

Legislators must become more visible to their constituents if they are to be really true representatives of all the people, rather than the politically active few. Visibility can only be achieved by having a small legislature, one that functions in a manner that can be followed by all interested citizens, and by having members who are clearly accountable to a given electorate.

In a bicameral legislature, we have twice as many members as we need, two people doing one job.

An interested citizen, trying to follow the present legislative course of a proposal or bill, finds that it is more complicated than a Perry Mason mystery. Accountability is shared to a degree that is non-existent.

We hear much about the need for checks and balances within the legislature itself, but I maintain that this is a need only as long as some senators and some delegates are willing to vote for some bills with the hope that the other house will negate their action.

I submit that two houses provide less responsibility, less of everything, in fact, except jobs, costs and confusion. A bicameral legislature is really a house divided against itself, incapable of acting effectively to meet its responsibilities; not only of being the chief policy-maker, but of being a proper check on the executive department that governs.

In a one-house legislature, every vote has meaning. Every legislator is accountable. Every member is visible. A legislator who is serving in a unicameral body is elected to represent a single-member district, and will enjoy a prestige not known in our State today. He will be one of a kind, just as a member of Congress. In debate, in committee, he will speak with authority. He will not be one of three or seven or more representing a district. He will not be a member of a lower house or an upper house. He will be a member of "The House," the General Assembly. He will be the one, the only elected representative of his district in the legislature.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sollins, you have 45 seconds.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: Thank you.

Fellow delegates, if we strengthen the legislature in this manner, I submit that we will be strengthening every component part by strengthening every member, and

we will be strengthening the legislative process and the legislative body.

One further point: *The Washington Post* and the *Baltimore Sun* in their editorial columns have both supported unicameralism. The *Washington Post* has suggested that perhaps unicameralism is too daring for this Convention. I suggest that it is not daring, but a necessity that requires unicameralism.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, I yield for three minutes to Delegate Malkus.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Malkus?

DELEGATE MALKUS: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the Constitutional Convention, we had numerous witnesses before the Committee on the Legislative Branch who constituted practically everybody who knows anything about the General Assembly of Maryland. The vote for bicameralism was 33. The vote for unicameralism was 11.

Now, of these, of the 11, five were out-of-state people.

It is really interesting to note that men like Charles Della, who represents Labor, and William Wilson, Cookman Boyd, who represents Management, agreed on having two houses. With the exception of Tommy D'Alesandro, and some two or three members of the House of Delegates, some of whom are in this body, everyone else stated that he thought the present system was the best system.

Now, Mr. President, if we are not going to listen to the witnesses and the preponderance of evidence for the two-house system, then for what reason do we have testimony?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Malkus, you have one-half minute.

DELEGATE MALKUS: Thank you, sir.

I would like to bring the attention of this body to the fact that bicameralism had its birth in the British Parliament in the 14th Century, and has continued since that time. Bicameralism came into being in Maryland in 1650, and has been with us since that time. No one except those who speak theoretically, in my opinion have given a reason for needing to change now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.