

1       may not adopt a charter.

2               That is a possibility so far as Maryland is  
3       concerned as to your county situation. You can have a  
4       substantive grant of powers available to all counties, but  
5       so far as adoption of a charter to define your framework  
6       of government is concerned, you can leave that optional.  
7       There are various possibilities here.

8               THE CHAIRMAN: I think for purposes of defini-  
9       tion, we are thinking in terms of legislative powers being  
10      vested in the home rule unit and taken out of the Legis-  
11      lature. Either we do have a grant of substantive powers  
12      to the County Commissioners -- for example, under Article  
13      25, the express powers act, by way of explanation and  
14      definition, is contained in Article 25(a), a subsidiary  
15      to Article 25, which grants specifically to those counties  
16      that have adopted a charter certain powers and those powers  
17      are called the express powers.

18              But also Article 25 grants to the County  
19      Commissioners various substantive powers but not legisla-  
20      tive authority. They have to go back to the Legislature  
21      through their delegates in the Legislature and obtain