

(Nixon Positions)

Q. Governor, you said that you endorse a number of Richard Nixon's positions and campaign statements. Do you also endorse his latest one about mandatory jail sentences for criminals who commit crimes with guns?

A. I haven't read the statement in detail, and I should read it before I comment on it, but if you repeat that question at a future conference I'll give you an opinion.

(Friendship Airport)

Q. Governor, if the Baltimore City Council rejects the sale of Friendship Airport to the State, will you take further steps to secure Friendship for the State?

A. Well, it's my opinion — I don't think the State ought to bludgeon the City into giving up the airport if the City doesn't want to. The whole subject came up because there was a great amount of fear in the City that it could not support the kind of capital improvement that the airport needed. And I find this sentiment is still in the City. I talked to the Mayor as recently as yesterday about it. I think he's still in favor of turning the airport over to the State. And I think one thing we've got to keep in mind is that the airport is a real help to the City if it's a good, competitive, modern airport; but it's no asset if it's not improved to keep pace with the other major airports — Washington National, Dulles, Philadelphia and the like. I don't think the City can afford to put the capital money into the airport because of their other money problems.

Q. Along that same line, Governor, Senator James testified before the Council, and he said the money offer that is made now is absolutely the last money offer that the State will make.

A. Well, I agree with that. I don't think the State's in this to bargain for the airport. It's not something we particularly want; we've got a lot of other places to spend money right now, but I think it's needed for the benefit of the State that the broad base — the broad financial base of the State — be used to keep the airport in a competitive position. We don't want it because it's going to help us. We want it because it's going to help the City.

Q. Governor, if the State does take over the airport, would you favor using Friendship revenues to support expansion of other airports?