

1 statement before you today.

2 I wish to begin with a very brief summary of  
3 the provisions for public education in Maryland as they  
4 currently appear in the Constitution of Maryland:

5 1. The Declaration of Rights -- Article 43 --  
6 establishes education as a Human Right.

7 2. The Constitution -- Article VIII -- provides  
8 Section 1. Establishment of the free public  
9 schools and provides for their financing and maintenance.

10 Section 2. A grandfather clause for the pre-  
11 existing schools.

12 Section 3. That the School Fund of the State  
13 shall be kept inviolate.

14 3. Article III. Section 52 provides:

15 (6) That "the General Assembly shall not amend  
16 the Budget Bill so as to affect.....the provisions made  
17 by the laws of the State for the establishment and main-  
18 tenance of a system of public schools...."

19 It is my understanding this will not be changed  
20 as far as the Committee's thinking is now concerned.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: That is correct.