

Q. Governor, also on the tax question, Baltimore City officials recently realized that the combined surtaxes, both mandatory and voluntary, are going to bring the City about \$2 million less than the figure you sent to the Legislature indicated. Do you have any comment on this?

A. I'm always leary of these estimates of less money being received. If I weren't, I wouldn't be living as dangerously as I am with revenue estimates for the State, because some of our fiscal people are telling us that we are not going to receive as much money as we hope we are. The last revenue estimate on the sales tax indicates the proceeds are off a projected \$2 million. That was put out by the Comptroller's office. I'm not sure that we can depend entirely on these. The economy changes and fluctuates so quickly that it's very seldom that we have a poor result that's serious enough to cause any concern in the overall picture.

Q. Governor, how recently was that sales tax reduction?

A. I think it has been within the last month. It was published by the Comptroller. It seems to me that I saw a report in one of the newspapers.

Q. Governor, an organization known as the Fighting Taxpayers' Association is attempting to petition the tax reform program to referendum. They claim they have already collected something like 5,000 signatures. Are you concerned with this move or do you agree with some of the officials that this can't be done anyway, so let's ignore it?

A. My interpretation is that this type law is not subject to a referendum. I can't imagine any kind of tax increase in any period in our history that would not have gone to referendum. I have no concern about it whatsoever. I am continually concerned about the lack of public understanding about the tax program, and you gentlemen are tempting me again to open up with another commercial about how good this tax program is. But I'm going to resist it and simply say look what happened to the property taxes this year, and look what happened to them last year, and then decide whether this is really all burdensome or whether there aren't some relief factors connected with it.

Q. On that same note, Governor, whose fault is it that the public is so badly informed about the tax program? Do you think it is the press's fault?

A. No, I don't think so. I think it's a general chore on the part of the