

I have known John Lauber only briefly, but during that time I have come to be a great admirer of his ability and his depth of ideas. I thought it would be desirable to have someone representing the counties, since we have heard from Baltimore City, in these proceedings and I truly believe that John Lauber can do this job about as admirably as anybody I know.

So, John, if you will lead off, we will be very interested to hear what you have to say.

MR. LAUBER: Thank you. You are very kind. I might say parenthetically that we have a mutual admiration society.

Before talking about the constitutional provisions, I think you have a right to know a little bit about me and my possible biases. My background includes fifteen years in government service. I've worked for the legislature, mostly at the State level, legislative, executive. I've been an officer of public authority and I've served in both Civil Service and appointed positions. Even though I feel I have considerable background in the field of budgeting, as such, I am not specifically familiar with the problems