

1 the citizens in the area. I would have to say I cannot
2 agree with a geographical area, because I think a geo-
3 graphical area reference is very much bounded in time
4 and, as things develop, indeed changes may occur and it
5 may be a while, indeed, as Mr. Ratchford has indicated,
6 before Western Maryland may be highly urbanized. Never-
7 theless, I think that a guide along the lines of the
8 services rendered or functions rendered by the cities or
9 carried out by the cities would be better than the size
10 of the cities.

11 I would think, however, that special districts
12 that have been created for very particular services might
13 well be abolished and that the services now rendered by
14 those special districts be services rendered by whatever
15 forms of local governments this Committee ultimately
16 recommends be created in the State of Maryland.

17 I would say with respect to question 2,
18 particularly A, whether mandatory home rule would be tied
19 to a population figure; I would simply say, although I
20 don't pretend any expertise or even a great knowledge in
21 the area of county government, once again I would think