

1 will be made. The amendment, as it now reads, starts
2 out that the levying of taxes by the poll is grievous
3 and oppressive and ought to be prohibited, that
4 paupers ought not to be assessed for the support of the
5 Government -- we are recommending this be eliminated
6 from the Constitution. The thrust of our recommendation
7 is that the Constitution's limitation on the taxing power
8 should be that of equality as far as possible and unifor-
9 mity as far as possible. The poll tax is not a tax which
10 has been used in recent years for the purpose of raising
11 revenue, although it once was.

12 Very few States have the prohibition against
13 the poll tax as such. Maryland did, for historical
14 reasons unrelated to voting, I might say. Of course,
15 the Supreme Court's recent decision permits the imposition
16 of a poll tax if it is not a prerequisite to voting and our
17 Committee felt that this particular matter should be left
18 to the Legislature within the guidelines of proper clas-
19 sification, uniformity and as will be suggested later.
20 Now, the amendment, Article 15 also says that, that the
21 General Assembly shall -- and I have always wondered whether