

# New House speaker says region will get 'fair share'

## Taylor balances new position, that of delegate

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CUMBERLAND — Delegate Casper R. Taylor Jr., D-Allegany, the recently-named Speaker of the House of Delegates, said Saturday he will use his new position to help Western Maryland "get its fair share" from state government.

"I don't think my constituents will expect us to go to the state and get more than our fair share," he said. "But I think we have to make every effort to get our fair share."

Speaking to the *Cumberland Times-News* following a public hearing on the 1994 legislative agenda, Mr. Taylor said he will strive to balance his duties as a local representative with those of the speaker's office, which will require him to represent the entire house.

He said he will work to secure the projects and funding to which the region is entitled.

"As long as Western Maryland gets its fair share, we should be immensely happy, but we should not be satisfied with less than our fair share."

Mr. Taylor said there are "any number" of examples from recent history where Western Maryland has not gotten due notice in Annapolis. He noted I-68 as a glaring example, saying completion of the long-awaited project was years overdue.

The Cumberland native, being hailed these days as "Mr. Speaker," said his new position will also give the region greater visibility during the 1994 election, when state voters choose a new governor. Mr. Taylor, who referred to Governor William Donald Schaefer as his friend during last week's acceptance speech in Annapolis, said Mr. Schaefer has given vital support to the western counties during his two terms of office.

"We have a governor who is without any question the best governor that Western Maryland could ever possibly have," he said.

With the opening of the 1994 legislative session less than two months away, Mr. Taylor said his new duties should not have much of an effect on his schedule. He said he already spends every day in Annapolis when the legislative convenes, and will continue to travel home most weekends. "It's not going to change my schedule that much, very honestly."

The 59-year-old Taylor, who was first elected to the House of Delegates in 1975, adeptly sidestepped a question Saturday from a resident inquiring about future plans. "It would be nice to have a governor from Western Maryland," said Westernport resident Thomas Marsh.