

executive session in Tulsa and, in spite of the fact that some of the Governors have some reservations about it, there was considerable support for it also. I don't know whether I'll be able to get it included; it's generally regarded as a very liberal viewpoint. But it's one I believe is necessary if we are going to have the kind of halt to this flow of people looking for the State that's doing the most in social programs. Let me qualify that. Another thing that I brought up — and this is very important in that respect — I'm not asking the Federal government to take over a program to get the State out from under the financial onus of supporting it. Because corollary to my proposal would be that the State would take back full responsibility for expensing some other program better administered at the State level so that there would not be a net financial gain for the State out of the switch of welfare into the national picture.

(National Prospects, Resumed)

Q. Governor, to get back to your answer that you do not anticipate a move out of the Governor's office at this time — would it be fair to conclude that you would seriously consider any offer at the national level that you might get after the November election?

A. Well, I think it would be fair to say that I would consider it, yes. But I do feel a heavy obligation to the party in Maryland and to the people who elected me to serve this four years. And in spite of the fact that it is very flattering to be discussed as a potential candidate and to be discussed as a potential recipient of some appointed position, I would feel a responsibility to complete the major portion of this term. So, I'd say it is unlikely that I would attempt to move into the national scene at this time.

Q. You hedged again. You said "complete a major portion."

A. Well, you know it's very difficult for a person to avoid doing what you call hedging because the words that you say can be changed by changes in conditions later on, and then they're always dumped back in your lap as an inconsistency. So I suppose what I am saying is you have to hedge a little bit. I'm trying to give you my best impression of my situation now, which is away from any move of that type.

(Representative Long and Bay Bridge)

Q. Governor, Representative Long had some remarks about you during your absence, alleging that you passed the buck to Mr. Goldstein and are now passing the buck to him on bridge costs. Do you have any comments on that?