

Q. Governor, you called the program

A. Well it's my tax bill and nobody has ever let me forget it and I am proud of it. I have said that before. I'm not proud of the estimates that were made, but after all we have to rely upon our professional help to come up with that type of information. The Comptroller loses sight of the fact that under the Constitution he is charged not just with collecting the money, as he likes to say, but with revenue planning and investigating the sources and making such recommendations. I intend to let him know, by way of a letter shortly, that he has broader responsibilities than simply ringing the cash register over there. And I'd like to know what his plans are, as a matter of fact, for getting us out of this fiscal dilemma that we are in, because it is his constitutional responsibility to propose such plans. I think I may have the wording, right here — I'm not sure. Article VI, Section 2. As a matter of fact, there is a statement by the Comptroller to the 1967 Constitutional Convention in which he admits himself that under Article VI, Section 2 of the present Constitution — that's the old Constitution — the Comptroller of the *Treasury*, elected for a four year term by the voters of Maryland, is charged with providing vital fiscal management. The Constitution itself, under Article VI, Section 2, says the Comptroller is specifically given general superintendence of the fiscal affairs of the State, and he is required to digest and prepare plans for the improvement and management of the State's revenues. Now he's never sent me any of those plans. I hope to get them from him shortly.

Q. Do you consider that fiscal mismanagement on the Comptroller's part?

A. I can't say that at this point because I haven't even been able to determine from the reports that I have had what's wrong with the estimates and we're still trying to find that out. Obviously there's been an error somewhere, and a 10% error is a pretty good error. It's a pretty bad error, an error of good amount.

Q. Governor, do you think then that the blame for the mistaken estimate at some point lies in the Comptroller's office? In other words, the fault for the misinformation lies with the Comptroller or his staff?

A. Well, I think that you've got to look at the facts, and if you look at the facts you'll find that on February 18 the Comptroller's office estimated through the Board of Revenue Estimates that the income tax was going to yield, as I recall, \$296 million. And just a few