

THE CHAIRMAN: This is Delegate Gallagher's time we are using.

DELEGATE MALKUS: Oh, heavens.

Like Dick Case said —

THE CHAIRMAN: He has two minutes, so do not ask him too long a question.

DELEGATE MALKUS: I will try to be brief.

Like Dick Case says, when you ask an intelligent man a question he gives you a speech, and, by golly, it has happened again this morning.

But the point of my question is this: Is it too wrong to have five major committees in the House of Delegates if you have 120 people? Is that too wrong? It has worked so well in the Senate of Maryland when we divided it three ways. Now if the House of Delegates is a little bit larger, is it too wrong to divide it five ways so that everybody will serve on a major committee?

They are all major committees, Mr. Chairman. You will never be able to tell the people on the Agriculture Committee that they are on a minority committee in my area. They know that that is the most important committee in the General Assembly. So my question is this: Is it too important to divide the subject matter or the committee members into five committees?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Senator, it is not a question of right or wrong.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher, the question took a minute and a half. You have 30 seconds to answer it.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: It is not a moral question. This much is true. Seventy percent of the work is done by House Ways and Means and Judiciary. That leaves 30 percent of the work. With three additional committees it means each of them will handle ten percent of the work.

None of those three can be a major committee, and I object to the member of the legislature having to serve on a minor, ten percent business committee.

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

Delegate Malkus, do you desire to speak in opposition?

DELEGATE MALKUS: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

DELEGATE MALKUS: I wanted to say this to the Chairman, that all committees

are major committees, and in the Senate of Maryland, the committee that is headed by the great senator from Baltimore County, Jim Pine, is just as big as the ones headed by Harry Hughes and Joe Curran. We have no big committees in the Senate, and when he is trying to lead you to believe that there are some committees that are bigger than others, that is no longer true in the Senate. I think that should also be true in the House of Delegates, and we could divide it up accordingly.

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

Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: Mr. Chairman, I think it is probably fair to say that none of my friends from the small counties have ever accused me of having undue solicitude for their problems. If that were altogether true, I would be opposed to this amendment to the amendment and in favor of the amendment proposed by Delegate Sherbow.

I think if the proponents of the 40-120 formula would do a little bit of back-of-the-envelope mathematics they would demonstrate to themselves that they are hurting rather than helping the very cause they propose to help.

Under a House of 108 there would be nine counties which would not be entitled by their populations to their own representative. Under a House of 120 there would be eight counties not entitled by their populations. The one different county would be Dorchester County if the 1970 projections are correct; and in 1980, if the projections are even half accurate, it would lose that particular seat.

In other words, of the 12 seats to be added, from 108 to 120, 11 of them would go to the urbanized areas of this State; 11 of them, ladies and gentlemen.

This proposal does not do what it seeks to do. We may all lament that it is not done. We may all lament that it cannot be done. We may wish fervently that it could be. But I plead with this Committee of the Whole to think before it acts in this matter. Of any given number of seats that are added, a minimum of 80 percent of those added will go to the urbanized areas of the States, because in 1970 they will have 80 percent of the population. Under a formula of 108 in the House they will have 86 seats, with 22 for the rest of the State. Under a formula of 120 they will have 96 seats, with 24 for the rest of the State.