

Q. Governor, there has been some complaining about conditions at the University of Maryland dining hall. Do you have any comment, and do you agree with Dr. Elkins that this news has been distorted?

A. I wouldn't say that the news has been distorted, but I would say that in any accusation of this type where a case of food poisoning arises in an institution where they feed that many people it is easy to overemphasize the total problem. If one or two people get very ill after eating, it causes quite a crisis. Dr. Elkins has indicated a very grave concern over this and has taken steps to clear it up as quickly as he can. I don't feel that there is a general cause for unremitting alarm connected with these cases. I think they can be straightened out. I also would say that so far as students in colleges are concerned, it has been my experience that there is always a substantial percentage who don't like what they get to eat. This doesn't mean that they should have to put up with food that makes them ill. But it does mean that it's a fertile ground for complaints.

Q. Do you think that the University of Maryland dining hall should be subject to the same health inspections as other State institutions?

A. Indeed I do. I think that there shouldn't be two standards for health inspections where food is being served anywhere in the State.

Q. Getting back to the tax problem again — when the Board of Estimates met, you and Comptroller Goldstein heard exactly the same things and yet came out with different opinions. Do you have any explanation for this?

A. I don't know what the Comptroller's opinion was, other than what I read because I didn't actually hear him when he was giving his statement to the television cameras. The one thing I did hear him say was that the credit of the State is still triple A, and I've got to agree that that is true, yet I don't see how it applies to the existing bleak revenue picture.

Q. But his principal point, Governor, was that the State revenue picture in terms of flow through the Treasurer's office acting as tax collector is bright, but the tax program has now been worked out in a way that so much of this money is sent to the 23 counties and Baltimore City. In other words this is a bright picture but it is bleak insofar as the amount of money you have to finance your budget?

A. No, I can't agree that it is a bright picture, right now. How can you say a picture is bright when a projected sales tax growth of 10 percent is tailed off to 6 or 6½ percent. How can you say it's bright