

porting their programs. In short, where you have a Legislature oriented six-to-one against the Governor's party, the Governor has to voluntarily recognize that they represent the leadership of the Democrats, that they have a certain pride of authorship and I want to do this because I recognize that together we can achieve a great deal for the State.

Q. Well, money they always say is the root of all evil, but the lack of money is the sorrow of all governors, they think. But it seems to me, Governor, you have had a year to think of this very seriously. Perhaps there have to be new sources of revenue uncovered for state and local governments.

A. Yes, we undertook a very ambitious tax reform. It didn't exactly make me as popular as Willie Mays or Johnny Unitas last year, but we sensed the need to do it. We sent our revenue into local government because they were in a more desperate situation than the State was. Consequently, the State is still facing strictures in revenue and this year as a result of that we had to cut our general fund spending increases down to 6.1 percent, which is the lowest amount of increase in the past 20 years in Maryland. Obviously there are many good programs that had to be curtailed. I didn't like to do this, but I faced no alternative because frankly the people cannot stand on the State level any broad-based increase in taxation. The answer is going to come from a recognition by the Federal government that there are some exploding problems that the State is charged with the financial ability to solve, and that it just doesn't have that ability. I feel, for example, that the welfare problem has to be taken over by the Federal government. I feel that it's to the benefit of everyone if welfare costs are not only standardized but administered under a national setup, such as Social Security. I think this will relieve the constant flow of the impoverished to those states who are doing the most in social reform.

Q. This is a great problem in Maryland?

A. They are matters that we need Federal assistance in.

Q. Do you think that the Federal government taking over the welfare problem could stabilize costs? It seems to me, at least in the letters that I receive — and you receive thousands more than I do — one of the great complaints from taxpayers is that welfare costs keep going up all the time and they can see no reason for it, these letter writers, and demand that something be done. But it's easy to ask for something to be done; it's harder to do something about it.

A. First, I've got to be totally frank and say, no, I don't think they