

1 the Union, use single-member districts exclusively so  
2 consequently the idea of a single-member district is not  
3 one which is new.

4 I think it is also interesting to note that  
5 despite the arguments that are made about the difficulty  
6 of using single-member districts within a large urban  
7 area, that New York decided to continue the single member  
8 district for the use of both Houses of its state legislature,  
9 despite the fact that it has within its confines the largest  
10 city of the United States.

11 Now, the arguments for a single-member district  
12 are many, and I am just going to briefly outline them.

13 First of all, it strengthens the two-party  
14 system, because it is quite obvious that one can have a  
15 large minority party in any political subdivision, and  
16 yet as a result of a sweep, a 55 per cent, 45 per cent  
17 split between one party and the other may well produce  
18 no representatives from the minority party, so that in a  
19 political subdivision, which was electing 8, 12 or 16  
20 members to a lower House, and was constituted with 55  
21 per cent one party and 45 per cent another, all the members