

1 looks pretty long --

2 MR. BENTON: I don't think it will take very
3 long.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, go right ahead.

5 MR. BENTON: I may paraphrase it in part, in the
6 interest of saving time. I shall confine my remarks, as
7 far as possible, to the area of local finance. You have
8 discussed the various areas of State finance with Mr.
9 Rennie. In some areas these two will overlap, and so it
10 will be necessary at times to make some reference to State-
11 local relationships.

12 "The first area which I should like to discuss
13 is that of the creation of indebtedness by local political
14 subdivisions. At the outset, it is my understanding that
15 your Commission will probably continue to regard Baltimore
16 City as a county for the purpose of finance and powers of
17 local government. My remarks, therefore, will concern
18 themselves with the delegation of power that I would
19 recommend to the twenty-four major political subdivisions
20 of the State.

21 "The present constitutional provision, as set