

State's economy by putting more spending power in the pockets of people least able to pay more taxes. We have created economic development incentives by financing more key services at less cost to local governments. We have provided security for the elderly and equity for the homeowner. We're proud of fiscal reform for all it has accomplished and we've just begun to fight!

Business taxation requires reform too and the augmented Hughes Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Reform with both citizen and legislative representation from Anne Arundel County is attacking this problem. Right now we have crazy taxes on business relating to gross profits and inventory; we have a sales tax on machinery and equipment that is inhibiting industrial development in areas where we need it most. We must rearrange our business tax structure and relate it to ability to pay so that the business carrying a big inventory due to slack sales is not penalized; so that the firm with a deceptively high gross profit but an actually low net profit is given a break. We must make business taxation uniform and the tax burden more nearly equal throughout the business community.

Two other areas currently under study with major legislative programs planned for introduction before the 1968 General Assembly are of special interest to you as Anne Arundel residents.

We have established a Committee on State Highway Financing to prepare recommendations to extricate our road construction program from its current, critical financial straits. The failures of the Six-Year Secondary and Primary Road Construction Program are well-known and agonizing. Again this is an "inherited" problem, one we did not create but cannot ignore. I am looking to this Committee and the State Roads Commission to devise new solutions, designate new alternatives, determine new financing formulae. I am determined to get Maryland's road construction programs moving again—and moving first and fastest right here in Anne Arundel County.

Of course, we have made great progress... the second Bay bridge and Baltimore Harbor tunnel are important to all of Maryland, but especially important to this County's growth. I cannot resist the opportunity of noting that, while a parallel span is essential to a great Maryland and great for you, it will not, in spite of the claims of a certain Congressman whose *short* views belie his last name, mean any profit to me. For while I have great affection for my adopted county, I will not profit in dollars from its growth.