

which is due to another Constitutional provision, rather than to the nature of bicameralism itself.

If there be, as Mr. Hanson has suggested, a lack of visibility with respect to members of a bicameral General Assembly, I would further suggest that this lack of visibility is due to the multi-member districts and the spreading of responsibility, rather than to bicameralism itself.

I would say in addition, Mr. Chairman, that the other branches of the government have checks and balances. Certainly judges check judges on the appellate level. As a matter of fact, some people even keep score with respect to how judges make out in the lower courts when confronted with the opinion of the appellate courts.

A governor to some extent is checked by the bureaucracy within the executive branch of the government, so there are checks, it seems to me, within the other two branches as well.

I think an examination of the bills which fail and the bills which are introduced will show that approximately 50 per cent of the bills which are introduced into the Maryland General Assembly are local in nature, so it seems to me that one proves nothing when one says that bills are killed in a bicameral system; whether they be state or local shows that bicameralism works.

I would also suggest to the members of the Committee of the Whole that when the legislative agents sometimes unkindly referred to as lobbyists appeared before the Committee on the Legislative Branch, they were not well-disposed toward suggesting that the people before whom they appear regularly should have their jobs eliminated. I suspect that any bow they gave in the direction of a bicameral General Assembly was really due more to diplomacy and the thought that they would have to appear on another day before a bicameral General Assembly and that promoted them to glorify the attributes of the bicameral General Assembly.

The Nebraska legislature, it seems to me, proves nothing qualitatively. One is unable to say that Nebraska passes a better type of law because of a unicameral General Assembly. One merely can point out what the statistical experience is, but you cannot give to that experience a judgment with respect to wisdom, prudence or judgment with respect to the laws themselves.

I would suggest, ladies and gentlemen of

the Committee of the Whole, that the shortcomings to which Mr. Hanson has made reference, many of them quite valid, are not wrapped up in bicameralism but the particular kind of bicameralism which we have been laboring under for some time, a bicameralism which will be eliminated and reformed if the other conditions of the report of the Legislative Branch are adopted.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I should like to yield five minutes to—

THE CHAIRMAN: I will recognize you for that purpose in a few minutes.

Delegate Hanson?

DELEGATE HANSON: Mr. Chairman, I yield five minutes to Delegate Sollins.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sollins?

DELEGATE SOLLINS: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen of the Committee of the Whole, this Convention appears determined to strengthen the executive and judicial branches of government, as well as the powers of local government.

However, a much more—

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sollins, it will help if you hold the microphone much closer to your mouth, please.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: However, a much more cautious attitude is evidenced as far as the state legislature is concerned.

While I wholeheartedly support the strengthening of the executive branch, and local branches of government, in making local government much more self-sufficient, I believe that to keep the legislature bicameral is to relegate the chief policy-making body of this State to the role of weak sister.

We have heard from state senators and delegates from all over the State, from every section, from every county, I believe, and the pattern of their testimony is to stand pat on bicameralism.

I remind you that court clerks and sheriffs have also demanded that the status quo be maintained for their positions.

How much this attitude reflects the desire to do what is best for the people is subject to some interpretation.

As one delegate, I have come to this conclusion: that this Convention must strengthen the legislature in spite of its members' expressed desire to remain less than equal.