

or against the principle that each individual in this State has the right to get as much education as the State should provide for him, based on his ability; and if we deny that democratic process of the State, if a man cannot vote intelligently, forget the legislative, executive and judicial branches. They do not mean a thing. This simply says in the clearest terms that we know, and we will be happy to make it clearer for the attorneys present, that this State is committed positively to giving each child that type of education which it should give to all its citizens. It does not, suffice to say, guarantee equal protection. We are not interested in protection. We are interested in promotion, promotion of equal educational opportunity; and I bear this out by saying that there are two counties in this State where less than fifty per cent of the population have a high school education. Equal protection has been in the law for many years. These people have never received an adequate education. I say the State of Maryland must look forward to promoting this type of equal educational opportunity so that the end product is a man who has said, I have gotten the most that I can out of the educational system of this State, based on my ability and nothing else. When you vote for or against this, keep that in mind, not all of the subtle technicalities that have been raised. I urge your support to defeat this amendment, and then carry on to other amendments that may be necessary if you desire to clarify this point.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion? Delegate Storm. Do you rise to speak in favor or against the amendment?

DELEGATE STORM: In favor of the amendment, but I would like to make one little point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

DELEGATE STORM: Mr. Chairman, there is one among us who is so sensitive to the feeling of others that although he never should have been feeling so himself, I am afraid he is a little sensitive, too; and I would say there are 141 of us here who have probably been guilty at one time or another of being a little discourteous to the rest of us. But there is one that has not been, and without meaning to rebuke anyone, I would just like to reaffirm the absolute perfect decorum of the gentleman who sits between and stands between the two flags up front.

Now, my point on this particular amendment. I would like to mention that if this

had been adopted in its original form—I am glad the majority is going to change, but if it was adopted in its original form—the General Assembly would have been faced with an absolutely impossible problem. Do not forget, we have voters in Montgomery County deciding what their board of education shall do, and if they elect a democratically inclined board, they will be very progressive and our General Assembly would have to go right along and provide the same advantages to the rest of the State; and when they react and start to retrench and go downhill, the General Assembly would probably have to have a special session to get back down the hill.

I would rather leave it the way it has been, with state superintendent, appointed by the State Board, constantly working for progress in the Maryland way, the terrapin way, getting up here by rail or constant progress. So let us vote for this amendment and get this idea out of here quickly at least until Montgomery County changes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mitchell.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: Mr. President, I am a little confused. I understood by Delegate Wheatley presenting the Majority Report that the majority had agreed to amend the language, and it seems to me that that should come first, and that should be—

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mitchell, I do not think it makes any difference. Delegate Wheatley has stated his intention that in the event Amendment No. 3 fails, he will offer an amendment to change the word. I think we can accept his statement that he will do so and regard it as though it had been submitted earlier.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: Mr. President, I think that the test should come now because there are a number of people who are scared away from the idea of equal educational opportunity by the language of the majority that the General Assembly shall provide.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think they could accept Delegate Wheatley's statement and consider that the section will not read that way, assuming the Committee of the Whole does it. Delegate Wheatley, you would have the privilege, I think, as Chairman of the Committee, assuming you feel you can thus speak for the Committee, to modify the report of the Committee in the particular mentioned without submitting an amendment. I did not understand you to say you were doing that, but I think you have that privilege.