

I do not think one or two houses would have much to do with that. I think part of that problem has been cured as a result of the reapportionment of both houses. I must also add that it did not pass what I wanted to pass. It did not pass my bill.

I might say with respect to the U. S. House of Representatives or the Congress of the United States, that many critics are concerned with what we do not pass, but actually they are far more concerned that Congress does not pass what the critics want them to pass, not that they do not exercise their will.

It is my pleasure to be in two Congresses that produced much legislation because that is what they wanted to do. I would suggest to you that the examples that have been given do not persuade me that there would be anything magic about our having a unicameral one-house system. Nebraska, I do not think can be used as an example either for or against; it does not have the problems we have in this State.

I spent many hours in the major cities of this country as a member of the Education and Labor Committee concerned with the poverty bill. I can tell you that the unicameral city councils of the great urban centers of this country have not done a creditable job with respect to solving the problems of their communities. There is nothing magic about one house. I shall, undoubtedly, continue to be a traditionalist and support the bicameral system for the State of Maryland.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any delegate who desires to speak in favor?

Delegate Willoner?

DELEGATE WILLONER: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in support of the unicameral legislature. I do that because I think it is one of the most important issues confronting this body. The argument just made by Delegate Sickles is an interesting argument. It is the argument of the traditionalist. Nevertheless, the history that has developed in our state legislatures as has been pointed out in the prior discussion, has shown that they have not delivered and the answer has been that the people have gone to the federal government.

I think we are all states righters here or we would not be here, in that we believe the State of Maryland should continue to exist as the State of Maryland.

I challenge you that if we do not act in this area and give the State of Maryland

the strongest possible government, we all may end up within the next hundred years as the Eastern District of the United States.

It seems to me that we are moving in the direction of a strong executive. We are moving in the direction of a strong judiciary. But we want to hamper our legislature. That is the body that is closest to the people. That is the body that directly represents the people. That is the body that should be the most powerful. Yet we want to hamper it with this two-house method. It just seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that this is an opportunity to lead other states into a movement of getting government back to the people, back to the states. I, personally, believe the State of Maryland should continue to exist, that it is a viable area and a logical area for government. I think perhaps if we do not take this step we will be taking a step backwards inasmuch as we will have to continue, as the people have in the past, to go to the federal government to have their problems answered.

It has happened in the past, not only when the federal government has not acted in a bicameral legislature. They have gone to the courts and gotten the answers, but the courts are so insulated from the people, it is silly. We heard much talk in this Convention by conservatives, for example, that these nine old men are running our country. Perhaps if the legislature had acted, the people would have been able to set the standard by which they wanted to live without going to the courts.

It is a sad thing that this has happened, but it has. I feel the unicameral system will lead us into the twenty-first century and give us the kind of government we want.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak against the amendment? Delegate Hutchinson.

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: Mr. Chairman, I believe Mr. Willoner's key word was the word "perhaps." "Perhaps" the unicameral system will lead us into the future. "Perhaps" it will not. But we have seen that the bicameral system in the State of Maryland has been the system that has been effective. The people have been well-represented. The legislature has done a good job.

As it was pointed out before, the state legislature in 1966 was one known to be a very effective organization; it worked well and worked well together.