

divisions, to add the amounts into this tax bill so that they won't have to do that and can put the amounts on a better basis, on an ability to pay basis, not on money which has been accumulated, but on money which is being accumulated, we'll be doing something. We'll be helping the retired couple on a fixed income, the couple who have earned and paid for their home but who no longer have the dollars flowing in to meet the escalation of the property tax. These people will not be forced to sell their homes as property taxes increase beyond their means to pay. It is a better balance of taxation related to the ability to meet the costs of government, and that's why I say to you that the property tax, acknowledgedly the culprit, the most regressive tax of all, must be removed from bearing 90 percent, 90 percent I say, of the local costs of government. We've got to do something about it.

In a few moments we are going to move on to see how this new tax plan affects you by giving you certain examples of how it will work.

You know, if I took the map of Maryland and tore off the eastern shore and the Chesapeake Bay, I guess we'd sort of lose a good part of our reputation as a recreation state. If I took scissors and cut off all the tobacco growing counties and pretended that they never existed, who knows but that we may not have turned out to be a part of Pennsylvania? Let's say we cut a hole and Baltimore City was never a part of Maryland; in that case we'd all be a sad looking bunch right now, that is if there were any television to see me on or any people to watch it.

What I'm saying is that Maryland is the kind of State it is because it is an entity, because it is America in miniature, because it is diversified in all respects. We want to keep the whole of Maryland a good place to live. We can only do this if the State flourishes. Who can say that it's not the business of every Marylander that the 82 obsolete schools in Baltimore City could be renovated and reconstructed? Who can say that the Baltimore beltway, which is a very thriving part of Baltimore County's industrial economy, would be there if Baltimore City were not at the hub to attract that wonderful industry that helps pay Baltimore County taxes?

The State is an entity. Each part of it is interdependent on the other part. For example, we're coming to a period where the southern Maryland counties are very hard pressed because of the deprivation of certain revenues they've been used to from gambling. Who can say that