

You will no doubt be importuned by many interests, who may feel themselves strong enough, seeking to impress upon you what they consider to be unfair burdens imposed upon them in the payment of taxes or other public charges. While, of course, the obligation to remedy unfairness and inequality is one to be recognized, before taking it seriously under consideration, the fact of inequality should be demonstrated by stronger evidence than the assertions of those in interest, as even the best of us are bound to feel that the burdens which we are compelled to bear are heavier than those of our neighbor, for it has ever been hard to feel another's obligations. And should you be convinced that remedial legislation is proper, great care must be exercised that in endeavoring to remedy the existing evil, greater inequalities are not produced and more unfairness created. Except in matters of administrative correction most of your thought and endeavor will be devoted to the creation of revenue to meet these fast-increasing obligations, which wealth and development necessarily entail and the growing complexity of civilization makes imperative.

It must be borne in mind that the sources of revenue from which the State at present gets the means to meet all public demands are limited. The State Levy (commonly known as the State Tax) is specifically dedicated to three purposes: public education, the public debt and the interest thereon, and limited provision for maintenance of public roads. The moneys arising from these sources cannot lawfully be diverted to other purposes. The other sources of income, known as indirect taxes, such as collateral inheritance tax, the tax on gross receipts of corporations, and license fees, etc., are the only means which the State now employs to obtain the money necessary to maintain itself and its various functions of government.

With the exceptions of the tax upon motor vehicles, which is devoted to the upkeep of the roads, and the amount paid by the State Insurance Commissioner into the Treasury of the State, being receipts by his office from taxes and license fees received from various insurance companies doing business in the State of Maryland, the foregoing comprise the material