

more constitutional experts. I therefore, am strongly opposed to the 108 House.

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

I am sorry — Delegate Mitchell, do you desire to speak?

DELEGATE MITCHELL: Yes, sir; in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates—

THE CHAIRMAN: I should have said this was in favor of the amendment to the amendment.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: I am in favor of the amendment to the amendment for a smaller elected representation in both houses.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman and Delegates, I was a convert yesterday to the principle espoused by the amendment to the amendment and the recommendation of the Committee which has worked on this problem. I still think that the most compelling support for the Committee's recommendation and for the amendment to the amendment is the experience of other small states.

The Committee has recommended that it is simply good housekeeping for government; it makes for a more efficient government. I call to the attention of the delegates the fact that Maryland has a population of 3,100,689 and its present strength is 166. Wisconsin has 3,900,000 population and it has a smaller total of 133 for both houses. Tennessee, with 3.5 million, has only 132 for both houses. Kentucky, with 3 million, has 138. Virginia, with nearly 4 million, has only 140. Alabama, with 3,200,000, has 141. Louisiana, with 3,257,000 has 144. Kentucky, with 3 million, has 138. Georgia, with 3,943,000, and Minnesota, with 3,500,000, are the only small States which have larger representation than Maryland.

I would strongly suggest that if we look at the figures of still other States, New York, for example, with 16 million and only 208 representatives in both houses, it is simply good housekeeping. It makes for efficiency in the operation of our State government to have smaller representation.

I still would like to ask the Chairman of the Committee his response to the question which had concerned me, and which I think might be helpful to the other delegates. It

was the concern expressed by Delegate Pullen when he said that the primary responsibility in a democracy is to keep government close to the people, which means a maximum involvement of the people in elected representation.

I think it would be helpful if the Chairman of the Committee would respond to that concern, which I think is all of our concern. Will a smaller House give effective representation to all of the people?

THE CHAIRMAN: I will give Delegate Gallagher an opportunity to reply to that later.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Marvin Smith to speak in opposition to the amendment to the amendment.

DELEGATE M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I hope that all of us may be able to continue throughout this Convention to demonstrate the good humor that was shown by Delegate Gallagher earlier today.

I am a little like the sign that one of my secretaries has on her desk: I don't know much, but what I know I know real good — and I know a little bit about the geography of this State.

Now, what has been said here by our brethren with reference to the counties and the counties that may have a delegate, is probably perfectly true, but what seems to have been overlooked here, and the point that I attempted, apparently unsuccessfully, to get over yesterday is the matter of geography. Whatever we do, Mr. Chairman, by way of increasing the size of this House of Delegates is going to assist us materially in the rural areas from the standpoint of cutting down the travel time between our constituencies and our delegates.

In another generation there was a law passed by the General Assembly of Maryland that provided that one of the U. S. Senators should come from the Eastern Shore. That was not passed, as may appear to you, because the Shore was parochial, in that instance. It was passed to protect the rest of the State, because we are told that otherwise they would have had both United States Senators at that time. Obviously, times have changed.

Now, we come here pleading with you for just a little bit of give: let us have the 120 delegates.

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