

Q. Do you plan to be working with your successor in drawing up this budget?

A. Well, the considerations that remain open will be left to some extent, after I depart, for some modification by my successor. As I've indicated, he will not be elected until I've physically left the governorship. I will make myself available to him for any consultation he may desire. And I'd like to help him in any way I can.

Q. Governor, will you in any way work with the Republican members of the Legislature perhaps to elect your successor?

A. I don't think it would be proper for me, leaving the governorship at this time with the transitional problems and my need to remain an impartial advisor to my successor, to take any partisan steps. And I will avoid that.

Q. Governor, will you have appointments between now and your departure?

A. Well, I may make appointments up to the time of my departure — yes.

Q. Governor, you're legally leaving at noon on January the 7th. The Legislature meets on January the 6th. Can they legally elect your successor before your resignation?

A. Well, there's a lot of doubt about that. I understand the Secretary of State has done some research on it and it's not conclusive, but certainly I would think that if it were done, it would have to be ratified later. And I don't see any advantage to doing it if there's some doubt as to legality.

Q. It would then be at least a 2-day special session?

A. I would think yes.

Q. Governor, by your leaving on the 7th, will there still be enough time for the new Governor to propose a tax increase or some new tax program in the Legislature?

A. Well, there's always time for that. That can be done anytime during the session.

Q. Governor, have there been any plans made for your portrait?

A. No plans as yet — no.

Q. Will there be one?

A. I assume there probably will. It's been traditional, although no decisions have been made in this regard.