

this great document, and all of the other hard work that many of our committees are placing upon this document.

I think this issue is of such significant value that we ought to consider it very carefully, and I strongly urge each and every one of you to vote for this amendment. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate James to speak in opposition to the amendment.

DELEGATE JAMES: Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates, first I would like to say that all of the arguments I attempted to mobilize this morning, are equally applicable to the particular proposition this afternoon.

I happened to serve as Chairman of the Committee on Legislative Reapportionment. It was a soul-searching experience. I had this difficult job for a period of two years, and I can tell you that the legislator is in an extraordinarily difficult position in passing upon this particular subject. He has two problems. One problem is that he has his own selfish interest at stake, and to buttress that selfish interest is the fact that his people at home, generally speaking, want him to do the thing which is in his own selfish interest. He is therefore, handicapped both by the fact that his people want him to fight for the status quo and his own selfish interest requires him to be for the status quo. The ultimate result of the adoption of this proposal inevitably will be a spiraling upward of the size of both houses, and this will mean going down the tunnel of a long hall to inefficiency.

Certainly the lower body, the large body inevitably becomes less legislative in character. To glorify the committee, you concentrate your power in the leadership, and in the control committees, and you minimize the benefits of open debate and persuasion on the floor. I say to you that all hope is lost for an efficient legislature if you take the ceiling off.

I would like to conclude with those remarks, but let me plead with you not to take the limit off, because it will be a disastrous blow to the efficiency of the legislature.

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

Delegate Malkus?

DELEGATE MALKUS: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of this Convention, I

listened with interest to what has been said here. As you know, I represent one of the real, real, real rural sections and in times gone by I said upon this floor that when your great metropolitan areas take over, I hoped that they would be as kind to us as we had been to them.

You may snicker all you want, but we are fighting for our very life. It is not a question of county lines. It is a question of community of interest. I am one of the very few bona fide farmers in this honorable body. There are several. Well, if you are going to cut this thing down, as the President of the Senate has said, so that it is efficient, our voice will be so small, Mr. President, it will not be heard.

Now, I have heard in glowing terms the great progress of the 1966 session of the General Assembly. That was the reapportioned session of the General Assembly, 142 and 43. It was not to my liking, Mr. President, but I defy anybody to say it was not workable. With a legislature of that size, we will have a chance in the next ten years to have some voice in what is going to happen ten years from now, Mr. President. You do not know; neither do I. We may all have helicopters by then and we will be living in a land of truly pleasant living rather than in the metropolitan areas.

Mr. President, I hope, I do not care how you do this, and there are other amendments to follow this, but 105 and 35 cuts us to the very bone, which may be fortunate in one way and unfortunate in another. We had a little gathering on the Potomac River. They called it the Capital of the United States. That has overflowed into Maryland. I suppose except for the possibility of Virginia, that we are the only one that has such a situation as that, and I look with interest on those people who are here in this honorable body whose heart and bread and water is in some other place.

I called them one time, Mr. President, sundowners and moonlighters, and bedroom citizens, and the Washington papers tore me to pieces, but as I look through this list of business offices, just casually, of course, I find not eleven here in this body make their living in Washington, D. C.

Mr. President, we who come from the real, real, real, rural sections, not only live there, we work here, we raise our families here and make our living here.