

a minute. If all else fails, if we have no bill at all or we get one that does not meet your satisfaction, would you call a special session?

A. Well, if the City were left with no alternative other than to increase the property tax by a dollar or a dollar and a quarter or whatever the case may be, under an examination of the current conditions at that time, I may be forced to do that. I would discourage forcing us to be placed in such a position and I don't think the City is so unreasonable that it won't recognize my conviction and my sincerity when I say I will not, under any circumstances, allow this earnings tax to continue. It is the most regressive tax there is. It's a tax that pays no heed to the burden on an individual taxpayer whether they be burdens of dependency or catastrophe from casualty loss or medical expense or whatever the case might be. It's a tax that doesn't even relate itself to apportioning among the people using the service who should pay for it. It's just a bad tax, and I will not continue it or allow it to continue, if I have anything to do with it.

Q. Governor, have you ever thought about the suggestion that graduation of the income tax might be increased?

A. I mentioned a while back that that seemed to be a proposal on the other side of Hess-Warfield and I thought that the present plan was the best one. That proposal probably has more merit than the sales tax proposal because if the people in the higher incomes are taxed at a higher rate the effective rate of their taxation is reduced because of the State tax being a legitimate deduction from the Federal income tax. And I really haven't examined the effective rates of taxation, taking the Federal tax into consideration. I'd have to do that before I would say whether I think that that's a feasibility or not.

Q. Governor, on taxes again, last week a couple of members of the Montgomery County Council were very outspoken in opposition to your plan. They directed some of their fire toward what they said was Montgomery County's feeling and didn't want to support Baltimore City. They talked about crime rates in Baltimore City. Would you address yourself specifically to this question, such as whether Montgomery County and Frederick County shouldn't support Baltimore City?

A. I think that the answers to those questions were excellently framed in several newspaper editorials which point out very specifically that no county is supporting a city or vice versa. The tax burden is falling on those who are most able to bear it. Admittedly it is not a question of who uses the most services or who gets the benefit of