

Mr. BRYANT. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Ferguson, we welcome anybody who would be the president of a Fighting Taxpayers Association. It sounds like a very aggressive group. Please identify yourself for this record and we will be glad to recognize you.

STATEMENT OF COURTLAND D. FERGUSON, PRESIDENT, FIGHTING TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. FERGUSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. A group of Fighting Taxpayers Associations was formed recently because we became very seriously concerned about the increases in taxes as levied by the Government. I am president of the Fighting Taxpayers Association. I am also president of the Courtland D. Ferguson, Inc., an advertising agency. We have had offices in the National Press Building since 1932.

The Fighting Taxpayers Association has no paid employees. We are strictly a group of people seriously concerned about taxes.

The CHAIRMAN. Why don't you have a seat?

Mr. FERGUSON. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. We are glad to have you with us and you are recognized, sir.

Mr. FERGUSON. Thank you. As president of the Fighting Taxpayers Association, I am here today to speak a word for the faceless American, the American taxpayer who has become merely a number in our computerized society.

Briefly, we should like to attempt to bring him back into focus, the man who works for a living, the man who has a family to support, the man who wants to feed and clothe them and give them decent living surroundings, the man who wants to take care of his family properly and educate his children.

This faceless American is now caught up in the throes of taxation heaped upon him by all different levels of government. Government has now become a giant octopus that has this man caught in its tentacles. The squeeze is on. Taxes from the Federal Government, social security taxes, sales taxes of all kinds, real estate taxes—think of any kind of a tax man can possibly devise today, and the American taxpayer is paying for it.

At some point, you take so much money away from the average working man in taxes that he does not have enough left to properly take care of his own family. We oppose this 10 percent surtax because we think that point has been reached. We feel it is time for Government to seek some other solution instead of piling more taxes upon the individual citizens.

For instance, Maryland has just doubled its income tax on the average working person by enacting a 2- to 5-percent-graduated-income tax and an arbitrary piggyback tax of 20 percent, which in Baltimore City is actually 50 percent.

This year, in Maryland, a man earning \$10,000 per year, with a wife and two children, with this proposed increased Federal income tax, increased social security tax, increased Maryland income tax, will have approximately \$2,000 taken right out of his paycheck before he ever sees it. When you add all of the sales taxes, real estate property tax, and miscellaneous taxes, direct and indirect, open and hidden, it is esti-