

it's not the business of the entire State to be certain that those counties receive the assistance necessary that they may prosper and be helped economically until they can again assume on their own the burden of providing minimal standards of service to their citizens?

The Maryland Constitution demands that Maryland provide for every child a system of free public education, and certainly we want the education in Maryland to be competitive and exemplary when compared with all the other states of the Union. These things are necessary and because of that a system of equalization, a system of helping each other, must be developed to help meet our needs. This plan does that, but it restricts equalization to two fields: the fields of education and police protection.

Now, there were many of you who objected to the old Cooper-Hughes plan because to be equalized under it, or sent from a richer subdivision to a poorer subdivision, was anything a city or county saw fit to spend money on. And some of you said, "We in Garrett County are not interested in what Baltimore City pays its administrators, that's their business. We may be interested in children and what we have to do to help them receive minimal standards, but we're not interested in recreation or the flourishes that the City may think are necessary."

Our plan has cured those objections. Our plan has made it possible that the money that is flowing from a richer county to a poorer county is specifically designated for two fields that nobody could possibly quarrel with. We all know we've got to provide good education for our children and we all know we've got to provide a safe place in our city so that travelers and those of us who move from place to place will not be molested. I believe that the plan as amended, and incidentally it hasn't been amended at all in these respects, is a good plan for all of Maryland, to help us grow and flourish as a State.

Now let's go back, as I promised earlier, and take a look at exactly how this plan affects you as an individual.

First of all let's look at the chart which makes a comparison of the present income tax structure with the proposed. If you're making \$3,000 a year gross income you pay no present tax and you would pay no tax under the new plan. If your gross income annually is \$5,000 your present tax at the 3 percent flat rate would be \$39.00. Your new tax under the Lee amendment would be \$35.00, making a net change of minus \$4.00 in your favor. If your income is \$7,000 your present tax is \$93.00 and the new tax on income is \$114.00, for a \$17.00 in-