

A. Well, as the Governor himself said, I don't consider myself stand-by equipment. [Laughter.] Very seriously, no; I think it would be the height of temerity for me to suggest, coming from a state that never had a vice president possibility and being only a little over a year in office, that this is something serious enough for me to consider at this time.

Q. Governor, now that a site has been picked for peace talks, how do you think this will affect the presidential race?

A. Well, I am very suspicious. I guess all of us are, because it takes so long to decide where we are going to argue. I hope that the length of time it took to reach this very preliminary step of a site for talking is not an indication of how long it is going to take to dispose of the other procedural matters that must of necessity be considered before we can get to the substantive question of how to end this war. I am just not confident that there is a real desire to make a quick move on the part of the North Vietnamese. I hope I am wrong, and I think we ought to take the steps we are taking because we have got to do everything possible to end the war, but I am not encouraged by how long it took to get the situs.

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## COMMENTS ON SIGNING WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LEGISLATION

May 7, 1968

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today as we sign many bills into law — good and important measures for Maryland — it is with the greatest pride and pleasure that I sign the Comprehensive Water Pollution Control legislation, House Bills 902-903.

These bills received the administration's highest priority at the 1968 General Assembly. Over a year of painstaking effort went into the preparation of this program, and with its enactment our State becomes one of the nation's leaders in water quality control.

In scope and in scale this legislation, including the authorization of \$129 million in capital expenditures, is without precedent in our State's history. It expands greatly upon last year's Sanitary Sewage Facilities Loan Act, which in itself tripled all previous State efforts in this area.