

A. Well, I really can't tell. I think most of them feel very flexible — just as I do; and they want to make a judgment based on the conditions as they exist at the time that their decision is made. As of now, I think they could go either way.

Q. Governor, do you think there's any possibility of defeating Mr. Nixon in the Convention?

A. Well, I don't know. I think there's always that possibility that someone can come on strong the way Willkie did in, what was it, 1940. I wouldn't want to make a judgment that it couldn't happen. It seems, if what you read in the papers is accurate, he has amassed quite an outstanding strength around the country, but I wouldn't say he's unbeatable.

Q. Well, if you had to pick somebody to beat him, whom would you pick?

A. I don't — I'm not looking for anyone to beat anybody.

(State Revenues)

Q. Governor, turning to domestic issues, do you have any further indications from your committee on the revenue issue?

A. I am waiting for the Comptroller to report to me any significant findings that the group may come up with and I haven't had a report from them as yet on that.

Q. If the projection turns out to be accurate — the \$66 million projection — do you see any alternative to some sort of tax increase next year?

A. Oh yes, yes indeed I do. As a matter of fact I don't see any reason to consider that we are going to have to have a tax increase at this time. I don't rule out the possibility that it may happen in the coming calendar year, nor do I find it a necessity. I think we have to wait until sometime around the latter part of September to see where we are from a revenue standpoint, and I think we also have to give this new efficiency industrial and business group a chance to get in and see what kind of efficiencies they can project for the remainder of the year. I am going to do everything I can to see that it's unnecessary to have a tax increase and I can assure you of this — if I'm not able to achieve that objective in 1969, I am going to make certain that the tax increase is the minimal increase necessary to put us on a sound fiscal basis. There's not going to be a development of a heavy new spending program to be supported by a tax that's enacted as an excuse to a fiscal crisis.