

court's decision. In other words, that the appropriations' separation from the tax bill does not make the tax bill referable. We feel that it's nonreferable because it's inextricably connected with the budgetary situation, the budgetary features of the State budget and of the local budgets.

Q. Governor, shortly after Mr. Goldstein raised these constitutional questions you said at a press conference a few weeks ago it was a political charade, sniping at the back. It seems that under the Court of Appeals' decision, if these questions had not been raised, it's possible that a later study might have shown the distribution of the money as unconstitutional. Do you still think that Mr. Goldstein was merely sniping at your office?

A. No, I would have to say that Mr. Goldstein did raise this question. He raised about four other questions of substance. He generated a certain amount of sniping at the bill, as witness the fact that other suits are in the mill on the same question, which now won't have to be heard. And if the sniper's bullet hit, I'm very happy that it was only a flesh wound.

Q. But if he hadn't brought this question, though, the money could have been distributed and then found to be illegal?

A. Well, we could have always rectified that by a special session of the Legislature. I don't believe there would have been any court case on the matter without the direction of the public attention to these questions, not only by Mr. Goldstein but by other people.

Q. Aren't you glad to have this question settled?

A. I'm just as happy to have it worked out, but I'm not sure that I'm entirely in accord with the finding. I guess I have a right to disagree with the judicial branch. Their ruling is certainly the one that becomes the law in this case. But my feeling was that it was a very close question, and had I been a judge I would have called it the other way.

Q. Governor, how costly is this inadvertent mistake going to be tax-wise?

A. You have got to figure it will cost at least \$25,000.

Q. Governor, on your question, do you intend to take any stand for or against any of the proposals on the draft constitution at the Constitutional Convention?