

1 the Legislature decided to create political subdivisions  
2 of the Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, Central Maryland,  
3 Western Maryland and Baltimore City and provided that all  
4 governmental powers of counties were abolished throughout  
5 the State, could it do so without a referendum, except the  
6 General Referendum Provision?

7 MR. CLAGETT: Yes, it could.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Mr. Sayre?

9 MR. SAYRE: I question whether it can, because  
10 that seems to be contradictory to the provision in (c), and  
11 I'm not clear where, The General Assembly may provide for  
12 for the creation of intergovernmental authorities which are  
13 not soluble through interlocal cooperation.

14 Now, it almost requires something that is in-  
15 soluble for an area like this, for such an authority.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: I didn't think so, on the basis  
17 of my understanding of the first sentence in (b). That's  
18 why I asked. In other words, the Legislature, as I under-  
19 stand the purport of the first sentence of (b), can  
20 abolish counties as governmental agencies.

21 MR. SAYRE: Well, I would like to believe that