

One of these bills raises motor vehicle registration fees by one third, and the study commission documented that Maryland is one of the lowest-priced states in the nation.

The bill will provide an additional \$11.4 million for our sorely beset highway program and specify that programming be done on an open-end five-year basis instead of the present inflexible six-year program. The other bill authorizes the State Roads Commission to use \$25 million from its bond authorization to acquire highway rights-of-way in advance of actual need, resulting in a considerable long-range savings of motorist taxes.

The effect of this legislation will benefit Maryland motorists for many years to come, and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr. Robert Redding, a Kensington resident who is also general counsel to the Transportation Association of America, and the members of his committee for their outstanding service. I would also like to serve notice on them that many problems still remain with our roads program, and I am depending on their continued service in the year ahead.

COMMENTS ON SIGNING AIRPORT LEGISLATION

May 7, 1968

The next three bills that I sign will represent a major step forward for Maryland in the field of air transportation. One creates a Maryland Airport Authority, another establishes a method for its financing, and the third provides for regulatory procedures for airport zoning in the State. It has been my pleasure to work in close cooperation with the Maryland Legislature in the development of all three measures.

The major immediate problem confronting the new authority will be the transfer of Friendship International Airport from ownership by the City of Baltimore to the State. I am asking Mr. Charles P. Crane, whom I will designate as chairman of the new Airport Authority, to head a transition committee to oversee an orderly transfer of this major facility.

He will be assisted by subcommittees on administration and personnel, budget and financing, planning and engineering, and legal problems.

Other members of the Airport Authority will be designated at an early date.