

Q. Governor, one of those who attended this dinner last night said he felt you were so personally committed to Nixon that you can't get out of it?

A. No, that's not so. I have no personal commitment to either one of the principal candidates who is thus far announced.

(Use of State Yacht)

Q. Do you approve of the Public Service Commission taking their wives on business trips on the State yacht?

A. Well, I understand from the Commissioners that this was cleared through the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs and through my office and that the expense was picked up by the Commissioners themselves, with the exception of the small amount of gasoline or fuel oil or diesel oil that it takes to move the yacht that distance. That boat goes out frequently on promotional trips related to the Bay, and I don't see a thing wrong with the Public Service Commission's having a chance to utilize the yacht. I do know that when I was a research man on the Court of Appeals Rules Committee many years ago that at least twice a year the Rules Committee met on that boat and took a cruise. But I don't want to make these judgments. I leave it to the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs because they run the yacht and they should know what's a legitimate purpose for the Bay development and what's legitimate in the provision of somewhat of a pleasant day for some State agencies.

(Usury Law)

Q. Governor, on a more important subject. The interest and usury law in the State of Maryland is now in a bit of confusion. There has been talk among legislative leaders about calling a special session to deal with that particular subject.

A. Let me bring you to date on that thing. I talked the day before yesterday with Mr. Lowe, who was the prime mover in that legislation. I also have talked with Mr. Mandel and other legislative leaders about it. When the FNMA in Montgomery County indicated it was not going to extend credit until clarification, yesterday I wrote to the Attorney General requesting that he intervene in that proceeding on behalf of the State to expedite a case that is already in progress in Prince George's County and to press for an early determination of what the legality of the statute is. I don't want, and I don't believe many members of the Legislature want, a special session until the courts have had a chance to clarify the situation. And I would point