

organization, staffing facilities, all is compatible with this proposal, but moreover, here you could have a complete deadlock. The House and Senate might fail to agree on what the ratio should be and then I do not know whether you would have a General Assembly or not.

In all probability they would agree to the maximum and any adjustment thereafter would have to be in favor of the Senate at the expense of the House.

Certainly no agreement could be reached on that basis. It seems to me that this avoids a basic constitutional decision, the adoption of this would be a shirking of our constitutional duty to provide firm constitutional rulings. It puts something in the legislature that should not be there. I am opposed to it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist, you have two minutes to allocate.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: I allocate two minutes to Delegate Marvin Smith.

DELEGATE M. SMITH: The arguments presented against this and other plans have seemed to be based on the size of the General Assembly and as I have listened to them, they have been based primarily on the premise that the present General Assembly is unwieldy because of the House being based on two committees.

What kept going through my mind was why there could not be three or four or five. I notice the Eagleton Report, which has just now been distributed to us, on page 251 suggests the possibility of five committees in the House of Delegates.

I take cognizance of what has been said by Delegates Hanson and James with reference to shirking of responsibility and I will point out to you that the majority report provides that the General Assembly shall prescribe within certain limits "just as this says," shall prescribe within certain limits."

Mr. Chairman, we do not contemplate that there would be necessarily one delegate per county. We realize that the population is going to change, but I say to you, sir, that the more delegates there are, the shorter distance some of our people are going to have to travel.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other delegates desiring to speak in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Weidemeyer?

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Mr. President, Members of this Convention, in

the newspapers this morning we read that New York State has spent \$10 million and six months' time only to have a constitution draft fail when it went before the voters.

That draft failed for one of two reasons: it either failed to meet the needs of the people, or it did not meet the whimsies of the people.

When I hear delegates talk about living up to our responsibility, I think our responsibility here today is to draft a constitution under which the people of the State of Maryland can live for many years to come and with which they will be happy when we submit it. However, if we go to any drastic measures of dropping the House of Delegates down to eight or the ridiculous number of 105, then you are curtailing representation all over the state.

You are making the people of the State of Maryland feel they are losing their representatives. I say, to take the committee's report of 105 in the House of Delegates and 35 in the Senate is just about as ridiculous as I could imagine. We could shock the people of the State of Maryland no more than to give them one of those two recommendations.

I say if you want to keep the people of Maryland happy and make them feel that they have a part in this State and that they have a chance to vote for representatives, then you better give them representatives in their area. The only way you are going to be able to distribute representation is by a House of a similar size of 142.

I have heard some talk about it being unwieldy. I lived with the House for four years from 1962 to 1966.

I say that I did not get everything I wanted, but those were four happy years and I felt I did a good job and that the others were working hard. Probably some of the workload could have been distributed a little bit better, but that is something for the future.

I think the faults of the past will lead to improvements in the future in the legislature.

I say when you tamper with reducing the size of the House you are shocking the people of the State of Maryland and that one thing alone may be a big factor in defeating the constitution.

I say that I worked hard, I was one of those who did not favor the calling of a