

1 DELEGATE LINTON: Yes.

2 THE PRESIDENT: Is there a second to the amend-
3 ment?

4 Delegate Gleason seconds the amendment.

5 This will be Amendment 1-B which will delete from
6 Amendment 1 the phrase "by bona fide farmers."

7 The amendment has been seconded. The Chair
8 recognizes Delegate Linton.

9 DELEGATE LINTON: Mr. President, I was in the
10 General Assembly when Mr. Blair Lee, Delegate Blair Lee
11 from Montgomery County, introduced the original farm assess-
12 ment provision. It was submitted to the voters of this
13 state as Judge Sherbow explained. The purpose of a farm
14 assessment provision in our Constitution was to protect
15 not especially the farmer himself but the furtherance of the
16 agricultural pursuits in the State of Maryland because the
17 property values of land for development greatly exceeds the
18 value of land for agricultural use. While perhaps -- I saw
19 recently the accurate figures on how many of our farms are
20 actually farmer-owned and it was alarming, it was in the
21 neighborhood of 70 percent of our farms are not owned by