

STATEMENT AS GOVERNOR-ELECT ON APPOINTMENT
OF BIPARTISAN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON
TAX REFORM

December 7, 1966

With the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, I have today appointed a bipartisan legislative committee to develop a comprehensive program of tax reform that we can present to the 1967 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

I have asked Senator Harry R. Hughes of Caroline County to serve as chairman of this important committee and Delegate J. Glenn Beall, Jr., of Allegany County to serve as its vice-chairman. Senator Hughes has served with distinction as chairman of the Finance Committee and majority floor leader of the Maryland Senate and has demonstrated a broad knowledge of State fiscal problems. Delegate Beall is a member of the important House Ways and Means Committee and is the minority floor leader in that Chamber.

Others who have agreed to serve on the committee are Delegate William Houck of Frederick County, Senator John W. Steffey of Anne Arundel, Senator J. Joseph Curran of Baltimore City, and Senator-elect Jervis S. Finney of Baltimore County. I have asked Mr. John G. Lauber, the director of finance for Montgomery County, who is presently working with me on the budget, to serve as my personal representative on the committee. Three of the legislative members are Democrats and three are Republicans.

Senate President William S. James and House Speaker Marvin Mandel agree with me that this is the proper approach to this most difficult problem.

As I stated repeatedly during my campaign for Governor, tax reform is the most critical problem facing the State of Maryland at this moment.

We must better balance the revenue resources of the State to prevent continued increases in the property tax, which is now the only substantial revenue source for local governments. Retired persons and people on fixed incomes are suffering serious inequities because of the runaway growth in property taxes. The property owner bears an unfair share of the local tax burden.