

1 not have to get petitions.

2 DR. LOEVY: Let me ask you two gentlemen at this
3 point, what would be your opinion in making Baltimore City
4 just another home rule county?

5 MR. RATCHFORD: Again, I want to answer this
6 from a theoretical point of view. From a theoretical
7 point of view, I think today it has a reasonable rela-
8 tionship because of not only the size of the many larger
9 counties which are very close to the City, as far as
10 population, but politically there are all types of rami-
11 fications. For example, excluding anything else, what
12 would you call it? Baltimore City County? This would
13 confuse it with Baltimore County, and to make any one of
14 them give up their name would take an act of God.

15 The State has virtually done it in many in-
16 stances because it says the County and City of Baltimore
17 may do this, and this is how they enact legislation, but
18 to try to get rid of that name Baltimore City, I don't
19 know how you would do it. Even though it may have all the
20 authority of a county or be considered a county, I don't
21 think you will ever change the name of Baltimore City.