

2. Home rule should be strengthened, not weakened. The trend throughout the country has been one of permitting local governments to enjoy increasingly the benefits of home rule. Current activities in other states confirm this. Home rule has been increasing in Maryland and reapportionment may abet this trend.

3. The General Assembly of Maryland should not be burdened with the consideration of purely local matters. Experience in Maryland demonstrates that much local legislation receives only cursory review by even the county delegation in the General Assembly. It would not be expected that members of the state delegation in the federal Congress should act upon state legislation even if the United States Constitution so permitted. There are enough important state-wide matters to occupy the full attention of the General Assembly.

4. The success of the United States system of government depends upon strong state and local governments. Among local governments, county government particularly needs to be strengthened. This is so because county government today is demonstrating that it is one of the chief instruments for effectively performing many services which are required as a result of the increased urbanization of the country. Unfortunately, many general powers inherent in county government have atrophied over the years while counties were primarily rural in character, and their functions were basically those of administrative districts of the state. Many small cities need not have been established—they had been better left as sanitary districts of counties. Weak local government begets weak state government. Independent special districts should be discouraged.

5. Government organization should be flexible and those governments established at the local level should have sufficient economic resources to enable them to sustain themselves. The demand of the people is for services. They are not particularly excited about who provides these services. Governments which are established should be clearly responsible to the people. This can be done through a variety of forms, not the least of which, in rural areas, is the strengthening of the traditional county commissioner form as it is found in Maryland. The form of government has nothing to do with the principle of home rule. If county commissioners were to delegate their administrative powers to an executive agent, thus separating policy from administration, many fundamental ills would be corrected and in rural counties the system would be satisfactory.

II CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

1. Adequate constitutional provisions delegating powers. The present constitutional provisions of Articles XI and XI-A leave the cities and counties at the mercy of the General Assembly through amendment of the Express Powers Acts and through public general laws amending other articles of the Code affecting local government administration.

2. Elimination of discriminating constitutional provisions. The effect of the present constitutional provisions is to inhibit effective local government of Baltimore City, incorporated municipalities, non-chartered counties, and chartered counties in one manner or another.

3. The Constitution should make a direct delegation of power. There could be a direct delegation of powers either by a classification of jurisdictions by