

apparently, no other delegate desires to speak.

Delegate Linton?

DELEGATE LINTON: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee of the Whole, I was waiting for the orators to speak on this subject and I would like to comment briefly on the Committee Chairman's phrase, the buck stops here. The number must be set, even if it is a number from the air.

Members of this Committee and this Convention, the most important subject that has come before us for a final vote is the one that we are considering now. I feel that more votes, for or against this constitution, will hinge upon decisions we make.

For years the problems of enforcement have been studied by the legislature, and a realistic figure has been set, which is now 185.

The only thorough study, and even here I cannot say that this is a thorough study, has been proposed in the Gilchrist amendment. It will be debated unless this particular motion is adopted.

Representation for the small counties must be based on the Supreme Court's basis of one-man, one-vote, but what does representation mean to me?

Representation means that our roads program is decided by the delegates and senators that represent our county. Representation means the bridges or promises of bridges that seem to be present in the legislature. Representation means tax-sharing programs that are put into action in this state.

Representation means whether or not the capital improvement programs that we finance through our tax rate and state tax rate every year on our tax bill, are located within your part of the state, and I live in a part of the state that does not have any capital improvements, that has an operating budget, and that provides employment.

I live in a part of the state that does not have a clover leaf or an overpass below Upper Marlboro. And I blame this, and the lack of roads—there is a death trap on Route 5—on representation or lack of representation.

I submit that the problem of apportionment is not a function of this Convention. It should be left to the legislature where

the responsibility is clearly theirs, where the time will be available, year after year. It is a continuing problem. That is where it belongs. I hope that this Convention will adopt this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

Delegate Needle?

DELEGATE NEEDLE: Mr. Chairman, is it so essential that we try to provide that each county has its own individual representative? I submit that it is not, although it is regrettable that we cannot reasonably do this today or in the future. It will obviously become an even more difficult problem in the future.

It is not essential that we so provide today, because the historical basis for individual representation in the General Assembly will no longer exist in the future if the recommendations of the Local Government Committee are accepted by this Constitutional Convention.

Only four counties out of 23 today have home rule government.

I hope, and I think it is one of the most basic goals of this Constitutional Convention, that we mandate home rule for each county so that each county can handle its local matters on a local level. It will no longer be necessary for the county delegation in the General Assembly to be the local legislature for that county.

Therefore, it is not essential, although regrettable, that we cannot provide individual representation in the General Assembly for each county.

I suggest that the compromise reached by the Legislative Branch Committee is the best before this body. I urge that you support it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Vecera?

DELEGATE VECERA: Mr. Chairman, I desire to speak in favor of the amendment.

I urge the Committee of the Whole to consider this very carefully in that it is such a significant issue that I think the Constitution may hinge on this one factor. I urge the adoption of this in that we may begin the long road toward ratification of