

1 answer both Delegate Macdonald and Delegate Hardwicke who
2 have spoken together in opposition to this amendment. I
3 find in no way additional powers for the municipal corpora-
4 tions. I would be extremely disturbed for instance in the
5 City of College Park to find we could not raise our tax rate
6 because the tax rate is fixed in the municipal charter.
7 This would certainly be a sorry state of affairs.

8 As to Delegate Hardwicke's mention of new
9 charters, it has for years been the desire of the General
10 Assembly to get municipalities to update their charters,
11 adopt new charters. They even went to the extent of pub-
12 lishing new charters, 23B of the annotated code. A great
13 many of municipalities have these charters dating back to the
14 1880s, so I think the General Assembly would still hold they
15 would adopt these new charters. Certainly this amendment
16 would be a perfecting amendment. I am for it.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Carson.

18 DELEGATE CARSON: Mr. Chairman, ladies and
19 gentlemen, the history of this particular section, which
20 now lies in Section 3 of Article 11E of your Constitution,
21 is interesting. Back in the days before 1954 most of the