

Baltimore County, for coal in Allegany County, for fresh water in Allegany County, and the greatest resource we have in the State, I suspect, happens to be people. Does this intend to allow the General Assembly to pass local legislation concerned with people? Mention almost anything that you can imagine concerned with the life of the people of this State, and it will come one way or another under natural environment or natural resources.

I think that this language to encourage the General Assembly to deal in local legislation is very dangerous and I hope that the Convention will turn it down. Incidentally, may I point out that despite the fact that as Chairman Moser said, and he was correct, that the Local Government Committee did not act upon this particular point, may I point out that on the list of sponsors to this amendment there are eight members of that Committee, and the present speaker not on the list of sponsors, makes nine.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Boyer.

DELEGATE BOYER: Thank you.

Mr. President, and ladies and gentlemen of the Convention, it seems perfectly obvious to me that my brother, the first speaker, evidently knows very little if anything about the growing season or any other element about oysters or clams.

The General Provisions Committee considered this whole spectrum of public general and public local laws in this area. It was our considered position that when it comes to natural resources, because of such a wide variety throughout the State, I believe one delegate referred to it as America in miniature, in some section of the State we may have an overabundance of a particular commodity, and in other sections there may be a scarcity. We would want to protect the scarcity, but not at the expense of overharvesting the overabundant area. The growing season of the oyster from Kent County to Somerset County may vary as much as three or four months. This deserves special and particular attention on a local basis.

He referred to the size of the clams in the Chester River. He probably is unaware of the fact that Wickes Beach is a major oyster producing area. It is illegal for anybody to harvest the spat, that is the seed bed, for Queen Anne's County oysters. This requires special, particular attention and could not possibly be handled on a public general law. I know nothing at all about

strip mining, but I can visualize where there might be some wide variances of opinion from Garrett County to Allegany County. I do not see how a public general law could possibly handle those particular, individual problems.

We have on the shore many, many loblolly pines. There is an abundance of them. They may be scarce in Garrett County. Perhaps Garrett County may want to protect them. We do not. There may be the curtailment the other way. It seems to me that there are many speakers on this trying to get a public general law, but most of them seem to come from the more civilized areas, and I would respectfully suggest that this Convention reject this amendment because of the individual characteristics of the natural resource problem in the State of Maryland.

I urge you to reject this very important amendment to the problem of natural resources, and support the General Provisions Committee.

THE PRESIDENT: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor?

Delegate Fox.

DELEGATE FOX: Mr. President, I rise as a delegate from an uncitified area to support this amendment. Unless you do support this amendment, the concept of wanting to eliminate the practice that has gone on for so many years of having the General Assembly pass local laws is going to amount to nothing in this Convention.

Everybody says that it is a great idea to restrict the General Assembly so they enact only general laws and let the counties run their own show. However, then they say it is not a good idea when it comes to my bailiwick of natural resources or it is not a very good idea when it comes to my bailiwick of general education.

None of these exemptions are necessary. They are all put in to water down what is a good concept. Under general law administrative agencies can pass what laws are necessary to take care of oysters in Kent County and oysters in Somerset County. It can be done under statewide law. It does not take much ingenuity on the part of a legislator to say that a particular bill relates to natural resources and environment and education and therefore can be a local law.

Delegate Weidemeyer touched on it nicely when he asked if a county's dispensary system was a part of its natural resources