

It has been tentatively decided that the General Assembly will be called into special session on Thursday, at 10:00 a.m. Now, this is subject to modification based on certain problems of printing and other pro forma matters that have to be thoroughly resolved before we set the date and time explicitly.

I don't anticipate there will be any problem with the correction of the error in the bill. It's a very narrow point of law as is easily manifested by the fact that Judge Cardin in Baltimore City decided otherwise than the Court of Appeals. But since the Court of Appeals is the highest court of the state, obviously it's decision will control and we must take steps to make certain that the money can be distributed to the subdivisions.

I want to emphasize that the Court of Appeals has upheld the validity of the taxing measure and the only portion thereof which is called into account is the distribution of the revenues to the subdivisions. Now, as you all know very well, most of the subdivisions have already enacted their budgets and it's necessary for them to have these monies if they are to provide the services which they are obligating themselves for. So it's most important that we call the General Assembly into special session so that the distribution of the \$98 million to the subdivisions, which is for the purpose of holding down the property taxes, can take place.

Q. Governor, do you feel, in view of the opposition of some of the Maryland residents so far to this tax plan, that you will have a free passage to correct this mistake or do you see the least little bit of opposition in the General Assembly?

A. No, I see no probability of any opposition generating, simply because the tax measure itself will not even be considered at this session.

Q. Will anything else be considered, Governor, while you have them here?

A. Well, it's hoped that we can restrict the session to the specific purpose of correcting the mistake in the appropriations measure.

Q. Governor, can you tell us how this mistake came about?

A. Well, I guess it came about, if it can be characterized a mistake, because the lawyers who prepared the tax legislation — and incidentally they came from the Comptroller's office, the Attorney General's office and from my office, so there is no attempt to place the blame on any particular branch of the government — those lawyers construed