

I welcome you to the heart of Maryland's government; and as you walk through our State House, I hope you'll think of it as a symbol of our nation's government combining the traditional mechanics of representative democracy with modern knowledge to improve our government's original and enduring purpose — the guarantee of each individual's inalienable right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

NEWS CONFERENCE

July 18, 1968

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Because of some rather wild conjecturing and speculating that has been done in the afternoon papers today, I think it is necessary for me to clarify a few things about the Executive Assembly.

First of all, the total amount that the Executive Assembly has collected by way of membership dues of a thousand dollars each is about \$35,000, not \$150,000, as reported. I wish we did have \$150,000 because I'm sure we could put it to good use. Hopefully the amount will expand as time goes on.

Secondly, this is not an Agnew fund. The money is collected and channeled directly through the State Central Committee of the Republican Party. I do not control its disbursement. It is not under any circumstances to be used for my personal expense of the nature of any personal entertaining. It is strictly for Republican Party use. This will include, of course, picking up logical Party expenses, such as travels of Party officials to various Governors' and other conferences.

But I would estimate that the amount of money that is going to be used for expenses is going to be a very small percentage. Most of this money we hope to throw into various Republican candidates' campaigns, and I think that should be certainly clarified because of the misconception that this is some sort of slush fund for the Governor.

Now I don't believe that I should impose upon the State the responsibility of paying for any trips that are politically oriented. I have studiously avoided this. I'm frank to admit I don't have the personal resources to finance these various trips around the country,