

1 to have a fourth level of government, one between the
2 County and the State which is so structured as to guide
3 all this effort in a single direction through organized
4 regional governments that are created on a representative
5 basis.

6 Second, because of the general grant that was
7 approved at the last meeting to Counties of powers,
8 plus, and because of the recognition of the fact that
9 Maryland has a rare opportunity in having 24 strong
10 County governments, including Baltimore City, gives the
11 State an opportunity to develop a kind of regional
12 government in the form of these Counties which is really
13 not available in the experience of any other State in
14 America today.

15 Already the State has done a great deal in
16 strengthening Counties compared to cities, and the act
17 of giving the Counties the broad grant of power that you
18 have is very significant. Therefore, one effort was to
19 capitalize, so to speak, upon making the Counties the
20 significant subordinate government to the State so that
21 here is recognized the Counties do have such power, and