

of the Committee of the Whole in first reading has been completely lost. As I said to members of the Style and Drafting Committee, unfortunately I think they have been lobbied by special interests.

I urge you to keep in mind that the Local Government Committee as a whole has studied this issue and I hope that you will follow the recommendation of the Committee as a whole. Granted the Chairman is a very influential person, and I would ordinarily suggest that you follow the lead of the Chair, but I think in this instance the majority of the Committee has decided and will stand behind this particular provision.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Mr. President, I think it is essential that this provision stay in to preserve the very purpose of the statewide system of education. If you remove this provision, then any county in the State can begin to legislate in respect to its school boards, its budgets, or anything else.

The General Assembly of Maryland for 100 years has interfered but little and has practically no laws affecting any one county. It has, however, given the choice of the means by which a county can select a school board. It is entirely different. I think it is necessary for the statewide system that we oppose this amendment.

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

Does any delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Wheatley, do you desire to speak for or against?

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: In opposition.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Delegate Lord.

DELEGATE LORD: I also want to oppose the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognized you because you were on the floor earlier.

DELEGATE LORD: Mr. President and fellow delegates, what is being raised here today is the specter of eroding the concept of general laws and it has been maintained that unless this amendment is adopted that we will be right back where we started with a lot of local legislation

coming from the State House in Annapolis. In the field of education the facts just do not bear this out. The General Assembly has had the power to legislate locally for 100 years in this area. There are exactly 108 pieces of legislation which relate to education. That is in an article that is 800 sections long. This is a very careful use of this power. I have reason to believe that the power will continue to be used very sparingly by the General Assembly but it is a power that must be retained by the General Assembly.

If you look at the rather rare exceptions and local law exceptions, you will find that they are very beneficial to a statewide system. As Delegate Moser and Delegate Maurer indicated a number of them deal with the way boards are to be composed. If there is to be any state perspective, this has to be retained. Some deal with pensions and retirement systems in counties which cannot do it by themselves. This is beneficial. This should not only be left to enabling legislation requiring further action in the county. This is one point on which the General Provisions Committee is virtually unanimous, and the Local Government Committee is in the main opposed to this amendment.

I urge that this amendment be defeated and I rest my remarks with those of Delegate Moser and Delegate Maurer.

THE PRESIDENT: Does any delegate wish to speak in favor?

Delegate Key.

DELEGATE KEY: I have an inquiry.

THE PRESIDENT: Parliamentary inquiry?

DELEGATE KEY: It is to straighten out a question in my mind.

THE PRESIDENT: State the question.

DELEGATE KEY: If this section is taken out —

THE PRESIDENT: You mean the clause rather than section.

DELEGATE KEY: Yes, this clause. Can the General Assembly make a public general law that reads as section 5 of GP-6 which would enable the school boards to do as this amendment would?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not sure I understand your question. Do you mean if this clause is omitted would the General Assembly by general law be able to pass a statute similar to section 5 or do you mean