

to that extent. It was intended to hold the line on taxes. I don't know what 31 cents raises — I think it's about \$300,000 a penny — so you can figure out that \$10 million that would have been available to the City, had it held the line on property taxes, went down the drain.

(Gun Control Legislation)

Q. Governor, there have been members of the Legislature who have commented on the death of Senator Kennedy that they will introduce strict gun control legislation at the next session of the Legislature — which would affect not only hand guns but rifles and shotguns as well. Will your administration support such a gun control measure?

A. Well, I have had quite a lot of experience with gun control laws, being one of the pioneers in Baltimore County for hand gun control and having appointed a commission headed by former Adjutant General Reckord to do this work. Now one of the things that I think is regrettable — there is always an attempt in the emotion of a situation to overgeneralize and say since Senator Kennedy's untimely death was caused by a pistol, therefore pistols are bad. Now I think that if you trace — as I listened on television yesterday — the custody of the weapon, it becomes immediately obvious that this gun would have been obtained by this assassin no matter how many gun laws we have. This is not a statement by me that we shouldn't have gun laws, but I think it's sort of fuzzy thinking to now say that because of Senator Kennedy's death gun laws would have cured this. This is not true. They wouldn't have cured it. This was a gun that had been purchased a long time ago and passed from hand to hand illegally, and no amount of registration would have prevented its passage. When you get into rifles and that type of weapon — again I think we do need the kind of controls that will do the job, but we cannot look to the controls to cure the violence and the lawlessness. The only thing that you can have is a registration law at the most, and a law banning sales without permits at the least. And as I have pointed out, there are some people who can throw knives with deadly accuracy, and there are some people who know how to make a homemade bomb, and there are some people — an African tribe — that shoot little darts through a blow gun very accurately. There are all sorts of ways to kill people. I do think that sometimes in our resentment against this violence we deliver our opposition too strongly and too thoughtlessly in one direction. I think that gun regulation is needed, but not the overall banning of rifles, hand guns and every type of mechanical weapon that's characterized as a gun, without a careful review.