

sentence of 8.01, the sentence comprising all of lines 7 and 8 and including the words "public schools" on line 9.

I think I will have to restate the first question because I understand that there is a desire to concur in the part of the amendments suggested in the first section and not to concur in part. The first question will thereby arise on the amendment recommended by the Committee on Style to strike the word "State" in line 7 and substitute the words "General Assembly by law".

Is there any discussion?

*(There was no response.)*

The question will arise on the adoption of this recommendation.

Delegate Adkins.

DELEGATE ADKINS: Mr. President, I should like to speak briefly on the substitution of the word "General Assembly" in lieu of "the State". I realize "General Assembly" has been used throughout this document, and this may be the only place in the Constitution where the word "State" is used, but I think in this instance we should vary what has been the accepted practice.

This right should be imposed on all people, not only its legislative representatives. "State" involves not only the legislative branch, but the executive branch and the local representatives on the local level. For this reason, it seems to me that the State should bear this responsibility and not the General Assembly. I think we should mandate all of the responsible officials in the State of Maryland and not alone the General Assembly to carry out this very essential provision.

It seems to me that this matter was debated at considerable length, and perhaps I should not be making these comments, but I do urge that we restore the original language which was arrived at after due consideration by a very strong minority in a very fine Minority Report adopted by this Convention.

I think in view of the colloquies this morning, there are some substantial potential changes in substance in relation to the financing of the state school system which I do not think was intended by the Committee on Style or indeed by the substantive committee.

I feel quite strongly that the State gives a dignity, significance, and importance to this large responsibility which the General

Assembly does not get. I would, therefore, urge that we not concur in the amendments of the Committee on Style.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Adkins, so that the matter may be clear in view of the way that the Chair is presenting the various amendments, I would like to ask you this question. The next amendment to be presented by the Chair would be that which strikes from line 7 the word "provide" and in line 8 the words "by law for" and substitutes the word "establish".

There are those who are going to urge that the words stricken be restored. Would you intend by your advocacy that the word "State" be retained, that you would or would not retain the words in the next line "by law"?

DELEGATE ADKINS: I should advocate that the word "State" appear in this proposal wherever the words "General Assembly" have been substituted for it.

Frankly, my own preference, and this is one I find difficulty expressing, would be simply to restore this section to its original language, but I cannot speak to that because the Chair is not putting the question in that fashion.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is asking the question so that you could address yourself to that. In other words, your preference is that the language read "The State shall provide by law". This is what I want to find out.

DELEGATE ADKINS: Yes, sir, I would prefer that. Indeed, I would prefer to simply see the language restored to the way in which it was adopted by the Committee of the Whole. I think the language is meaningful. It has not only historic tradition, but it also has the legislative history of this Convention to support it. I do not think that there is the slightest room for equivocation or doubt as to what that language meant. I think there is substantial room as to what this language means and, therefore, I would address my remarks to the point of saying that I would hope the Convention would restore the language as it came out of the final debates of the Committee of the Whole.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Boyer.

DELEGATE BOYER: Mr. President, I reluctantly have to oppose my good friend. I believe it is the first time I ever have, and I hope it will be the last.

But I would suggest that the words "General Assembly" have been taken in