

# Schaefer promises new ways

by Andrew J. Scott

Staff Writer  
MONT. GAZETTE 1/29/95  
Once called the "governor of Baltimore" by his critics and known for his public battles with fellow pols, William Donald Schaefer returned this week to Annapolis hoping to shed that image.

As the new state comptroller, he vowed to be fair to the entire state and promised dull Board of Public Works meetings with Gov. Parris Glendening, with whom he has clashed at times.

"We need to look at our state as one Maryland," Schaefer said during his inaugural address Monday, as he pledged to work against regional rivalries.

Several Montgomery County officials are taking the former governor at his word, despite Schaefer's attention to a few Baltimore issues in his first week.

During his inauguration speech, the former mayor of Baltimore called for the state to take over running the Baltimore City Convention Center.

"A lot of jaws dropped when he said that," said Sen. Christopher Van Hollen Jr. (D-Dist. 18) of Kensington.

Van Hollen, a vocal proponent of Montgomery County getting its fair share of state dollars, attended Schaefer's swearing-in ceremony.

Van Hollen worked in the Schaefer administration prior to his election to the legislature and thinks the new comptroller will be fair.

"With Schaefer, he always tells it like it is," Van Hollen said.

Del. Marilyn Goldwater (D-Dist. 16) of Bethesda, a former health policy adviser to Schaefer, agreed.

"I never thought he was the governor of Baltimore," Goldwater said. "He looked fairly around the state."

Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan, who has had frosty relations with Glendening lately, warmly welcomed Schaefer back to Annapolis.

Duncan tagged closely behind him during a reception in the State House Monday.

Duncan said he hopes Schaefer will help with school construction funding and an appeal for a bypass around the town of Brookeville rejected by the governor under his Smart Growth program.

The county can appeal the governor's decision to the Board of Public Works.

Just how much Schaefer wants to — or can — shake things up in Annapolis remains to be seen.

His role is mainly of chief tax collector.

He's one of three votes on the Board of Public Works — Glendening and state treasurer Richard Dixon are the other two — which doles out billions of dollars in contracts and millions for school construction.

He's one vote on the state's pension board.

The comptroller can introduce bills into the General Assembly but does not have the leverage of the state budget that a governor has to get things passed.

Much of what he talked about during his inaugural speech — economic development and the Baltimore convention center — he has no constitutional authority to act on other than using his office as a bully pulpit.

"He doesn't have the kind of power a governor does," said Del. Kumar Barve (D-Dist. 17) of Gaithersburg.

Montgomery County officials made their case Wednesday before the board to get \$57 million in school construction this year.

"When I was mayor, Montgomery County helped the city of Baltimore when we really needed it," Schaefer told county officials.

Schaefer's return to the political stage had some in Annapolis wondering if the theatrics he was known for would also return, especially given his relationship

with Glendening.

Since Schaefer left the State House four years ago, Glendening snubbed him at an event to announce the return of pro football to Baltimore, something Schaefer worked for years to do.

In 1995, Schaefer accused Glendening of not appointing him to the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's College to get back at him for criticizing the new governor.

When Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein died last year and it came time to appoint a replacement, Glendening tapped former Montgomery County congressman Michael D. Barnes instead of Schaefer. But Schaefer chased Barnes out of the race.

When it came time for Schaefer and Glendening's first public meeting together on the board, a row of television cameras and reporters was on hand.

"Nothing's going to happen today at all," Schaefer said. "You can all go home."

Glendening gave Schaefer a heart-shaped box of Valentine's Day candy, joking about talk of their rough relationship.

"Not to be outdone," Schaefer said as he pulled a flowerpot out from under the table, with several colorful flowers. "You only get to look at it," he said. "I'm taking it back to the office."

Staff writer Josh Kurtz contributed to this story