

1 DR. BARD: I think you can answer that better  
2 than I as a judge.

3 MR. MELVIN: I haven't given much thought to  
4 this last sentence, but I am wondering about the idea of  
5 giving the Court of Appeals original jurisdiction in a  
6 reapportionment case. It seems to me that would require  
7 taking testimony and actually trying a case. I am won-  
8 dering whether it is necessary to provide it go originally  
9 to the Court of Appeals and why not have it come up in  
10 the normal way and be tried in a court with a record,  
11 and then subject to review by the Court of Appeals?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Bard, do you want to answer  
13 that?

14 MR. SCANLAN: I think it is because we wanted  
15 to eliminate one of the many steps that are in this  
16 process. We have the Legislature, the governor, and then we  
17 have to go to the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County and  
18 the Court of Appeals. You would have four tiers. It seems  
19 to us that the question of a reapportionment in a situation  
20 like that would be of such paramount public importance  
21 that the Court of Appeals would be the last authoritative