

# Comptroller Skips Speech By Governor

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**F**ormer governor, now Comptroller **William Donald Schaefer** has been dismissive of his successor, Gov. **Parris N. Glendening** nearly every chance he gets. Last week, he even failed to show up for the governor's annual State of the State address.

Schaefer (D) sent Deputy Comptroller **Stephen Cordi** in his stead and was the only important official not there.

"He had a scheduling conflict," said Schaefer spokesman **Mike Golden**, who said the comptroller had scheduled "internal staff meetings" at the time of the governor's major speech.

So did Schaefer just forget that the State of the State comes along each year not long after the beginning of the General Assembly session? After all, he delivered eight of them himself when he was chief executive.

"I don't think it was a question of forgetting. The business he had to attend to internally took precedence," Golden said.

"He's got a tight schedule. He's a busy comptroller."

Schaefer certainly was expected. He was among the officials, including Senate President **Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr.** (D-Clinton), House Speaker **Casper R. Taylor Jr.** (D-Allegany), Lt. Gov. **Kathleen Kennedy Townsend** (D), Attorney General **J. Joseph Curran Jr.** (D), State Treasurer **Richard N. Dixon** and Chief Judge **Robert Bell**, who Glendening (D) was to acknowledge, according to a text of his speech.

But when Glendening read off the list, he left Schaefer off. "It was taken off the TelePrompTer," said Glendening spokesman **Michael Morrill**, who said the governor's office was notified shortly before the speech that Schaefer wouldn't be there.

"He made a choice, and it was his choice to make," Morrill said of Schaefer's absence. "It speaks so clearly for itself."