

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

DELEGATE E. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee, I rise in favor of this amendment. It increases from 105 which is the Committee Report to 123, the membership in the House. This is a mere increase of eighteen. I do not agree with Delegate Gallagher that if you are not a member of the Ways and Means or the Judiciary Committee of the House of Delegates, that you are a minor member. There are several members in this body today who were members of minor committees or who are chairmen of minor committees, and I am sure they will testify that they do not sit around twiddling their thumbs all day thinking. They work hard and work very hard.

We have nine committees in the House, two major committees are the Ways and Means and Judiciary. We also have Motor Vehicles, Alcoholic Beverages, Labor and Management, Metropolitan Affairs, Banking and Insurance, and two or three others I cannot recall at the time. But everyone else who works on these so-called minor committees does a very good job and works very hard.

I sometimes wondered during today's debate where I spent January and February and March, whether in Annapolis or on some sort of trip where I really was not here.

Nevertheless, I think this is reasonable. It reduces the Senate only by two members, gives them 41, and it gives the House 123. I think, and I know that this is workable in both bodies. I will not continue this debate, in the interest of time, but urge the passage of this amendment.

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

Delegate Beatrice Miller.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: Mr. President, I would give you that we are getting closer to the goal, the numbers are coming down, and we are proceeding to do here on the floor precisely what we did in Committee. Those of us who came up to 105-35 and those of us who came down to 105-35 knew we were arriving at a figure where there had been some reason and some question, there had been round reason and testimony in its favor. If 123 was satisfactory merely because it was a compromise. I

would suggest you compromise all the way down to where the Committee came after several weeks of study and after serious consideration of the problem. The testimony of most of the legislators who spoke before our Committee, the testimony of most of the witnesses was that 100 was a good number for the size of the House.

As I said, before the testimony of experts in our Committee, I might add this was not a nice word to use because some people objected, the testimony of the studies made by any number of good government people, all came to the fact that 100 was about the largest you could have a house if it was to work efficiently.

I do not think this is a numbers game we should be playing, and I do not think this is a matter on which we should compromise merely for the sake of expediency. I repeat once again that I think the problems that will face Maryland in the future are too great for us to play a numbers game in terms of someone keeping their house seat or not keeping their house seat. If there is any kind of a numbers game we should be playing, it is in terms of the most efficient number we can arrive at for producing the kind of government Maryland needs. I beg you to stay, those of you who have already concluded that 105 and 35 is a workable number, to stay with that amount, and let us wear down the opposition to the point where we know what we are doing has merit.

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

Delegate Clarke.

DELEGATE E. CLARKE: I want to correct my last statement. I said 141 and 41. I meant to say 123 in the house and 41 in the Senate.

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

Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

Delegate Mitchell.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: Mr. President and delegates, I have been very much concerned with the principle of which Delegate Pullen spoke, that is, keeping government close to the people.

I have always felt that this is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and in our zeal for efficiency