

asking whether the existing powers of the local subdivisions, municipalities primarily, would continue under this section. I take it your answer is that they would continue unless withdrawn and they could be withdrawn on a separate basis?

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: That is right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, I think the Chair has misstated it. Under section 7.05 they could be withdrawn only by general law.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Only by general law.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: With respect to the effect of this section on other counties which might desire to adopt the policy of granting exemptions to new industries since they have proven to be a very useful tool in industrial promotion, would it be your feeling that the right to grant exemptions would have to be given to the counties on an overall basis by general law rather than by the specific method which has been used in the past?

THE CHAIRMAN: Your question now is directed to counties rather than municipalities.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Either counties or municipalities since I assume — excuse me; the same rule does not apply.

THE CHAIRMAN: Which is your question directed to?

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: My question is counties specifically.

DELEGATE CASE: This does not deal with counties at all, Delegate Gilchrist.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: But the effect of 8.01(b) saying that the political subdivision shall obtain, unless withdrawn, the taxing powers —

DELEGATE CASE: That would be by general law.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: We said it already included the power to exempt as a part of the taxing power.

DELEGATE CASE: By general law.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Then if the power to grant exemptions in another county is desired, it will have to be granted

by general law rather than a specific method previously used?

DELEGATE CASE: That is right.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid this may have been confused. It is my understanding under 7.05 that this is not necessarily by general law, but the grant or withdrawal of taxing powers to municipalities must be by general law. That is not by counties. Is that correct?

Is that correct? As to counties it would be section 7.05. As to municipalities it would be 7.07, 8 and 9.

DELEGATE CASE: The words, "by law", you are interpreting the words "by law" used in section 7.05 to mean that a law could be passed for one county and only one county? I was under the impression that this was not the intention of the Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: It was the Chair's understanding that under section 7.05 the legislature could act differently from county to county in granting or withdrawing taxing powers, but that under sections 7.07, 7.08, and 7.09 the legislature with respect to tax matters could grant or withdraw powers from municipalities only by public general law. I thought that is what we had stated earlier.

DELEGATE CASE: If that is the case, the intention in answer to Delegate Gilchrist's question is that exemptions would be covered by the same kind of law as the power to tax and that same kind of law is interpreted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole as found in section 7.05, would be a special law for a special county. Therefore, I stand corrected in my answer. I might say, Delegate Gilchrist, that the object of the Committee on Finance and Taxation is uniformity and equality, but as I stated earlier, the methodology by which this was achieved was left to the Committee on Local Government. The two have to be put together in some fashion which I think we are trying to do here now.

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: On section 8.02 as to class, it is the interpretation of the Committee as I understand it, this is to be given as wide an interpretation as possible? Is the scope of class limited to a narrow or broad class?

DELEGATE CASE: Whatever the General Assembly seeks to do which would be reasonable.

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: More specifically, would it be within the scope of