

1 feature which was novel at that time, and I think I can
2 say with some degree of assurance that it is not the
3 rule in a great many States that the mandated items,
4 mandated budget items dealing with public school systems
5 should not be subject to revision by the Governor.

6 I will have to give you some background now
7 as how the school system in the State is financed.

8 For many years, and up to very recent time, we
9 had what we called a principle of equalization in this
10 State. By that I mean to say that the General Assembly
11 would -- let's start first -- the State Board of Educa-
12 tion would establish a minimum standard of education in
13 terms of dollars to be spent in each County. The General
14 Assembly would make certain specific grants and require
15 each County to levy a certain amount -- it varied from
16 year to year -- on the tax base, and if the amounts
17 granted by the General Assembly, plus the amounts which
18 were raised by the local levy did not equate to the
19 minimum program, as established by law, then the State
20 would make up the difference, through general fund
21 appropriation, and this was all required by law.