

perts.¹¹ The participants focused their attention particularly on ways in which the present Constitution of Maryland could be revised to empower local governments to respond more readily to current and anticipated needs for expanded urban services and facilities.¹²

The Commission, in its recommendations, sets forth no single "pat" solution for easing the problems of governmental and functional complexity at the local level. The Commission is convinced that no single approach can be identified as being the most desirable. It is also convinced that it is not feasible for the General Assembly to endeavor to legislate a single solution for the various metropolitan areas. Rather, the approach recommended in the Commission's report is that authority be granted by the General Assembly to all metropolitan areas to employ whichever principal methods and forms for resolving their problems that seem preferable to their residents and officials, in light of all attendant circumstances.

While subscribing firmly to the prin-

¹¹ Dr. John Bebout, Director, Institute of Urban Affairs, Rutgers University; The Honorable Beverly Briley, Mayor of Nashville-Davidson County, Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. Carlton Chute, Department of Public Administration, New York University; Mr. William Colman, Director, Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations; Dr. Lorene R. Cumming, Ontario Department of Municipal Affairs; Dr. Luther Gulick, Institute of Public Administration; Dr. Victor Jones, University of California, Berkeley, California; Mr. John Keith, Executive Vice President, Regional Planning Association of New York (City); and Mr. James A. Norton, Director, Greater Cleveland Association.

¹² A transcript of the conference proceedings is included in the unpublished papers of the Commission in the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the University of Maryland Library, the Maryland State Library, and The Johns Hopkins University Library.

ple of desiring maximum flexibility and freedom of action for local units of government in meeting the needs of their citizens, the Commission nevertheless believes it desirable that the State reserve sufficient authority in the General Assembly to enable it to modify the responsibilities and relationships of local units of government whenever the General Assembly concludes that such action would be in the best interests of the people of the area as a whole. This would have particular application in metropolitan areas.

The Commission recommends that a new constitution contain a "package" of permissive powers which residents of local and metropolitan areas may use as they see fit. Such a "package" should, for example, make possible: (1) authority to contract and enter into agreements with other local governments; (2) authority to initiate change through the establishment of study commissions, which can examine the structure of a local government or of local governments in a metropolitan area and can propose to the voters such reorganization plans for local or metropolitan government as may seem appropriate; (3) authority to municipal governments to exercise extraterritorial planning, zoning, and subdivision regulation powers beyond their boundaries, where such powers are not being exercised by the county government; (4) authority to establish functional or *service* authorities, which can assume responsibility for one or more functions of an area-wide character, as the voters may determine; (5) authority to form regional or metropolitan planning commissions; (6) authority to establish an area-wide council of elected officials for the purpose of meeting periodically to exchange information and ideas on problems of mutual