

tee of the Whole: I would ask you at this time to vote against the amendment to the amendment. For clarification's sake, I shall not refer to them by those terms, but I ask you to vote against the amendment which calls for 108 members of the House of Delegates, and at the appropriate time, to vote for the amendment which calls for 120 members of the House of Delegates.

First, let me say, for this assemblage, that I have only the highest praise for the Committee of the Legislative Branch. They not only have performed magnificently, but in their explanations to this body, even where the Chairman may have disagreed with his committee, his explanations were lucid, they were clear, and they were absolutely honest and fair.

I have the feeling that we have reached a stage in these deliberations where we have to get off the dime. We are in a situation now where we have given consideration not alone to what the committee has done; we have given consideration to the General Assembly, and I beg of you now to give consideration to the people of Maryland and to the people of each and every political subdivision who are used to the traditional method of representation in the General Assembly, which has been changed by the law of the land.

When the Supreme Court spoke, that became the law. We have to face up to it. And though it has been a traumatic experience for some of the smaller areas, they, too, have to live with the law of the land. However, we who are here assembled have an obligation to the entire State, and we can best serve that obligation by fairness to all who are concerned, providing not an unwieldy General Assembly too large for efficient operation, nor too small to permit representation on a fair and adequate basis, but somewhere in between.

To arrive at what is in between and fair cannot be accomplished by using a computer and coming up with the right answer because it is a matter of judgment. We have to exercise our judgment, weigh all the decisions that are inherent in this kind of a development in modern political life, and in so doing, attempt to give the maximum representation, even to the sparsely settled counties because they are still a part of the State of Maryland.

At the same time I believe that we have to assure the efficient operation of the General Assembly. Now when the committee came up with its recommendation of 35-105, I do not know that there could have

been too great a quarrel with it at first examination. However, as the debates continued, we began to think that perhaps this convention should give greater weight to the problem of under-representation in the smaller areas.

We have at the present time 142 members of the House of Delegates. Maybe it is not as efficient as we would like. On the other hand, maybe it is even more efficient than we think.

Again, this is a matter of judgment, but to cut back at one fell swoop from 142 to 105, or 108, would be too great.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sherbow, you have a little less than one minute.

DELEGATE SHERBOW: It is the kind of reduction that leaves in this state the kind of source that ought not exist.

In fairness to the General Assembly and its operation, in fairness to the people of the entire state, in fairness to the people who will not have specific representatives, I urge you to vote against this amendment to the amendment presented by Delegate Bamberger, and then at the appropriate time, to vote for the amendment which we have offered.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor? Delegate Gallagher?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the committee. with the statutory deadline which we have facing us we hardly have the luxury of being able to say that we are going to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer. I would not want to suggest that at all. I do suggest to you, however, that what we have before us this morning is rather important in terms of what is going to happen for the rest of this convention.

I say to you that if each and every recommendation of each of the committees is going to come in here with no presumption whatsoever in its favor, that we have some difficult days ahead, and we may not complete this project upon which we have labored so long and so industriously. I thought in fighting it out yesterday that this first committee report was going to set a precedent. I felt it would work. I know the other chairmen feel the same way and that is why I was delighted yesterday when Delegate Sherbow was kind enough to indicate his agreement with 35-105. But