

DELEGATE JAMES: I recognize in society it is necessary to be governed by machines. Is this charged against my time, fixing tape?

THE CHAIRMAN: No. You are on uncontrolled time right now, anyhow.

Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: Simply to repeat; the present House of 142 involves an organization of two major committees, 35 each, and eight minor committees, so that less than half of the membership has a major committee assignment, and it has all of the same defects of the old House in which I served.

As a general comment, I would like to say that the larger the legislative body, the more concentrated the legislative power is in the leadership.

The larger the legislative body, the more limited is debate. The motion for the previous question always hovers in the background, and time limits on debate become absolutely necessary.

I think the House of Representatives in Washington is an extreme example of this. It is not a debating body. It may be a representative body, but the operation of the House is tightly controlled by the leadership.

The proposed House of 80 members as provided in the amendment has many advantages. It has advantages to the membership of better salaries. It has the advantage to the public of attracting the worthy candidates because of the improved political importance and the dignity of the office.

All of the arguments made for unicameralism in this area apply to the reduced size of the House.

I might say in connection with getting better candidates, you can worry the rest of the time about the structure of the House, but if you do not have qualified candidates, you just simply do not have quality.

Ninety per cent of the operation of any legislative body is the quality of the candidates.

With reference to the procedure, the committee structure could certainly be improved in an 80-man house. You could reorganize your House committees along the lines of the Senate, with three or four major committees. If this were done, co-

operation by the use of joint committees could be improved enormously. We have been discussing that recently. You saw the recommendations made in the Eagleton Report.

One of the conclusions we reached Monday night was that the House committee structure would have to be reorganized in order to achieve the type of joint committee cooperation, especially in interim studies, necessary to implement those recommendations.

Committee assignments would certainly be improved. You would have every member of your House an important political figure who would be serving on an important committee. If a man does not have an important committee assignment, he is not a full legislator. He does not have full legislative power.

Every member is entitled to respect, and his constituents are entitled to respect in the General Assembly. The staffing of the committee could be simplified. One of the problems of the state legislature is the provision of competent, full-time, well-paid staffs. This could be done with a simplified committee structure.

Internal organization could be improved generally. The atmosphere of freedom of debate could be established, an atmosphere which would be more cordial.

The facilities and staffing for the individual membership could be simplified. There is quite a bit of difference between providing staffing for the members themselves in an 80-member House, than for a 142 man house.

Now, with reference to bicameralism, we would have a single member district representing approximately 50,000 people at the next census, and there would be a justification for bicameralism because each district would have two representatives.

One of the arguments against unicameralism is that if you are not in favor with the particular single representative, there is no one to go to. It is almost like being a citizen of the Old Roman Empire. If you were not in favor with the emperor there was no place to go, and this argument still applies to this particular organization.

You would have two people, one with a smaller point of view and one with a larger point of view, with whom you could discuss your problems.

Now, if you would decide to make the