

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Raley.

DELEGATE RALEY: Mr. Chairman, would Delegate Clagett yield to a question?

THE CHAIRMAN: His time has expired. Is it just one question?

DELEGATE RALEY: Just one question.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Clagett, will you yield to another question?

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Yes, sir, and I will take advantage of this to say also to Delegate Bennett that we do have some forcing procedure by way of a petition which is in section 30, but it would be five per cent or ten thousand whichever is less.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Raley.

DELEGATE RALEY: This section is very important to the small counties who are going into this. What bothers me here is that there is no limit on the number that could be nominated. You could have such a large committee if you have nine it seems to me. Did you consider having a limited number that would be on that additional?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: The final number of persons making up the charter board would not exceed nine. Those on the ballot, of course, we do not place any limit upon provided there are three thousand of three per cent, whichever is less, behind them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gullett.

DELEGATE GULLETT: I think that there is built into this amendment and also into the original provision of the schedule of legislation provision if the county commissioners appear to be dilatory to the extent that they do not appoint the board. The first per cent of the registered voters would then get excited enough to force the county commissioners to appoint the board and probably would proceed to elect their own board and probably could write a charter. They could actually write a charter in less than twelve months. If they wrote the charter within six months, they could turn this over to the county commissioners and they could speed this process up so if the process could be completed in time even though some time were lost initially by the county commissioners failing to act properly. This could be caught up by the voters themselves if they rose up in anxiety about not getting the charter process started.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions?

Delegate Sosnowski.

DELEGATE SOSNOWSKI: Is there anything in here to prevent the county commissioners from nominating a board of one?

THE CHAIRMAN: When you say "in here", do you mean in the amendment?

DELEGATE SOSNOWSKI: Any place at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can you answer the question, Delegate Clagett?

DELEGATE CLAGETT: There is nothing that would prevent them from doing so, but I think it is so highly unlikely, particularly if you do include the alternative procedure which we suggested by way of this amendment, because if they came up with one, I think it would insult the voters to stimulate them to come up with a petition.

DELEGATE SOSNOWSKI: Would you like to lay odds?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Do not forget that I am from Prince George's.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions? Is there any further discussion?

*(There was no response.)*

Are you ready for the question?

*(Call for the question.)*

The Clerk will ring the quorum bell.

The question arises on the adoption of Amendment No. 10.

I am sorry, Delegate Hardwicke.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Mr. Chairman, in support of this amendment, let me point out that this procedure is only our suggestion as to a legislative procedure. If it turned out to be impractical or unworkable, the legislature could add additional procedures or could amend this one.

With regard to those who are worried about time, these are maximum time schedules and we do not believe that the county commissioners will drag their feet and use those maximum time schedules unless they are interested in having the so-called model charters adopted for their counties. This is probably a very well thought-out suggestion, and it might very well be that the legislature would not attempt to change it.