

amendment to perfect the amendment under consideration could be considered. That means, Delegate Robie, if your amendment is ready, it could be submitted.

DELEGATE ROBIE: Mr. Chairman, my amendment is ready, but I have had it called to my attention, and I have not really had a chance to look at it, that perhaps my amendment would not do what I proposed because it modifies back there where they are talking about changing the referendum vote, and I am afraid that I would have to have a little more time to look at this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, look at it now.

Delegate Willis. I will call for Delegate Willis to give you time. Delegate Willis, do you have an amendment printed?

DELEGATE WILLIS: Yes, sir, Amendment B.

THE CHAIRMAN: Amendment B?

DELEGATE WILLIS: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Willis, I will recognize you to offer the amendment as soon as the controlled time has expired. You are speaking on controlled time.

DELEGATE WILLIS: I would like to continue by making another point. There has always been in Maryland a balance of authority and control between state and local boards. We now have put a state board into our proposed constitution and if we wish to continue that relationship we should also have a local board in our constitution.

I could say a great many things similar to what Delegate Kathleen Robie has said. We read in the papers where county commissioners are helping to get control of boards of education through their appointment and Delegate Hanson made a point for us when he spoke of the authority under local government for boards of education to have fiscal autonomy.

He also could have pointed out that it might be possible through local instruments of government under our section on local government to get control of the appointment of boards of education. I think this would be bad and I will save my reasons for that until I present my amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Lord.

DELEGATE LORD: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates—

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, you wanted to reserve your time.

DELEGATE LORD: I would prefer to reserve it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well.

Delegate Wheatley.

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: I believe I have one minute left. I will take that at the conclusion of Delegate Lord's remarks.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have more than that. You say you want one minute?

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: I will take the balance of my time at the conclusion of Delegate Lord's remarks.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well.

Delegate Lord.

DELEGATE LORD: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I cannot imagine three more capable speakers than the three speakers who spoke during the controlled time advocating the abolition of this section. We had the Chairman of the Committee on Local Government; we had a member of the school board of Montgomery County; and we had Royce Hanson who has been an educator and has been interested in education for quite a while. Delegate Moser told you that this section adds nothing to the protection of the county in its best construction and in its worst construction is incapable of being understood.

It is clear that the General Assembly has preempted by Article 77 of the Maryland Annotated Code the entire field of education and will continue to preempt the field under the new constitution if it is adopted. There is no reason to believe that these veiled threats of changing the method in which these boards are selected will take place any more under the new document than they would have under the old document. The instruments of government will be silent on this point. I am almost positive because all these powers will be withdrawn from the counties. At the risk of being redundant, these boards will be in exactly the same position under the new document as they are right now.

Now, there are other problems in section 5 besides this. First of all, as I indicated in my presentation, the balance is upset between the state board and the local boards because no powers are left in local boards. They are given constitutional recognition and no powers.