

ing of the maps which had just come to hand, and which he had not yet an opportunity to examine, he would move to postpone the further consideration of this subject until Saturday next.

Mr. CHAMBERS. We can never have a better time than the present to consider this subject.

Mr. BLAKISTONE. Some of us will have to be unavoidably absent, if this question is postponed as indicated by the gentleman from Frederick.

Mr. THOMAS. I move to commit the whole subject to a committee of five members, or if the House pleases, one from each county, and I express the hope that my colleague will have the kindness to take that as his motion.

Mr. JOHNSON withdrew his motion to postpone the further consideration of this subject.

The PRESIDENT. The motion to commit is not debatable.

Mr. THOMAS. I certainly am not going to debate the proposition. I move that a committee of one from each county and the city of Baltimore be appointed, to whom shall be referred the map and accompanying documents, that have been prepared for the use of this Convention, and who shall take into consideration the propriety of districting the State of Maryland, so as to select one delegate only, from each district in the State.

Mr. BOWIE. I hope the subject will not be referred at all.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city. I have a proposition germane to this subject, which I would like to have referred. I will read it for information.

Mr. B. read his proposition as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the legislature at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution to pass a bill for taking the sense of the qualified voters of this State, at the next ensuing general election of delegates, touching the basis of representation in the House of Delegates, and providing that at such election the voters shall vote for or against "population as the basis;" and if a majority of the votes as then cast shall be for population as the basis, the legislature at its next ensuing session, shall proceed to re-apportion the representation in the House of Delegates upon the basis of population according to federal numbers or upon gross population, so as to elect delegates upon such basis by general ticket in each county and the city of Baltimore; and if a majority of the ballots cast at such general election shall have inscribed on them, the words "district the State," then the legislature shall divide the whole State into contiguous and compact districts equal as near as may be to each other in respect to population."

Mr. DAVIS. I rise to ask a question—whether the motion of the gentleman from Frederick to refer this question to a committee is not, in effect, to defeat the very vote of this morning to take up this proposition for the purpose of considering it?

The PRESIDENT. The motion to commit is a privileged motion.

Mr. DAVIS. I only desired to call the atten-

tion of the Convention to the fact that this motion will in effect, defeat the very thing we agreed to do this morning.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent. I rise to ask if we cannot regard this quite as much a test question as any other?

Mr. TUCK. Do I understand the gentleman from Baltimore city as offering his proposition now?

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city. I do, for the purpose of having it referred to the committee proposed to be raised by the gentleman from Frederick. If the motion for a committee is not agreed to, I will offer it as an amendment.

Mr. TUCK. Do I understand the gentleman to offer it in the nature of instructions to the committee?

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city. If instructions are to be given, I will offer it as a basis of instructions. If instructions are not to be given, I desire my proposition to be referred to the committee, if it is raised.

Mr. TUCK. When I vote on the motion to commit, do I vote at all, in any sense, in any way, to any extent, upon the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore city?

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman has moved to instruct the committee. The proposition of the gentleman has not yet been read by the Secretary.

Mr. BLAKISTONE. Are the instructions moved by the gentleman from Baltimore city, in order?

The PRESIDENT. These instructions are not moved as specific instructions, and therefore, are not to be received.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city. My proposition is to instruct the committee to report an article of that kind.

Mr. MERRICK. No committee has yet been appointed, and no instructions are in order for a committee which does not exist.

Mr. BLAKISTONE. I rise to a question of order. I understand that there are certain privileged questions, and amongst them is a motion to commit. Now is it competent for the gentleman to move instructions, to take away from the Convention the exercise of a privileged motion, and throw the whole question open for debate?

The motion to commit is a privileged question, so also is a motion to adjourn. But if you couple with these questions any other propositions, most unquestionably they become questions of debate. Is it competent to submit any propositions to instruct the committee it is proposed to raise?

The PRESIDENT. If the Convention determines to commit this subject to a committee, it will then be competent for the body to give instructions to that committee. The Chair thinks a motion to instruct the committee is not now in order, because the Convention has not yet decided that they will refer the subject to a committee.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city. I understand the proposition of the gentleman from Frederick to be this: that the specific proposition introduced by the gentleman from Kent, together with