

handling regional problems in the legislature in the unicameral legislature or bicameral legislature.

DELEGATE HANSON: I think to that question I would answer that I believe that a delegation in a unicameral body would be more effective than a bicameral delegation in any given circumstance, whether handling a regional problem or any other kind of substantive problem, primarily because it would not be possible to shift responsibility for the action they took or recommend to the other branch.

I think those of us who have watched our own legislative delegations from time to time have been not too amused to find that what looked like a great promise in one house had been virtually by pre-arrangement doomed to oblivion by the action of the other house, making it therefore quite difficult to know actually where the axe had fallen and who actually was responsible for the final result.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions of the minority spokesman? Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the spokesman for the minority if he would provide the assembly with some kind of a figure as to what would be the size of this unicameral legislature.

DELEGATE HANSON: I have suggested that if the Convention adopts our proposal that there be a unicameral legislature, that I would then propose an amendment to section 3.04 to establish the size of that body at one hundred.

We indicate this on page 1 of the minority report.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gleason?

DELEGATE GLEASON: One hundred would be 40 less than the 35-105 ratio and I am wondering, how you would provide for representation of minority groups in the State with that kind of a figure?

DELEGATE HANSON: I think it would be well to point out that minority representation in the State is provided not by the 35 figure, but by the 105 figure, using single-member districts.

I think single-member districts are an important and integral part of minority representation, so my answer to you is that minorities would be represented in the same manner in a unicameral body as they would be in a bicameral body.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions of the minority spokesman?

Delegate Neilson.

DELEGATE NEILSON: Mr. Hanson, from a practical standpoint as a spokesman for the minority party, what do you think—

DELEGATE HANSON: Minority, not minority party.

DELEGATE NEILSON:—what would you think our chances would be if your report were adopted in having the electorate for the State of Maryland adopt this unicameral form of legislature?

DELEGATE HANSON: As a practical matter, I believe unicameralism could have a very profound effect upon the electorate, reviewing favorably the action of this Convention. I say so because I believe that if this Convention adopts unicameralism for the reasons which we have given, namely, that we are going to try to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of the General Assembly, and demonstrates, as I think it can, that unicameralism is most material, and perhaps the singlemost effective thing that can be done to strengthen and make the General Assembly more effective, that the public generally will accept it, and accept it with enthusiasm.

Now, as Delegate Neilson well knows, I have no more empirical evidence on which to base this argument than he or anyone else has upon which to base an argument that the people would throw up their hands in horror at such a prospect.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

*(There was no response.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: If not, we will proceed to a consideration of section 3.01 for the purposes of amendments.

While we are waiting for Delegate Hanson to resume his seat, I would like to recognize the presence in the rear balcony of a delegation from Washington County, one of whom I understand is Mrs. Mildred Hyatt, former member of the House of Delegates.

We are delighted to have you here.

*(Applause.)*

The Chair recognizes Delegate Hanson for the purposes of submitting an amendment to section 3.01.