

A. Yes, we're working on the idea of revamping the executive branch of government with particular regard to transportation. I made this statement several weeks ago, and I made it around the counties a few times. I am not sure that my position paper advocating an office of transportation is the correct solution. I'm in the process of changing my opinion for this reason. It seems to me that if an office of transportation is to function effectively, it has to be headed by an overall czar of transportation. And I don't think such a person can be found who will be able to work compatibly with the State Roads Commission, with the Airport Authority, with the Maryland Port Authority, with mass transit people, and who has a sufficient amount of overall knowledge to boss, entirely, the functions of those offices. Now, the only other approach is the approach of a coordinator who will simply assimilate information from the other agency heads of the components of transportation and will then try to coordinate the efforts to avoid the agencies going in opposite directions with one another. I don't think we need to interpose, between the existing levels of government, such a person. I have already received, under the Curlett recommendations, program executives who can do this job very well. So I don't really see any need to create another job category in between me and my program executives and the department heads, if his function is only to be advisory. The alternative that I mentioned when I first began to discuss this question is that you have a total comptroller of all transportation; but, from what I have seen, it is impossible to find a person with sufficient qualifications to do that job, to delve into the intricacies of all these different aspects of transportation. It is hard enough to find a good roads man or a good airport man or a good mass transit person. So it may well be that I'm going to abandon the idea of a transportation head and allow the task force to investigate other systems of handling the problem, such as the program executive, simply making certain that I have all information and am kept fully advised of exactly what's happened and is happening in all of the various transportation agencies so that we can prevent them from going in different directions from one another.

Q. Governor, the Legislative Council is considering this problem.

A. I understand the Legislature is considering it, and I have made known my shift in position and I recognize fully that this is not in accordance with my transportation paper and my campaign statement. But I just found out that what I said wasn't proper, wasn't operable, in my opinion. I made that known to the heads of the Legislature, and I'm trying to convince them to take another look at the problem too, because I haven't seen where this so-called office of transportation