

1 of the Maryland Rules Committee and of its Subcommittee  
2 having to do with liaison between the Rules Committee and  
3 the General Assembly, I have been asked to express to  
4 your Commission my views concerning control by the  
5 Legislature of the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure.

6 As you know, the present Maryland Rules repre-  
7 sent a sustained effort extending over 20 years to (a)  
8 improve the effective administration of justice by authoriz-  
9 ing modern techniques to that end and by eliminating from  
10 practice in our courts obsolete and cumbersome procedures  
11 and (b) to codify in a single volume of Rules substantially  
12 all of the procedural law of the State, whether derived  
13 from prior rules, procedural statutes scattered throughout  
14 the hundred-odd Articles of the Maryland Code or from  
15 court interpretation. This represents the painstaking  
16 work of many persons and, I think, is generally regarded  
17 by lawyers and judges as a useful tool in the administration  
18 of justice. Certainly it saves much time in the preparation  
19 and trial of litigation.

20 Anything that tends to disrupt this system of  
21 rules should be avoided unless the change is imperative.