

(Opposition to the New Constitution)

Q. Governor, yesterday Dale Anderson all but came out and opposed the new State Constitution. Do you have any comments on that and whether or not his announcement yesterday will have any bearing on the outcome of the Constitution being adopted?

A. I guess the statement of a chief executive of a county the size of Baltimore has got to have an effect on the possibility of the Constitution being adopted. I don't agree with Mr. Anderson's conclusions. I have found myself more often than not in disagreement with his philosophy in this area, but he's entitled to his opinion and entitled to state it. I only hope that he won't equivocate, but will either oppose or support it and not hover around on the middle ground all the time.

(Revenue Estimates)

Q. Governor, in light of the revenue estimates released yesterday, do you think you'll have enough money to fund a mandated program and the supplemental programs?

A. Well we won't have enough with just the \$2 million, I don't believe, but I think what we're going to have to do is to up our estimate of reversions. You know reversions have traditionally run more than the amount budgeted. Back in the days of Governor Tawes, they used to be carried at about \$2 million. We carried them this year at \$5 million, but they have been going up. This year's reversions will probably be somewhere around \$13 million. So I may up the estimates of reversions, but I've got to be very careful about that because when you have a budget that is as tight as this budget is — a real economy measure — there will be less in the way of reversions. The departments will spend up to their allocated amounts a lot more closely than they would if they have a looser budget to deal with, so I wouldn't hesitate to up that figure enough to cover mandated expenses.

Q. Do you have confidence in the figures of Comptroller Goldstein?

A. I don't have total confidence that the revenue estimates will prove to be correct. I have confidence that the figures that the Board of Revenue Estimates provided me with yesterday are accurate as far as the information that has flowed in to them at this point. So what I am saying is that I am not questioning the legitimacy of those revenue estimates, but I am saying that I think when April 15th has gone there will be a much more salutary picture of the income tax revenues than presently exists. Unfortunately, we won't be able to do much