

Tawes

J. Moore,
Baltimore.

Governor O'Connor:

Does the use of the State car by Tawes violate your statement of policy made on May 23, 1942 that "I am firmly of the opinion that the greatest care should be exercised by department heads and State officials to restrict the use of State cars to the same point that private automobiles are restricted," ?

What supervision do you exercise over the use of cars by department heads and other employees?

Does Capt. Conner submit periodic reports on use of State cars as regards mileage and gasoline use?

If so, have you any plan of action where possible violations may seem apparent.

Are you issuing any new instructions about use of State cars as result of Tawes case?

Is there any State law prohibiting use of State cars for personal use?

Does ban on personal use of State cars apply to all State cars regardless of gas rationing, CPA regulations and the like?

Do you think State cars should be marked as public vehicles?

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

June 7, 1943

Governor O'Conor
Annapolis, Md.

Your Honor:

I, along with many others in this community, am watching with interest to see the outcome of the Taxes case.

We are among the patriotic citizens who are doing everything we can to cooperate with the War effort, such as staying at home even though we have summer homes which are suffering from neglect and being broken into by less law abiding persons, saving our money and putting it into bonds, saving the cause and fate, etc. We are not doing it to be martyrs for

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

the cause, but because we really and truly want to ^{do} the fair thing.

However, regardless of the many fancy excuses stated warranting the use of much needed gasoline to make a pleasant but useless trip of 2000 miles, if this man is not punished severely, how long do you think fair minded people like us are going to cooperate? In fact how is our 1 1/2 gallons a week going to help when 150 gallons can be thrown away and forgotten?

Remember - how this one case is decided will govern many drivers' actions from now on!

Yours truly,
An honest citizen.

MRS. C. NEWTON KIDD

3221 VICKERS ROAD BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

June 8, 1943.

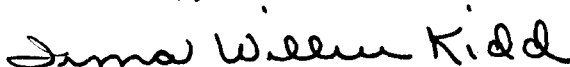
Honorable Herbert O'Connor,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Governor O'Connor:

We wish to protest the disposal of the Tawes case in the manner reported in today's papers. It is certainly irritating, to express it mildly, to the taxpayers of the State to realize that State taxes are used to furnish cars for politicians to use for personal pleasure. Furthermore it is hard on public morale to know that some folks can get "gas" for long drives while others of us are even asked to refrain from using our cars ~~even~~ for church-going.

As governor of the state, we look to you for the proper adjustment of such cases - so that justice is a reality not a mere synonym.

Yours truly,



Mrs. C. Newton Kidd.

June 8, 1943

Hon. Prentis Brown, Director
O.P.A.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brown:

The decision rendered by the War Price and Ration Board of Crisfield, Md., yesterday, in the Millard Tawes case, can only serve to convince the public that there is one law for the politician and another for the common citizen.

Last Sunday my family and I waited on street corners over two hours for street cars to take us to and from our Church, a distance of 3 miles in order to save little more than one half gallon of gasoline. Yet, Mr. Tawes drives nearly 2,000 miles to attend a wedding, using enough gasoline to carry my family to and from Church twice each Sunday for more than eight years, and is exonerated by the Local O.P.A.

Don't you agree that such unequal treatment smells just a little?

I am sure that the general public would accept O.P.A. regulations with a far greater degree of cooperation if we were certain that there were "social privileges" for none.

Sincerely,



John Kastendike

3912 Milford Avenue
Baltimore, Md.

CC Hon. Herbert R. O'Connor
Annapolis, Md.

INSURANCE

Fire
Marine
Accident
Health
Liability

Life
Automobile
Burglary
Bonding
Credit

F. M. HOWELL

General Insurance

Real Estate

REAL ESTATE

Bought—Sold—Exchanged
Rents Collected
Loans Negotiated
Ground Rents

ABELL BUILDING

S. E. COR. BALTIMORE AND SOUTH STREETS

TELEPHONE, PLAZA 2793

BALTIMORE, MD.

June 9th 1943

Gov. Herbert O'Connor

Annapolis, Md.

Dear Gov. O'Connor:

The revelations of the Taxes case have been a severe shock to the better element of this State. The utterly indifferent manner you seemingly have exhibited, and the evident desire you have shown not to assume any responsibility in the matter, has been a severe disappointment to your friends. You may not be aware how thoroughly the matter is being discussed in Balto, and what indignation exists among the law abiding citizens of this City. We feel that as Governor of this State you should make an example of this case that would prevent a repetition of it ever.

Yours very truly
F. M. Howell

H. F. McLAUGHLIN
410 OLD ORCHARD ROAD
TEN HILLS BALTIMORE, MD.

June 8, 1943.

Hon. Herbert R O'Connor.
Executive Mansion.
Annapolis Md.

Dear Sir;

As a taxpayer of the State of Maryland I wish to protest the use of State owned automobiles for personal pleasure trips. The case of Millard Tawes is a "raw" example of the abuse of political influence.

When most of us are glad to make any sacrifice to win the war, to see a State Officer use up gasoline and rubber (critical materials) in driving 2000 miles to a wedding does not set very well. This at a time when most of us cannot even secure sufficient gas to get to work when that work is in making materials for our Army and Navy. I can assure you that it is becoming increasingly difficult to remain a loyal Democrat when those we have elected care so little for Our Country or the rest of the people as to waste gasoline as Mr. Tawes has done.

Very truly yours,

H. F. McLaughlin

No 2 Forrest Drive, Catonsville, Maryland.
June 8th 1943

Governor Herbert R.O'Conor
Annapolis, Maryland.

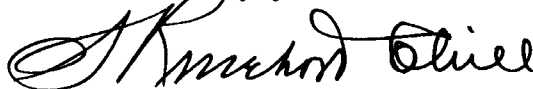
Dear Governor O'Conor:-

I had made up my mind not to write you again pertaining to anything in State matters, after your advising me, that I had written more letters to you than any other member of the Legislature, about a rotten mess that existed at the Maryland State Penal Farm.

However the glaring headlines of the morning paper stating Mr. Tawes, had driven 2000 miles to see his son married in a State car, when I who am working in a defense plant, thrying to help along in the cause of the war, getting up at 5.A.M in order to get to work 19 miles away, having to beg for gasoline to get there, I just could ~~not~~ refrain from calling your attention to the fact that we are at WAR, and have a fight to win, we working and buying bonds, paying taxes and more taxes, and have to suffer in order to get to our place of employment, and an Official of our FREE STATE, one that has held up traditions for years could permit such a thing to happen.

I hope you will ^{NOT} take this as lightly, as the matter I called to your attention when you critized me for writing so maney letters.

Very sincerely yours



S.Rinehart Cohill

6013 Old Harford Road
Baltimore, Maryland. 24
June 9, 1943.

The Honorable Herbert R. O'Connor
Governor of Maryland
Annapolis, Md.

Sir:

As a law-abiding citizen who supported you in your campaign for Governor, I now write you for the first time to register a complaint.

My complaint is not directed against you as Chief Executive of the State - it is registered against a State official who made the headlines recently because of his alleged misuse of C gasoline coupons when he drove to Fort Benning, Georgia, to attend the wedding of his son.

The explanation offered does not make sense to me or to any of my friends who are abiding by the O.P.A. rules and regulations, and conforming to the pleasure driving ban. I am only one person and for each one who will take the time to write you, there are at least 100 others who feel the same way but who will not write you.

It is bad enough for the Crisfield Board to make a farce of the hearing - it is ten times worse for the editor of the paper to be arrested for malicious libel when he published the fact that the State official made such a trip. The aftermath of the hearing is further indication in the eyes of the masses that something smells - and it is not the ordinary citizen - but one having political impunity.

As a taxpayer I object to paying taxes to pay the salary of an individual who so flagrantly flouts the law, and who is influential enough to get away with it.

As Chief Executive you are charged with the responsibility to prevent a recurrence on the part of the individual referred to, and to take proper steps that others shall not be able to do so.

Very truly yours,

Luvicia A. Andrew
(Mrs.) Luvicia A. Andrew

621 Deepdene Road,
Baltimore, Md.
June 10, 1943.

The Honorable Herbert R. O'Connor,
Annapolis, Md.

My Dear Governor O'Connor;

You are no doubt aware, by this time, that we, most of the people, consider the Tawes case a right rotten piece of mis-use of political privilege(?).

We do not like- 1) The use of gasoline for pleasure rides, 2) The wear and tear on tires for pleasure rides, 3) The use of a state car (owned by the people, NOT BY MR. TAWES OR ANY OTHER STATE EMPLOYEE) for personal pleasure of which there is too much, 4) The varied and poor excuses given for the trip which have been insults to the intelligence of the people and bordering on the untrue to say the least.

Who paid for the gasoline used on this and the many other trips? We know who paid for the car, the tires, and the other costs of operation, but who paid for the gasoline.

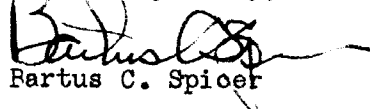
There is one last point we don't like a damn bit. By what stretch of the political law makes it possible for the state to bring suit against Rives Matthews for exposing the mis-use of state property and vital war materials?

The NEW DEALERS, particularly the OPA, urge the people to spy on each other. We don't like that either. BUT, when a publisher reports a flagrant violation of rights and proprieties he is clapped in jail on some 'trumped up' charge. Had he reported just a 'run-of-mine' taxpayer he would have been complimented. He reported on the activities of a politition where upon the state officials resort to GESTAPO methods of protecting thier own (hides). GESTAPO is a very nasty word. It implies a condition which we are told must never exist here (but it does exist) and against which we will wage war to exterminate in other parts of the world.

Had 'Joe Doak' (just a state employee) been caught he would have been fired long before this. There is no reason to fire Mr. Tawes but you can't just sit back and pass the buck to Tawes and Andy Connor. Neither can you permit or sanction the operation of the GESTAPO against a loyal citizen-Rives Matthehews. Prosecution and persecution are two different words, and this is PERSECUTION. The Germans teach their people to behave by executing one or two as examples. We don't like to have Rives Matthews jailed, bailed, and tried just to show the rest of us how unwise it is to speak unkindly of our elected employees. Rives Matthews should have been given police protection for his attendance of the Tawes hearing at Crisfield- protection against a batch of hoodlum polititians. Instead of that he could not attend except that he risk his life. As it developed he had reason to fear both county and state police. He was wise to have stayed at home.

Rives Matthews has done the state and nation a service. He should have your commendation.

Yours very truly,


Bartus C. Spicer

Comptroller - Tawes

C O P Y

July 21, 1943

Mr. Bartus C. Spicer,
621 Deepdene Road,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Spicer:-

You wrote me concerning the case of State Comptroller Tawes and suggested that attention be given the matter.

As you doubtless have observed the developments in this regard since you wrote me, it is unnecessary for me to refer in detail to the action taken by the Office of Price Administration, resulting in the deprivation of Mr. Tawes' personal rations for automobile driving. I also assume that you have noted the public action instituted by me, as a result of which every State-owned car, without exception, has been subjected to drastic regulations affecting their use in order that the consumption of gasoline, rubber, etc., might be reduced to a minimum. The facts are that a considerable saving has already been effected and this will continue in the future.

Contrary to what may be thought by some of our citizens, the authority of the Governor is very limited in respect to such a constitutional officer who is the elected representative of the people. However, I am most hopeful that everything possible will be done by way of conserving vital materials and supplies which are so necessary in the war effort.

I wish to thank you for your interest in State affairs as manifested by your letter.

Yours for Victory!

The Somerset News

Somerset's Dominant Weekly

PRINCESS ANNE
MARYLAND

May 29, 1943

RIVES MATTHEWS
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Honorable Herbert R. O'Connor
Governor
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Governor O'Connor:

On Sunday, May 23, Comptroller and Mrs. J. Millard Tawes and four friends left Crisfield in an official State of Maryland Cadillac and drove down to Fort Benning and Camp Wheeler, Georgia, to visit relatives. They returned Friday, having travelled an estimated 2000 miles in State property.

Mrs. Tawes informs me it is none of my business how she and the Comptroller make use of State property and suggested that if I didn't like it that I write to you.

Especially now that gasoline is so important to Maryland's farmers and war workers, it would seem to us that such a trip ought to be investigated and I would appreciate a statement for publication in next week's issue from you.

Yours for Victory:



Rives Matthews
Editor & Publisher

You Get More On The Eastern Shore

The Somerset News

Somerset's Dominant Weekly



PRINCESS ANNE
MARYLAND
June 6, 1943

RIVES MATTHEWS
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Hon. Herbert R. O'Connor
Governor
Annapolis, Maryland

Your Excellency:

A considerable number of people here on the Eastern Shore feel you could make an immense contribution to the War Effort by asking Comptroller Tawes to resign for using a State car and for violating the pleasure driving ban. It has been felt that his presence in Annapolis from now on will be an embarrassment to your Administration which has, on many occasions, asserted its whole-hearted support of the War Effort.

Yours for Victory,

Rives Matthews

The Somerset News

Somerset's Dominant Weekly

PRINCESS ANNE
MARYLAND

RIVES MATTHEWS
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

July 16, 1943

Hon. Herbert R. O'Connor
Governor
Annapolis, Maryland

Your Excellency:

Comptroller J. Millard Tawes has admitted violating an important Federal statute and has been given the stiffest penalty to be handed out so far by the OPA.

From all sides, and especially from men in the services, comes the opinion that your Administration could strike a real blow for the war effort if you would publicly call upon Mr. Tawes to resign.

When fighting a war, especially, it is highly important for people to have confidence in their leaders, whether elected or appointed, and the machinery of government should never be so cumbersome that it acts as a dead weight against any move to eject those who have so patently shewn themselves to be unworthy of public office.

I hope you will soon be able to see your way clear toward taking an action which will meet with the unanimous support of the non-political Americans of the great Free State of Maryland.

Yours for Victory:

Rives Matthews

The Somerset News

Somerset's Dominant Weekly

PRINCESS ANNE
MARYLAND

RIVES MATTHEWS
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

July 18, 1943

Hon. Herbert R. O'Connor
Governor
Annapolis, Maryland

Your Excellency:

I trust you heard Mr. Drew Pearson over a national network this evening again discuss Comptroller and Mrs. J. Millard Tawes.

Again I beg you to speak out for the people of Maryland and to express their will by asking Mr. Tawes to resign.

As long as he remains a member of your official family it will tend to discredit every act of your Administration. This is no time for political considerations. This is a time to speak out for Americans everywhere and for people of the Free State in particular.

Yours for Victory:

Rives Matthews

You Get More On The Eastern Shore

C O P Y

Comptroller Jones

July 21, 1948

Mr. Rives Matthews, Editor,
The Somerset News,
Princess Anne, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Matthews:-

Your letters, in which you suggest that the resignation of State Comptroller Tawes should be demanded, have been received at the Executive Offices.

Under the circumstances, as we understand them, there is no authority vested in the Governor to take this action in the case of the State Comptroller who is a constitutional officer, elected by the citizens of the State.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Thomas Elmo Jones,
Secretary of State

RIVES MATTHEWS

Princess Anne, Md.

July 31, 1943

Hon. Herbert R. O'Connor
Governor
Annapolis, Maryland

Your Excellency:

I believe you will find as time goes on that as long as Comptroller Tawes remains a member of your official family every act of your Administration will be regarded with a suspicious eye by the gentlemen of the press.

I also believe that these same gentlemen, to a man, would hail any move on your part, legal, quasi-legal, or just plain speaking out for the Americans of Maryland, to get Mr. Tawes to resign from office. He is a liability to the Democratic Party in Maryland and throughout the nation and is contributing much to the strength of the Republicans next year. Perhaps, in effect, he can be said to be repaying them for not giving ~~him~~ a contest last year.

Since Maryland is a barometer state, and thus important in a national election, it would seem to me that it is your plain duty to save the Party from the embarrassment Mr Tawes has caused it.

Yours for Victory:

Rives Matthews

SEEBER KING BODINE

TWELVE SIXTEEN SOUTHVIEW ROAD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

June 9, 1943
(Wednesday)

The Honorable Herbert R. O'Connor

Annapolis, Maryland

Your Excellency:

It has given me a great deal of pleasure to do my small part to see that you were put into office. It would add to my pleasure if you would do one thing for me.

From the Press reports, the State Comptroller has used a State owned car to make a 2,000 mile pleasure jaunt which, to my way of thinking, was dishonest. He, furthermore, definitely violated the pleasure driving rules of the O.P.A. and unquestionably had to use coupons other than "A" coupons in order to make the trip.

He apparently decided that his original story was not swallowed "hook, line, and sinker" by the public and proceeded to elaborate on it by making the statement he had used the State owned car in order to drive by some of the Capitals, one of which was Augusta. It would seem that he is not well-enough educated to know the State Capitals, and in his hurry to "get out of the frying pan," he "jumped into the fire" by going through Maine.

His latest move seems to be to try to get even with Mr. Matthews who originally "smoked him out." In so doing, it seems he used the son of the Chairman of the Crisfield Rationing Board, who issued a warrent for his arrest. It would appear that everything in that locality is controlled by a certain group of men.

All the above comments of mine are based on the Press reports, and if the Press reports are untrue, certainly an injustice is being done. If they are true, I cannot think of a time when a public official has so flouted all the rules of decency.

I have watched you for years, and have rejoiced in the knowledge that we have had a man of such high caliber in the public service, and you probably know even better than I that too many people look upon public officials as being out to get everything they can get. I think you would be doing the State a great service if you did what you could to force this man out of office.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

SKB/pb

SKBodine

SEEBER KING BODINE

TWELVE SIXTEEN SOUTHVIEW ROAD

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

June 29, 1943

(Tuesday)

To His Excellency Herbert R. O'Connor
Governor of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

Sir:

I did not receive an answer to my letter on the subject of Mr. Tawes, and I assume that you have decided to just let the case "blow over."

I honestly would like to see you force this man out of public office, because everyone I have talked to is highly indignant--particularly so when they realize that he is handling the State finances.

Besides the fact that I think we should have someone in whom we can have faith handling our finances, I personally want to see you take some action, because I believe the case is going to hurt you irreparably, and I think too highly of you to see you go out of public service for once and always--which you could easily do.

Respectfully yours,



SKB/pb

Comptroller James

C O P Y

July 1, 1943

Mr. S. K. Bodine,
1216 Southview Road,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Bodine:—

Your letter of the 29th has just reached me and I hasten to assure you that I had not overlooked your previous communication, but inasmuch as the matter involving the State Comptroller had been before the Federal Agency, I deemed it only proper to await the final outcome of the matter.

As you know, of course, from the published reports, the Office of Price Administration has taken action resulting in the revocation of allowances to Mr. Tawes of rations for his personal use.

I should explain that Mr. Tawes is a constitutional officer, having been elected and reelected by the people of the State, and that I, therefore, have no authority to oust him from office as you seem to think might be the case. The situation is different in his case than if he were an appointee of the Governor, holding a Commission at the will of the Chief Executive. An elected official, as you no doubt realize, is answerable to the citizens and no right exists in the Governor to eject from office an official under these circumstances.

I am sure you are aware, without my stating it, that it is my desire to have public affairs administered in the most dutiful and conscientious manner. Realizing that you are interested from the standpoint of good citizenship, I am hopeful that everything can be done in the future to merit your approval.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours for Victory!