

I urge you to support the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: The Committee at this time would like to yield three minutes to Delegate Clagett.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee of the Whole: I concur with what has been said by Delegate Needle and Delegate Winslow. I cannot disagree with what Delegate Child said yesterday, that more voters turn out at the larger elections than at the local elections. But nevertheless, I think what we are striving for here is not necessarily numbers alone, but responsible people voting. We certainly have responsible people voting for our election as delegates to this Convention. We regret there were not greater numbers, but nevertheless we cannot but appreciate that the quality of those voters was great and particularly as we analyze it individually in our own individual cases.

With respect, however, to what was said by Delegate Hanson, I do not believe that you can ever separate the inter-relationship of local and state affairs. They are too intertwined one with the other. However, what we are striving for and what the majority of the Committee now recommends is not the separation of that inter-relationship, but the separation and distinction of individuals who represent opposite views, or if not opposite, at least at different levels, local and State.

By this separation of date, we do have an opportunity to identify the individuals and to identify and separate the issues to the extent they are susceptible of being separated and identified.

In this period and time of exploding population and great change, the necessity for identification and understanding of the difference in responsibility between the local and the State and the national levels is made all the more necessary. The whole effort of the Local Government Committee has been to separate the State and local responsibilities and to require the State to take care of its level of responsibility but likewise to strengthen and enable the local governments to meet and to take care of their responsibilities.

We are now by section 7.03 requiring that every county shall have its own instrument of government. What does that mean? That means they will have to collect —

*(Vice-President James Clark assumed the Chair.)*

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): You have 30 seconds.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: — from five to fifteen individuals who will make up the council of that county, as well as other officials that will be elected by the county having been separated from the constitutional status they formerly had.

That means that we are going to have to give attention to a ballot which will be one where we will know who we are voting for and why. You cannot do it, the last election showed us, by confusion of names, by number of names, the impossibility —

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Your time is up.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: — of identification of individuals and what they stood for.

I strongly urge that you support the Majority Recommendation in this instance.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): The Chair recognizes Delegate Byrnes. You have three and a half minutes, sir.

DELEGATE BYRNES: I would like to yield one and a half minutes to Delegate Hodge Smith.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): The Chair recognizes Delegate Smith.

DELEGATE J. H. SMITH: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I am in favor of change if I thought any real thing would be accomplished by it, but I do not think any good will be accomplished by this. As one of the Eastern Shore witnesses who appeared before our Judicial Branch Committee put it so beautifully, I could put hogs in my living room, and that would be a change, but it would not necessarily do any good.

For the reasons already given, I support the amendment but there is an additional reason which I think is very important. That is, the cost of these elections. I have figures for Montgomery County for the 1964 primary and general elections. The cost to the County was \$136,000. That was in 1964. In 1966, the primary and general elections cost us \$166,000. The special election for delegates to this Convention cost \$65,000.

Rose Dawson of the permanent Board of Registry says it is to be expected that such costs will increase with every election since