

Twenty-five percent of the vetoes of the Governor of this State are based generally on flaws in language, bad, sloppy, inaccurate language and drafting, or on rulings of unconstitutionality. Does this suggest that a bicameral body is necessarily more careful? I think it suggests the contrary.

I came to this Convention a bicameralist. I have long been a student of state legislatures and long been interested in the operation of the legislative branch of government. I was convinced before I came here that bicameralism provided a great advantage to the people in terms of its representative qualities. Someone has suggested that during this Convention I suffered a bicameral disease and for that reason may have changed my opinion. Nonetheless, I have become convinced since being here and looking again at this question that if we want to establish in this State an effective legislature, if we want to have a legislature in which the public can have confidence, if we want a legislature in which the public can have confidence, if we want a legislature in which we can see who is doing what to whom and why, then we need a unicameral legislature in Maryland.

We need it not because it has worked in Nebraska. We need it not because it has worked in local government. We are very pleased to have the endorsement of the President of the Baltimore City Council. We need it not because certain groups want it or do not want it. We need it because Maryland is going to need that kind of legislative body which can be a full participant and a full and co-equal branch of a new and revitalized government in this State.

We sit here in Convention in order to bring a rebirth of state government. This is the challenge that is before us. We who support unicameralism ask for your help on this vote because we believe it can be one of the most effective demonstrations that this Convention intends to give Maryland and the government of the State that rebirth.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen of the Committee: I would suggest that the question of unicameralism or bicameralism is really not a make or break issue for the success of this Convention or of the advancement of better legislative articles. I do suggest

that history has shown that the bicameral General Assembly has worked and further that the reapportioned legislature which was the objective of so many students of government and those interested in the one-man/one-vote theory, has been with us for only a short period of time. I think it would be generally agreed that the work in the first session of this reapportioned legislature was good work, it was commended and was recognized.

At this time, therefore, I believe it would be appropriate to say that the reapportioned legislature in a bicameral body has not been given a sufficient opportunity to indicate the wealth of changes and reforms which it is capable of making and which it has indicated it intends to make.

In my earlier remarks I did not point out that one of the benefits of a bicameral General Assembly is to flag the public and to inform the public that a bill has passed one of the houses. I think it would be accurate to say that on many occasions the voters of this State do not know that a bill is even before the General Assembly until it reads in the paper that it has passed the House or the Senate. At that particular time suddenly they realize that their interests are under close scrutiny in Annapolis and they come running down to be heard in the second chamber.

Consequently, one of the services of the bicameral system is that it calls to the attention of the people of the State that action has been taken on a particular piece of legislation and does so to give the citizen an opportunity to be heard on it, to ward it off as the case might be, or perhaps to encourage it if it be the desire of the particular constituents.

I might say, too, that under the bicameral package that the Committee has presented, if the 35 senator 105 member house formula is adopted, we would have a total of 140 representatives in the aggregate, rather than the 100 which is suggested as the amended figure in a unicameral body. We would have, therefore, 40 more representatives to be made available to the people and to be allowed to mix with them and to know what their wishes may be.

I suggest that one of the avenues of obtaining better citizen representation in the General Assembly and of keeping those worthwhile senators and delegates who are here at great personal sacrifice would be, of course, to move in the direction that the Committee report has indicated; to reward these people for their services with proper