

1 minutes in which to answer that question, maybe extending  
2 it another five, and Mr. Thompson, I'm going to ask you  
3 the same thing.

4 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, what I want to  
6 accomplish is the picking of your brains for the benefit  
7 of all of us, while we've got you here.

8 MR. RATCHFORD: I think, looking down these  
9 questions pretty much in order, this first one is a  
10 question we have already mentioned. Baltimore City, I  
11 think, should not be singled out for special treatment  
12 because it is no longer a special category. Other units  
13 have grown in size to be able to share its problems.  
14 Exactly how you do this, I think, is still to be decided,  
15 but I believe it makes sense, in my own feeling, to con-  
16 sider the City as one of the twenty-four major subdivisions  
17 of the State, as it generally is in stated law and as much  
18 as possible continue it that way.

19 I have already spoken on the aspect of the  
20 small cities. In some ways, this is a problem area, I  
21 think. If you say abolish all cities under a thousand