

Annes, Somerset, and Talbot. I count seven and quite possibly Worcester might be in that because it would be 1,700 under the 27,700 projection.

Consequently, while I applaud the attempts of Mr. Gilchrist to be the peacemaker, we need the peacemakers among us, I do not really think the possibility as suggested holds out more than the prospect for a General Assembly of 144 delegates and 36 senators with the seven counties not really being entitled to a delegate under the population formula; not that it might not happen that they would be significant enough in voting in a larger area to elect their own resident delegate. That might be possible; I recognize that.

The evil that I think we are trying to combat here is too large a House. We have a House of 142 members and actually under the amendment before you, in order to keep the four-to-one ratio, you would add two more delegates to a House which is already overcrowded.

To go from 142 to 144, it seems to me, would only compound by two the overcrowded situation which exists, and which we heard described; a House which is really too large to function effectively at the committee level.

I return once again to the Committee Report which provides a membership of 105, and the establishment of three committees to split the work of the House of Delegates on a genuine basis apportioning among the 105 delegates a genuine distribution of the workload, and thereby providing a very effective lower chamber.

If I believed that within the formula that the amendment suggests that 35-105 would be adopted, I would certainly recommend it, but I feel, and I think the other members of this Committee would certainly feel that what will happen is the 180 maximum will be used.

We are going to have a four-to-one ratio, 36 senators, 144 delegates; and 144 delegates is two more than we ought to have under any circumstances, and many more than we ought to have at the moment.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment despite the obvious virtue that I have referred to, but human nature being what it is, I feel we can expect the 36-144 figure and I feel that that is something that this Convention does not want to recommend.

In so doing, I recommend once again the committee report of 35 and 105.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Mr. Chairman, how much time have I?

THE CHAIRMAN: You have a little less than seven minutes to allocate.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: I allocate three minutes to Delegate Grant.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Grant to speak in favor of the amendment.

DELEGATE GRANT: Mr. Chairman, I represent 20,000 people living on the Mississippi River Watershed, who are trying to remain part of the State of Maryland.

It might be true we are basking in five inches of snow now. The Road Department assures me the roads are still open. I talked to them a while ago.

Despite a five-hour trip from Annapolis, after wading through five inches of snow, and traveling five hours to get down here, you find out they don't want you. Some fellow on the other side of the mountain is going to take care of everything you have. It is not making my people a part of the State of Maryland. "County" to me is not a dirty word. It is a community of interest. It might be historical accident that counties in Maryland have become the communities of interest, but nevertheless they have. People live in different communities of different sizes just like people wear different size shoes. The basic question is whether you want to disenfranchise people wearing the wrong size shoes to achieve some nebulous good by reducing the size of this body below what is necessary to give these people a reasonable chance to be represented in their legislature.

It is not a question of voting strength. Obviously my delegate down here is one of 142 delegates. No matter how much he wanted to pass a bill, he could never pass it if the other delegates did not agree with it.

One-man, one-vote is a very understandable and very necessary thing. This is a different question, a question of standing. You have to have somebody here to introduce legislation. You have to have somebody here to testify before committees. You have to have somebody here who can give you an answer, will this or won't this work?

We are attempting to set up in the State of Maryland as I noticed—I served on the Local Government Committee and our report will be discussed in the Committee of