

(There was no response.)

The Clerk will record the vote.

There being 52 votes in the affirmative and 63 in the negative, the motion is lost. The amendment is rejected.

Delegate Koss, I now have your amendment which I believe is Amendment P.

Do you wish to offer this?

DELEGATE KOSS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the pages please distribute Amendment P. This will be to section 3.03a. Please mark this Amendment No. 9.

Amendment P for Paul.

Delegates who have not received the amendment please indicate to the pages.

The Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 9 to Committee Recommendation LB-2 by Delegates Koss, Winslow, and Wagandt: On page 2 following line 42 of section 3.03a, Redistricting Procedure, add this new section:

"Section 3. *Congressional Redistricting.* The state shall be redistricted for the election of members of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress following each decennial federal census. The following requirements shall be applicable to congressional redistricting: (1) The districts shall be composed of adjoining territory and be compact in form. Natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions shall be followed as far as practicable. Each district shall not exceed in population any other district by more than fifteen percent. (2) The General Assembly may provide by law for a redistricting commission to provide a plan for redistricting, such plan to be submitted to the General Assembly. Upon petition of any registered voter the Court of Appeals shall have original jurisdiction to renew the plan of redistricting enacted by the General Assembly."

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any delegates who have not now received a copy of the amendment?

The amendment having been seconded, the Chair recognizes Delegate Koss to speak to the Amendment.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, the first thing I would like to point out on line 23, the word is

supposed to read "review", and not "renew".

THE CHAIRMAN: What is the word?

DELEGATE KOSS: Review.

THE CHAIRMAN: Third word in line 23, review.

DELEGATE KOSS: That is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: The typographical error will be corrected.

Proceed, Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: In presenting this amendment to the delegation, I want to say first that I have no desire to evanesce any distrust of the Legislature and I applaud the actions of the Legislative Branch Committee in strengthening the legislature.

However, in so doing I cannot help feeling that some rights of the people have also to be protected.

It has been as difficult for the General Assembly to establish a congressional district for the State of Maryland as it has been for them to reapportion their own house. The years of '62 and '63 and '64, I think give ample evidence to that situation.

I appreciate Delegate Gallagher's point that the question of the General Assembly delegating the authority to draw up a redistricting plan to a commission had questionable legal status.

However, it seems to me to protect the rights of the people, to protect their representation in the Congress, that some standards ought to be included in our Constitution; this amendment would require redistricting after every decennial census upon which census congressional seats are distributed.

This would mean whether Maryland lost or gained a congressman, the districts would have to be redrawn or at least reviewed. The changes in Maryland's population and the uneven growth within the State make it imperative that there be congressional redistricting again whether Maryland gains or loses a congressman.

This establishes certain standards for contiguity and compactness of congressional districts. It also establishes a personal limitation from the smallest to biggest of 15 percent.

Congressional action in this field has been mentioned. At one point the Congressional bill did include the 15 percent standing. Again, I am sorry I am not current