

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Robie, do you have any further questions?

DELEGATE ROBIE: Thank you, that is all.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Lord.

DELEGATE LORD: Mr. Chairman, discretion being the better part of valor, I wonder if Delegate Wheatley would like to poll his delegation and see if he could accept minority Amendment No. 5 to delete the entire section.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Wheatley.

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: Mr. Chairman, I can say unequivocally that we have not yet retreated to that position.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Do any members of the Committee on General Provisions object to Amendment No. 8?

Delegate Wheatley, the Chair hears no objection. Do you want to indicate your position with respect to the amendment? I think we should put it to a vote anyhow, but I think your comment would be interesting.

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: Mr. Chairman, after polling the majority, I think I am authorized to say at this point that they do not oppose this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are willing to relinquish further debate?

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: I would like to say one word, or two words, at the most. If I had come down here a year ago I would never even have thought of such an amendment, but within the last six months we have had threats of local governments taking over the appointment of boards of education. We see them in the papers, we hear about them from meetings of county officials, and I think it would be a very bad thing if it were to happen. Under the present situation, school boards are in a position of independence in some respects with relation to their county commissioners and county council. I think this is necessary. I do not think school boards should be put in the local political arena.

I have had many experiences in the past thirty-eight years that would have vitally affected the education of thousands of children in a detrimental manner if I had not had a local board of education independent of the political establishment. This does not only refer to my work as superintendent of schools. It reaches down into positions of principals of schools and even of teach-

ers. I think we ought to keep our schools free of political interference which I am sure we would get into if we had the boards appointed locally.

I am somewhat afraid that under the local provisions we have passed here this would be possible without a great deal of action from the legislature so I would seriously urge that the Committee give serious consideration to including this which is now part of the Majority Report in the constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

*(Call for the question.)*

The question now arises on Amendment No. 8. We are not voting on Amendment No. 5. Is there any further question on Amendment No. 8?

*(There was no response.)*

Are you ready for the question.

*(Call for the question.)*

Ring the quorum bell, please.

For what purpose does Delegate Vecera rise?

DELEGATE VECERA: Mr. Chairman, while we are waiting for the people to respond to the quorum bell, I would like to introduce some guests to the Convention. Personal privilege, please.

THE CHAIRMAN: State the privilege.

DELEGATE VECERA: I would like to introduce to the Convention a distinguished guest, Delegate Weissinghoff from the House of Delegates in the General Assembly, also my wife, Nancy, and his wife, Mrs. Loraine Weissinghoff, and in the back gallery Mrs. Charlotte Wheatley, Delegate Wheatley's wife, and also Mrs. Joan Murphy, Delegate Murphy's wife, and also, although she left a few minutes ago, was Senator McGirk's wife, Mrs. Ray McGirk, and Delegate Frederick's wife, Mrs. Leroy Frederick. I would like to welcome them to the Convention.

*(Applause.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: The question now arises on the adoption of Amendment No. 8 to Committee Recommendation GP-6. A vote Aye is a vote for the adoption of Amendment No. 8. A vote No is a vote against.

After action on this Amendment, the Chair will submit to you Amendment No.