

members of the committee felt were overly generous shares. So they juggled figures around and made Baltimore City's share bigger than the two suburban Washington counties, and in the process reduced the shares for the thirteen other counties in Maryland. Do you have any comment on this?

A. Well, first of all, I don't know whether what you have given me, even though it accurately reflects what you may have heard, is what really happened. I think it very unlikely that it did, and I will tell you why I feel that way. The changes in the police protection formula were anticipated even at the time the old formula was adopted, and such criteria as the density of population were then said to be something we would have to look into. Now, the reason that I think the property tax modification does exactly the thing in reverse of what you would anticipate is that they're talking about returning now the equivalent of 11.6 percent of the property tax which would have the effect of increasing Montgomery County's share rather than decrease it. I suppose the balance of what's being done is simply a matter of completion and refinement of the original reform, and I would think that it makes good conversation for those who would stir additional resentment against the tax reform to drop a hint that possibly this is aimed at Montgomery County.

Q. It was more than a hint. There were direct statements. I was at a meeting where it occurred and it was quite bluntly stated by Senator Hughes, Senator Finney and several others that we can't sell this in the Legislature; it's too generous to Montgomery and Prince George's counties. And at that point they looked prohibitive.

A. Well, I think it's unfortunate that comments of that type would be made because the tax reform was sold to the Legislature without any regard to whether it favored or hurt these mysterious ethereal figures known as counties. As far as I'm concerned taxes are paid by individuals, and they're either poor or they're wealthy. And there are a lot of poor ones in Montgomery County who are receiving some benefit from the tax reform, and there are a lot of wealthy ones in Baltimore City who are getting clobbered. So this generalization of what a tax program does to a county is really something that fits into the realm of the mystic, and it doesn't mean a whole lot except to stir political hostility to the program.

Q. Governor, a couple of weeks ago you made some comments about discipline in the high schools and junior high schools. What public reaction, if any, have you gotten?