

# Schaefer, Glendening mix it up for first time

By Tom Stuckey  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANNAPOLIS — Since William Donald Schaefer took the oath as Maryland's comptroller, a favorite guessing game in Annapolis has been how quickly Mr. Schaefer and Gov. Parris N. Glendening would have their first dustup on the Board of Public Works.

The answer: about one month.

The two men exchanged pointed words yesterday — their first since Mr. Schaefer joined the board Jan. 25 — over the governor's decision to cancel plans to build a police training center in Carroll County and a bypass around Brookeville in Montgomery County.

Mr. Schaefer directed some of his complaints at a Transportation Department official before turning to Mr. Glendening — who sat inches away — and confronting him on the police training center that was scheduled to be built at Sykesville.

"Didn't you promise this?" Mr. Schaefer asked. "To make a promise . . . and then all of a sudden say no, that's not right."

The Democratic governor looked Mr. Schaefer directly in the eye and calmly but pointedly replied: "There will be a training center, but it will not be at Sykesville."

The Brookeville bypass and the training center are two of the projects Mr. Glendening scrapped because he said they violate his smart-growth law. The governor said both would encourage the type of urban sprawl he is trying to prevent.

Mr. Schaefer and state Treasurer Richard N. Dixon, the third Board of Public Works member, support the projects. The two, both Democrats, asked for a hearing March 10 to discuss the Brookeville bypass.

Mr. Glendening readily agreed to the hearing "as a matter of courtesy" but said there is nothing Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Dixon can do because there is nothing before the board on either project.

The powerful board has the authority to approve or reject most state contracts and handles other matters, such as dredging,

wetlands permits, and decisions on which school projects will get state funds.

The governor has the backing of Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, whose office issued an opinion that funding of projects is the responsibility of the governor and the legislature. The opinion said that even if Mr. Dixon and Mr. Schaefer voted to fund a project, Mr. Glendening does not have to comply.

Montgomery County officials asked for a hearing on the Brookeville bypass. Carroll County officials plan to ask for a hearing on bypasses around

Manchester and Westminster.

The county officials hope a board vote in their favor would persuade the governor to relent and restore the projects.

Mr. Glendening said after the meeting he intends to stand by his decision because, if the state does not curb urban sprawl, "it's

going to be a disaster."

At that first meeting in January, Mr. Glendening and Mr. Schaefer exchanged gifts and Mr. Glendening declared that "love prevails." But there was skepticism about continuing harmony. The two men have had a testy relationship going back to the time Mr. Schaefer was governor and Mr. Glendening was Prince George's County executive.

But Mr. Glendening said yesterday that the disagreement will not affect his ability to work with Mr. Dixon and Mr. Schaefer.

"They are both professionals," he said.