

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I mentioned this earlier, but
2 you didn't comment on it specifically. What is your
3 opinion of a broad grant of power but leaving in the
4 present concept of general legislation that we have here
5 in Maryland, the idea that any law applying to two or more
6 of your home rule counties would be a general law, as
7 against defining it in terms and effect as applying to all
8 of one class or to all counties?

9 DEAN FORDHAM: I think that is pretty good
10 division because it does tend to break down this idea that
11 exists today that if you can enact legislation as to a
12 single county, the real decision is made by the delegate
13 from that county, or that if the Legislature wants to,
14 on the initiative of somebody else, it can step in and act
15 on the problems of this county without regard to any other.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Actually if you had the defini-
17 tion of general being applicable to two, would you need
18 classification if you had it down to that degree of flexi-
19 bility?

20 DEAN FORDHAM: Yes, put aside the word, classi-
21 fication, for the moment and refer to this particular device.