

1 too much. It seems mandatory home rule is simply that
2 the local governments have home rule and it may take one
3 of many forms. You restrict it to two forms, charter or
4 code home rule. I would like to get away from these res-
5 trictive Maryland terms and broaden it out somewhat.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Failing to adopt one form or
7 another, then an optional plan drafted by the Legislature
8 and made a part would then go into effect in that county
9 which had failed to act. So all counties would eventually
10 end up with some form of home rule.

11 DEAN FORDHAM: You see, Mr. Chairman, when you
12 talk about home rule, you are talking about something that
13 is highly amorphous, no universal concept of home rule.
14 It is a vacant kind of thing. Sounds fine. You have to
15 put content into those words as a semantic matter.

16 In Ohio, for example, there is an article in the
17 constitution granting substantive home rule power directly
18 to any home rule unit, city or village. Substantive
19 home rule powers are granted directly. Charter making
20 power, which has to do with setting up your structure of
21 government, et cetera, depends upon local option, may or