

1 the problem we faced with the broad grant of home rule
2 powers. In our original sample language, we proposed
3 classification as a possible way of leaving the State
4 Legislature some element of control over the individual
5 subdivisions granted home rule powers. Without classifi-
6 cation, we face the situation where if we have compulsory
7 home rule for 24 units of government, the State Legisla-
8 ture has to pass general legislation for all 24. I felt,
9 and I think most of us felt, that this was too great a
10 limitation on the Legislature.

11 I prepared this report simply because as I was
12 making this study, it occurred to me we have several
13 strengths in our local government situation as it now
14 exists in Maryland. One strength is that we don't have
15 classification whatsoever. Our constitution provides
16 for it, but the State has never made use of it.

17 A second thing that occurred to me is that our
18 system, our present relationship between the State and
19 local governments, does provide for a maximum amount of
20 flexibility. The way our constitution now reads, a unit
21 may either back a home rule county, it may stay as an