

# Like old pals

By Margie Hyslop  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**C**ANNAPOLIS  
omptroller William Donald Schaefer played tightwad yesterday to Gov. Parris N. Glendening's peacemaker at the opening of their first Board of Public Works meeting together.

Mr. Schaefer — who during his two terms as governor and four as mayor of Baltimore became famous for his antics and wearing his heart on his sleeve, as well as getting things done — was clearly glad to be back in service and the limelight.

"When you've been out of public life for years, there's a void," Mr. Schaefer said. "When you come back it's like you never left."

Except that at this meeting of the three-member board, Mr. Glendening was in the chairman's seat, which is reserved for the governor.

But seldom has an occasion where supplicants beg, bow and scrape for state aid been so upbeat.

First, Mr. Schaefer announced to the packed room and cameras that the price of fictional "tickets" to anticipated grudge matches between him and the man who followed his two terms as governor had dropped to zero.

Next, Mr. Glendening declared there was only "love and affection" between the two Democrats.

Then Mr. Glendening presented Mr. Schaefer with a red heart-shaped box of candy, which the man once dubbed "America's Wackiest Governor"

## Schaefer, governor exchange laughs

clasped to his breast.

In the interest of "equality," Mr. Glendening said, he also gave candy to state Treasurer Richard Dixon, a conservative Democrat with whom he is often at odds.

Not to be outdone, Mr. Schaefer presented Mr. Glendening and Mr. Dixon with one flower arrangement, around which they quickly posed for pictures, before Mr. Schaefer drew it back and placed it on his end of the table.

"Y'all get to look at it, but I'm taking it back to the office," Mr. Schaefer declared.

Finally, Mr. Dixon upped the ante and gave each of them phony \$1,000 bills.

"With a picture of Grover Cleveland on both sides — don't try to spend them," Mr. Dixon warned. "I don't usually give out money."

Politicians from Baltimore City and 19 of Maryland's 23 counties still had to make their best pitch for the state to give them a combined total of almost \$137 million more in school aid from a remaining pot of just \$62 million.

It's a State House tradition known as the "Beg-a-thon."

Harford and Montgomery trotted out children to make their pleas. Montgomery has four lobbyists; Harford brought presents wrapped in cellophane and pink and black balloons.

Prince George's brought earnest pleas for help in building neighborhood schools needed to comply with an agreement to end court-ordered desegregation — rubber squeeze toys shaped like that most-important bodily muscle, the heart.

"We know you have heart, and we know you have stress," said Sen. Leo Green, Prince George's Democrat.

Mr. Schaefer even scolded his beloved Baltimore for paying a firm \$1.5 million to tell them they needed to spend \$606 million on its schools.

Leaders from Calvert — which has the smallest land area and greatest growth rate of Maryland's counties — said they backed the governor's "smart growth" plan to stop sprawl, but it wasn't keeping new residents with school-aged children from moving to their once-rural land.

Delegate George Owings, Calvert Democrat, didn't offer presents but returned three small washers he said weren't used in building Windy Hill Middle School.

"We don't waste things," Mr. Owings said.

And Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., a Democrat whose district includes parts of Calvert, Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties, tugged at them all with a reminder of Calvert County resident Louis L. Goldstein, whose death after 40 years as comptroller made way for Mr. Schaefer.

"Louie used to wink, turn to the governor and tell you how important this is," Mr. Miller said.