

1 exercise of some independent municipal power. A city  
2 should have the power to define and provide for the punish-  
3 ment of offenses within its governmental purview. It has  
4 been considered desirable to make it clear that this power  
5 stops short of serious offenses which fall in the felony  
6 category.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I would point out to you that,  
8 as Mr. Sykes commented, if that principle were included  
9 in the Constitution, it would take away from the City of  
10 Baltimore the power it now has to legislate in the area  
11 of landlord and tenant and I would question also as to  
12 whether it would not do away completely with the new code  
13 in Baltimore City with reference to restraint. Mr.  
14 Martineau?

15 MR. MARTINEAU: I would also like to know  
16 whether under this provision a county or city could adopt  
17 an open-housing law or something like that.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gentry?

19 MR. GENTRY: The condemning words, the first  
20 words, adequate thought has not been given to this area.

21 MR. CLAGETT: I might say this was back in 1954,