

with my supplemental remarks, and with the questioning in depth by the members, the Committee could probably add very little in the way of debate without prolonging the session. I think it would be appropriate at this time to rest on what has been said. I do not know whether it is proper at this time to move the recommendation of the committee report.

THE CHAIRMAN: Not necessarily. The recommendation is before the Committee—

DELEGATE BOYER: We stand on it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion as part of general debate?

*(There was no response.)*

If not, we will proceed to consider amendments. You have Minority Report No. GP-1 by Delegates Pullen, Kirkland, Caldwell, Sosnowski, Blair, Vecera, Kathleen Robie, Wheatley and Key.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Pullen for the purpose of presenting the minority report and making or submitting any amendments. You may come to the Clerk's desk, Delegate Pullen.

I should say while we are waiting for Delegate Pullen to come forward that the practice of having delegates speak from the Clerk's desk will be followed only in the case of the committee chairmen, that is the committee presenting the recommendation, and one spokesman for the minority. Otherwise, all delegates speak from their seats. Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Mr. Chairman, I present the report of the minority of the Committee with the greatest respect for those of the general committee who differ with us.

I should like to say that I think Delegate Boyer had made it clear the minority now is actually a majority of 9 to 6. Do not let that disturb you. Being the son of a minister, I have seen many dramatic convictions of error and conversion to righteousness and right-doing. I hope you will pardon me for being facetious, but with it all there is a very good spirit among the entire group. The Minority Report concerning the militia, Article 28 of the Declaration of Rights in the present Constitution of Maryland, reads as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Pullen, you do not intend to read the entire minority report, I take it?

DELEGATE PULLEN: I thought if I started talking, I would talk longer than if I read it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think you will have to follow the practice of saying that inasmuch as the report is before the delegates, it should not be read.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue. I hope that each of you, when you go back, will read that part of the present Constitution which states as follows: "that a regulated militia is the proper and natural defense of a free government." We believe that and frankly do not understand why that phrase was left out of the draft constitution.

There were two changes made in the wording of the present Constitution or present provision for the militia. First, "may" was substituted for "shall." Second, the position of adjutant general as a constitutional officer was eliminated.

The vote in the first case was eight to seven and in the second one it lost by a tie vote of eight to eight. The minority believes that a well regulated militia is a safeguard of a democratic people. We believe further that eliminating the provision in the constitution for the maintenance of a militia is an open invitation to the General Assembly to abolish it. The police force of the State is not adequate to take care of all of the problems that face us. The only alternative in times of stress is to bring in federal troops by the president at the request of the governor. We oppose that except in the case of the direst necessity.

The President of the United States is commander-in-chief of the armed forces and the governor is commander-in-chief. The reason for this designation is a very simple one. It is to establish a principle that the military is subordinate to the civilian. There is no hint that the civilian leader or the civilian head is a military leader, but there is a danger that the civilian head may conceive of himself as a military man and take charge of the troops. History is replete with such cases, and with disastrous results.

The framers of the State Constitution in 1867 were well aware of this and they, therefore, put in a provision that the governor should not assume control of the military without permission of the General Assembly. The provision that calls for an adjutant general in our opinion should remain in the Constitution. It is most important when the army or when the militia is a civilian army. Today when elected officials rush to exciting spots with alacrity