

1 the man who actually farms it, and I was interested perhaps
2 in removing that particular language, but I do believe
3 whether the property is owned or operated as a farm would
4 make no difference provided it was entitled to assessment
5 by its use.

6 It would perhaps be a favor to the farmer to
7 discourage him from removing this endeavor from the State
8 of Maryland because it has not been profitable for a number
9 of years, but it is also anticipated within ten years there
10 will be a food shortage in this country as well as in a
11 majority of the world. If we are to continue with the
12 language that will be as meaningful as the present farm
13 assessment -- and I would like to elaborate just briefly on
14 the present farm assessment -- the difficulty arose when
15 the interpretation was put on agricultural use and then when
16 ten acres in Rockville was pastured by one cow that farm was
17 entitled -- that land was entitled to farm assessment.

18 In my opinion, if we adopt language which will
19 read "which classes shall include land and property owned
20 and operated as farm as defined by the General Assembly by
21 law," we can still expect criteria that will grant assessment