

his first love and interest will be Kent County.

We are not asking for anything that the Supreme Court said we should not have. We have no right to come before this body and ask for something that the Supreme Court said we are not due. We do have a right to come before this body and ask for fairness and justice, however, and I submit to you that the Chairman of the Legislative Committee, who gave the majority report, stated in that report that they wanted to be fair to the rural counties. I submit to this body that there is only one way to be fair and that will be for fractional voting, and for that reason I support the amendment to the amendment.

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

Delegate Mason, do you so desire, to speak in opposition?

DELEGATE MASON: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

DELEGATE MASON: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in opposition to the amendment, and I support the amendment by Delegate Sherbow.

In supporting this amendment I am not unmindful of the "treatment" that the urban areas have received over the past hundred years by the rural areas; but we have been debating this question for hours. The Committee on the Legislative Branch indicated that when they considered the 120-40 number in their Committee they split ten to ten.

That is a good indication as to how that Committee felt about it at the time they voted on it. Therefore, I think that the 120-40 is a good compromise on this floor. Therefore, I vote, or I will vote against the amendment to the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. James Clark.

DELEGATE J. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak for the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee, it is imperative that we reach a consensus on this matter. It is more imperative that we reach a consensus with good grace and good feeling because this will help our endeavor very much.

I can say that Delegate Hanson and the Chairman of the Committee, Delegate Gal-

lagher, put their finger on it when they said that by increasing the size of the House from 108 to 120 you are really not doing what you are trying to do. What you are doing here is putting more delegates into the metropolitan areas where they are not wanted and where they are not needed, and you are not putting them in the rural areas at the extremities of this State. This is the problem with which we are struggling, in actuality.

I have a deep concern for the smaller counties. They have added much to the past legislatures, and if we can provide some means by which they can have a voice—and I think we can do this—they will add a great deal to future legislatures.

For this reason I think that Delegate Hickman has hit the nail on the head and has seen the light. I believe that if we will support the committee for the lower number, and then support the provision for the fractional vote, we will have struck a compromise, which will serve this State well for many years to come.

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

DELEGATE VECERA: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I object to Senator Clark's remarks in that the delegates are needed and are wanted in the urban areas, and we also want to work with our fellow brethren throughout the State in order that they also may have representation.

It is, therefore, my earnest intent to support Delegate Sherbow's amendment to the amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Beatrice Miller, do you desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

DELEGATE B. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that we came here today to rewrite a Constitution that is 100 years old, and that the situation is not the same as it was 100 years ago. If it were, we would not have had to come here today. Political subdivisions today are different. We have to provide for sprawling suburbia. The Chairman has stated that some of these small counties have less population today than they had in 1776. How small does a county become before we stop thinking of it as a representative political subdivision? Do we wait until it gets down to 15,000, 1,500, or 900? It is important, also, I think, here to realize that the issue is