

DELEGATE BAMBERGER: The Commission Report says that the present Constitution would require the majority of all those elected, even if there might be some vacancies in the General Assembly, and my only inquiry is whether or not in using the language of the Commission you intend the same meaning that the Commission ascribed to those words.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Our intention in the minority report is to have a majority of the total number of members of the House, whether they be elected or appointed members; if there chanced to be somebody filling in a vacancy, that person certainly ought to be included in the calculation of the numbers.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Delegate Gilchrist, I think what Mr. Bamberger meant was this: Suppose there were 120 members elected to the House, but two had died and the vacancies had not been filled. Would you want a majority of 118 at this time, or would you want a majority of 120; that is all who had originally been elected to the House.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: In the event of a sudden death in the preceding night and nobody has gotten around to filling the vacancies I still think it would be nice to have the majority of 120.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: So, therefore, it is the position of the minority that they want to follow the existing Maryland practice under the 1867 Constitution and not follow the recommendation of the Constitutional Commission draft?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: That is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Pascal.

DELEGATE PASCAL: Delegate Gilchrist, what has been your experience with the attendance of the General Assembly? Do you have any figures on that?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: No, I have not, but I have been advised that the vast majority of the bills which are passed by

the General Assembly are in fact passed by a much greater majority than three-fifths. Most of them are passed by an overwhelming percentage.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Pascal.

DELEGATE PASCAL: Would the majority recommendation have the tendency to improve attendance?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: I certainly do not think it will hurt the attendance.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Pascal.

DELEGATE PASCAL: I said majority. Do you think the majority recommendation would have a tendency to improve the attendance?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: I think the majority recommendation would have a tendency to hurt attendance because it will not require so many people to pass bills.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Pascal.

DELEGATE PASCAL: Do you really think it is going to be a problem with 11 people in the Senate and 35 in the House? Do you think a competent and honest legislator is going to let that happen?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: I do not think they will but on the other hand I want to make sure they do not.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Pullen, a question to the minority spokesman?

DELEGATE PULLEN: Mr. Chairman, I intend to vote for your amendment but do you not think it would help if you would amend the amendment and provide for deduction of payments and expenses for absence?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: I think it might not be a bad idea to follow this as we are doing in this Convention, but I think we are doing it by rule and I believe it can also be done by rule there.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not serious.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bamberger.

DELEGATE BAMBERGER: Delegate Gilchrist, one of the major arguments made