

1 ever to have a watchdog and the chief fiscal officer  
2 elected by the people.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Louie, would you take it a  
4 step further and suggest that perhaps the Comptroller  
5 should be given broader powers in this area than he now  
6 has?

7 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Well, I believe under the  
8 Maryland Constitution and the Code, powers are very broad.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: What I had in mind was if you  
10 were truly a fiscal officer, you could conceive of a  
11 situation in which revenue estimates would be his sole  
12 responsibility and not the responsibility of the Execu-  
13 tive. In other words, if you did that, then the Governor  
14 what happened in '64 couldn't happen, because you would,  
15 not you, but the Comptroller would be able to determine  
16 the need for revenues through the estimates that he  
17 would make, and in fact, the program, of course, follows  
18 that determination.

19 MR. HOFF: Couldn't an irresponsible Comptroller  
20 then put the Governor over a barrel if he had that sole  
21 authority?