

1 The Board of Revenue Estimates consists of
2 the Budget Director, an appointee of the Governor; the
3 State Treasurer, who is elected by the Legislature; and
4 the Comptroller, who is elected by the people. This
5 Board is responsible for the estimating of the State's
6 Revenues, in accordance with Article 41, Section 194, of
7 the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1957 Edition. This Board
8 acts as an independent body and its estimates are made
9 without reference to the budget requirements for the next
10 fiscal year.

11 Under our present Constitution, Maryland must
12 have a balanced budget and this provision should be con-
13 tinued in the new Constitution, as it has proved sound
14 for the past fifty years and has kept the State in sound
15 financial condition. It would appear obvious that a
16 Board of Revenue Estimates, with an independent system of
17 revenue estimating, will be necessary under any Constitu-
18 tion, but the only way independent estimates can be made
19 is to have people on the Board who are free to exercise
20 their own independent judgment and not be influenced by
21 the budgetary requirements.