

General Assembly. The language that the limitation of this section, that the General Assembly shall enable only public general laws shall not apply, goes to each of the eight exceptions. Therefore, with respect to each of the eight exceptions the General Assembly may pass local laws, but when it chooses to act by way of a general law then no county can be exempted from the effect of that general law.

THE PRESIDENT: Your time has expired, Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT. Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask Delegate Clagett a question.

THE PRESIDENT: His time has expired, Delegate Pullen. If he gets the floor again you will have the opportunity to ask him the question again.

Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: I am afraid I do not understand, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: He is entitled to speak twice. His time on this speech has expired. If he gets the floor the second time and desires to yield to a question, he may do so.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Just so someone answers the question I have which I think is rather important.

THE PRESIDENT: Very well.

Delegate Moser.

DELEGATE MOSER: Mr. President, I rise in opposition to Delegate Clagett's Amendment No. 16-A. I will try to be brief.

I want to make clear at the outset that neither I nor Delegate Clagett spoke for the Committee; that is, the Local Government Committee as such.

However, it is apparent that Delegate Clagett and I have a difference of the understanding of what section 7.06 originally did. It is my view that the Style and Drafting Committee made no substantive change in section 7.06 to come up with 3.23 as it now stands.

I am not quite sure that I understand what Delegate Clagett is driving at. I have listened to his exposition of his amendment three or four times and I still feel that it is unnecessarily confusing.

Incidentally, while I am on my feet I will say that I believe that Amendment No. 16 which is the one by Carson and Adkins, et al, does not constitute a change of substance and I personally, again, would favor that if 16-A is defeated.

The reason that it seems to me that 16-A is confusing and should be defeated is this: the prohibition against exemptions, that no county shall be exempt, applies to a public general law. It says, "No county shall be exempt from a public general law." This is in 3.23 and it was also in section 7.06.

Now, if the limitation against public general— well, let me read the Clagett amendment as it is set up here precisely.

THE PRESIDENT: You have one half minute.

DELEGATE MOSER: "The limitation of this section that the General Assembly shall enact only general public laws shall not apply to." If that is the only limitation that these exceptions are exceptions to, it seems to me that the prohibition against exemptions has no effect at all because the limitation against exemptions applies only where there are general laws. I would therefore—

THE PRESIDENT: Your time has expired.

DELEGATE MOSER: If my explanation is reasonably clear I would hope that 16-A is defeated because I think it accomplishes nothing except to create confusion.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen, I think as does Chairman Moser that 16-A should be defeated. Let me try to make it simple in lay terms.

The exceptions provided now in the legislative article, and I think there are eight or nine of them, are areas in which State has an overriding interest and it, and it alone, primarily is going to be the factor.

For this reason it has been decided by the various committees and by you the Convention that in these areas the General Assembly should not be restricted but should be enabled to enact laws which may possibly vary from county to county.

What Delegate Clagett wants to do confuses the issue and is a variation from our local government recommendation. What he wants to do is to say although the General Assembly can pass local laws never-