

will be more easily computed because I think in the Senate there is more need for representation of every county than there is in the House. While I am in sympathy with his motives and his desire to help the smaller areas and the rural areas, I do feel that probably we can approach the problem better by a plan in the Senate.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in favor of Amendment No. 9?

Delegate Hickman.

DELEGATE HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to remind the delegates who were favoring the fractional system of voting if the former amendment had passed, 108 and 36, that the values of fractional voting would not have changed.

I would expect you, if you were sincere before, and I am sure you were, to vote for fractional voting now. It is the only way people of the small counties have of getting a voice into the legislature. We have heard people say that the Committee on Local Government is taking care of the local subdivisions by giving them more power. I would like to say in answer to that, that yes, if you want the people in the smaller counties to go within themselves and take care of the local problems and have nothing to say about the running of the Government of the State of Maryland, you are indeed taking care of these problems.

The only thing you have done is replace the machinery for getting the legislation passed. Whereas the local legislation was passed formerly here in Annapolis it will now be passed at home, and that is good. But we also want some representation when we consider taxation, the budget, the matter of capital improvements, et cetera.

We can not sit back in our little bailiwick at home and decide these things, or have any part in the decision.

I might say that a person who comes from a county with 20,000 people and who has one-half of a vote, or who is represented by a one-half vote, would have a proportion of 1 to 240, and that would be the same ratio as having two counties side by side having 1-120 with each of the two counties having 20,000 people and only half of that area represented. So I would ask those of you here who are going to vote on this question today to take into consideration that this is the only way we can have fair representation in the smaller counties.

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

Delegate Borom.

DELEGATE BOROM: Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates: There are two things I have a great deal of reluctance to do in this assembly, one of which is to delay the action of the assembly; the other to pose a threat that if there are certain things included in the new constitution the voters will go against it.

Let me speak on the first area of concern that I have. I am all for moving on with the business of this Convention. However, just as some of my fellow delegates are willing to delay the work of this body in order to bring out certain provisions in the Constitution—and I call this the “wear them down” technique—I am willing to prolong debate also on those matters against which I may have strong feelings.

I would say two sides can play the game, and I characterize the present effort as a game. It is a numbers game. The evidence of such shenanigans has no place in a constitution. Our political slip is showing right now. If we put this fractional item in the Constitution the voters will know exactly what we have been doing here today.

I would also find that if we leave this business of expansion, of fractional voting in the Constitution, we open the way later for amendments which will further expand it. This is deception. This is a game.

On my second area of reluctance to speak, I do not like the reference to the fact that the voters may turn the constitution down if there is something not in there that we like, and yet I would find it very difficult to say to my constituents, or to explain to them and justify, or speak in behalf of this particular amendment if it were included in the constitution. I would find it very difficult to say to them why it was there, because if I did I would have to reveal the actions of this body, and I think the actions at this point are contrary to the wishes of the voters of the State.

If we put such an amendment in the constitution we are really insulting the intelligence and the dignity of the voters in the State of Maryland.

I would go further to say that, were the constitution drafted and put to the voters with such an item in it, and my constituents asked me whether I favored the Constitution at that point, I would have to say that I would not go for it.