Amendment A will be Amendment No. 1. The Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 1 to Committee Recommendation LB-2 by Delegate Byrnes: On page 1 section 3.02, Legislative Districts, after line 20 insert the following:

"To the extent practicable, Senate district boundaries shall cross county or Baltimore City political boundaries so as to contain delegate districts from different counties."

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is offered by Delegate Byrnes. Is there a second?

Is there a second to Amendment No. 1?

(There was no response.)

The Chair has not heard a second.

DELEGATE BUZZELL: I second the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Buzzell seconded the amendment. The Chair recognizes Delegate Byrnes to speak to the amendment.

DELEGATE BYRNES: Mr. Chairman, I think this is just a matter which should be presented to this house for consideration.

I was hoping that the Legislative Branch Committee could have given it more full consideration, than I think it was able to do in the time that it had.

The thrust of it is very simple: that we think to some extent we should provide a spur in the General Assembly, to build in a spur in the General Assembly to have them recognize the responsibility in regional metropolitan problems.

We have established and the Committee of the Whole has agreed the single member district will be the order of the day and I think that although it has value in that many people are concerned, parochialism will result. However, we would also have at least one house remaining after this amendment were adopted which would represent the districts and presumably county-wide interests.

Now, what bothers me is that we do not have, built into the General Assembly atmosphere, if you will, metropolitanism or regionalism, and this is a golden opportunity to provide it.

We think that this amendment, by requiring, wherever it is possible to do so, that senate district boundaries, not house but merely senate district boundaries cross county lines. We think this would provide in the future representatives in the Senate of regional metropolitan districts. We think that this would accomplish everyone's objective.

In the House you would have the single member district and county-wide a district represented. In the Senate you would have a metropolitan or regional interest represented.

I would point out to the Committee that the Committee of the Whole has adopted by a very substantial majority the recommendation of the Local Government Committee that the General Assembly be permitted to move in the area of regionalism, but I think that they have had this authority for a number of years, and I think it is only natural that they do not respond to these problems because they themselves do not represent the interests where those problems are as an area. We, therefore, suggest this is a very practical and simple device that would accomplish this objective.

That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions of the minority spokesman?

Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let the Chair make this observation. The Chair is disposed to restrict questions to the delegates and to those offering amendments to the time allotted for that purpose.

There will be a question period now for the sponsor of this amendment. The question period for this amendment is now, not later.

Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Delegate Byrnes, if this body were to decide that multi-member districts would be retained in the Constitution, would this in any way alter your attitude toward this amendment?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: I would say no, because presumably the multi-member districts, whether they be three, two, or one, would be established, according to the Legislative Branch Committee recommendation, within the local subdivisions that we now know and this of course is the problem that this amendment is directed to.