

A. Yes, I am. Thus far I think Mr. Burch has done an excellent job of pressing forward with the investigation and I'm hopeful that he will be able to conclude it within another 60 days.

Q. Governor, it looks like there is a better chance this year than ever before to outlaw the death penalty and you said that you would like to have a study of the entire situation. In the light of what happened yesterday with the amendment attached to it, if the bill goes through would you sign it?

A. I want to tell you what I'm worried about in regard to the bill and the amendment that has been referred to as the Clark amendment. Presently under our procedures a person can be convicted of first degree murder and upon a recommendation of leniency from the jury, or I believe upon the judge's own initiative, can be given a life sentence instead of a death penalty. If the Clark amendment goes through, an amendment which I expressed interest in, and meets my position of concern over the ability of the person who would have drawn the death penalty being paroled after 15 years, if that amendment goes through without further amendments to make it possible for the person who would not have drawn the death penalty in the first instance having a chance to be paroled as he presently has, then I think maybe it may be a little too restrictive. And I think we have got to consider this problem. In short what I'm saying is, a person who would be convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, as I understand the Clark amendment, would now have no possibility of parole after 15 years. I would like to see the removal of the chance of parole extend only to those who would draw the death penalty, and I'm not sure just how this should come about. We have the matter under consideration and may wish to sponsor further amendments.

Q. Governor, what are your views on the abortion bill?

A. Well, the amended bill seems to meet the objections of the medical people involved. I'm for the bill's purpose. I think that certainly there should be some legitimate procedure with the proper safeguard for abuses, and apparently the amendments meet these safeguards, to allow abortions to be performed where the health of the child or the parent is involved.

Q. Governor, Dr. Allen has a resolution to study a plan to subsidize a medical program whereby interns and resident physicians may be induced to stay in Maryland. What do you think of it?