

by prospects of an increased Federal tax and a new county tax and a new real estate tax, the additional state tax burden will put me out of business." Again, I want to emphasize that the \$95 million is not new taxation. It is money sent back to allow your local government to meet its needs in education and police protection without raising your property taxes. I can't make it any more simple than that. Certainly the people at the local governmental level are not willing to continue to pay 90 percent of the cost of their government out of the tax that's aimed at one category of citizens, those that own their homes. Of course those who rent are affected too, because if I'm a landlord I'm not going to let increased costs of operation, of which taxes become a major factor, hold my margin of profit down. I'm going to increase my rent. So property taxes hurt us all.

Let's take one more letter: "Why have business and industry not been asked to support the programs?" This is not at all accurate. Business and industry do support the programs. Business and industry in Baltimore City are supporting the programs: the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce for one, the Greater Baltimore Committee for another.

Now, one final question: Do we have to do anything at all about taxes? Yes, we do. Because while I talk about bringing relief for the property owner, the real story is that property taxes are becoming so high as to become actually prohibitive in a very short time. Without tax reform the State of Maryland tells the local subdivisions to sink or swim by their own devices. With tax reform the State recognizes its responsibilities in education and police protection and provides the subdivisions with grants in these areas to relieve their financial burden and to improve the lot of all citizens. Without tax reform we continue an outmoded and callous system of taxation. With tax reform we set up a very firm, very sound, and very equitable system that can allow us to go forward in many areas with the knowledge that we all have a fair share and a fair responsibility in the future. Thank you for listening and good night.

Mr. Turner. And that's the 120 million dollar question as presented by the Honorable Spiro T. Agnew, Governor of the State of Maryland. It is probably a tribute to the Governor that a second television program scheduled on WJZ-TV tomorrow night presenting the opponents of rival tax plans has been canceled at their request. With the General Assembly's modification of the Hughes-Agnew plan along the lines acceptable to the Governor, effective opposition appears to have faded away. The 120 million dollar question now rests with your elected representatives. This is Jerry Turner. Thank you and good evening.