

exactly what this means to him, the ability to keep his property tax rate down to some reasonable limit.

A real property tax bill is something that's pretty familiar to all of us. I guess we all wish it would come marked void with no totals on it, but unfortunately the figures in the lower right hand corner are rather imposing at times. And it is because of the way this bill is escalating that it becomes necessary for our tax program to do something about it, and that's why the \$95 million I just mentioned to you becomes very important to the local subdivisions to help hold this bill down.

Now, let's look at the effect of the property tax and what's happening to it. In Baltimore County, a county that I have more than a casual knowledge about, you'll find that last year the costs went up \$13,000,241.00. That means that the budget of Baltimore County grew by \$13,000,241.00 last year. Under the Agnew-Hughes plan with the Lee amendment, Baltimore County will receive \$14,000,698.00. In short, if the county budget were to expand this year the same amount that it expanded last year, there would be enough money provided by this plan to avoid any increase in this property tax bill whatsoever.

In Baltimore City last year, costs went up \$65 million. Under the plan, Baltimore City will receive \$46,754,000.00, which is a significant amount of its requirement. Anne Arundel County costs went up last year \$8,699,000.00. Under the plan, Anne Arundel County will receive \$6,998,000.00, and Montgomery 14 million. As a matter of fact, the Montgomery County manager, Mr. Butcher, indicated that he saw in store for that county a 56 cent tax increase this year without any tax revision. With tax revision he will receive the equivalent of 58 cents. And for Prince George's and Dorchester, of course, similar figures indicate what this plan can do to help these subdivisions meet their requirements of education, police protection and the like.

I'd like to mention to you a very important point. Of the \$95 million that's going to go back into the treasuries of the local subdivisions, \$65 million of that is not only earmarked but mandated for educational purposes. It's mandated for such things as the kindergarten program and better school construction. Also, \$16 million of that \$95 million is mandated for police protection. Certainly, all of us agree that we must take some very formidable steps immediately to eliminate crime in the streets.

These are the reasons, ladies and gentlemen, why this is not a tax increase but a tax reform. If we can take the pressure off these sub-