avoided being a confidant in the decision and I knew no more than anyone else did. I'm surprised. I want a chance to think it over.

LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

March 26, 1968

You are concluding what for many of you has been an arduous and difficult session of the Maryland General Assembly. On balance, it has been a productive one, and I commend you for a series of substantial legislative accomplishments.

The massive water pollution control program you have enacted will enable Maryland to move swiftly and decisively toward permanent protection of one of her most valuable natural resources.

You also have produced meaningful legislation to reform our outmoded business tax structure, infuse some new life into our lagging roads program, strengthen the hand of public officials in coping with civil disorders, and place Maryland in the forefront of states offering a new approach to correctional problems by authorizing establishment of regional detention centers.

The bills to raise the legal interest rate while eliminating many gimmicks from lending practices and to liberalize the abortion laws under the strict supervision of medical authorities are also major legislative achievements in the public interest which merit public praise.