

unlimited numbers of members of this house, about which we have heard.

It is flexible, because it will permit an increase or a decrease as reapportionment or redistricting may require.

Hal Claggett was talking this morning about the thinking of the people being re-oriented. One of the problems with the reorientation of thinking is that this is a very slow process. I believe that ultimately the people of Maryland are going to have to think on a different basis than that on which they have been thinking. I believe that the proposal of the minority permits the system of representation in this capital to accommodate to the reorientation of thinking, to accommodate with a population of 1,600,000, which is forecast for 1980, and 5.5 million for 2000.

I believe that we owe a duty to the people of this State to try to fix something which is not unreasonable, to try to fix something which will afford flexibility.

Delegate Scanlan inquired of a previous speaker whether or not any other State in the United States left it solely to the legislature to fix its own numbers. There are two, is the answer. Forty-eight think that there ought to be a limit.

I believe there ought to be a limit, and our Committee, and I believe the small counties, the small communities think that this legislature has to stay workable. You are not going to understand their concern.

I believe that in the compromise which is involved in this amendment there are the possibilities of a great many different answers to the problems which face us, and I believe that as we delegate so many other functions to the legislature it is proper for us to delegate to the legislature the possibilities of providing better government within limits. This is the view which the minority adopts, and we respectfully urge that you vote favorably upon the amendment to the committee recommendation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions of the minority spokesman for the purposes of clarification of the minority report?

*(There was no response.)*

Are there any questions?

Delegate Sollins.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: Delegate Gilchrist, if I understand your proposal cor-

rectly, and I would like to, will the legislature be permitted in some areas to have a ratio of three-to-one in the Eastern part, and so on?

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: No. The legislature must establish a ratio of delegate districts to the senate districts. It may divide that senate district into a number of delegate districts, or it may permit the delegates from that district to run at large within the district.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: You are not answering my question, or I do not understand your answer.

Will the legislature have to then establish one ratio that will be applicable to the entire State?

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Yes.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: Where is that in your proposed language?

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Yes, is the answer.

THE CHAIRMAN: His question is, what portion of the proposed language justifies the answer?

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: "The General Assembly shall prescribe by law the ratio of the number of members of the House of Delegates to the number of members of the Senate," in lines 12 through 16.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sollins.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: As I understand, reading on, you say, "but the ratio shall not be greater than four-to-one."

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Yes. This is not a multiple. This is a ratio. This is not a series of ratios.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sollins.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: As I understand it, then, the legislature could sometime in the future set up a situation where we could have 20 senators and 60 delegates?

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Yes, sir.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: Or they could make it 36 and 144?

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Yes.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: Or 30-90—any number of possible combinations.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: That is correct.

DELEGATE SOLLINS: With the multiple member situation that you have sug-