

1 has proven that the Comptroller has released to the people  
2 of Maryland financial information beneficial to them.

3 (Discussion off the record.)

4 We see no necessity for giving the Governor  
5 full control over the fiscal affairs of the State. As a  
6 matter of fact, to do so necessarily presupposes a high  
7 degree of fiscal responsibility in candidates for Governor  
8 and we all know that such is not always the case. If  
9 the Governor is free to act in fiscal matters without  
10 any person otherwise responsible to the public acting in  
11 the capacity of a fiscal watchdog, an irresponsible  
12 Governor in one term of office could place the State in  
13 an adverse financial position from which it might take  
14 many years to recover.

15 It seems to me that there is a necessity for  
16 a system of checks and balances within the Executive  
17 Branch of government and that the present system should  
18 be continued, with an elected Comptroller.

19 I would like to add to this statement, during  
20 the past forty-five years, Maryland has had four elected  
21 State Comptrollers.