

that she will be the 38th speaker, beginning the 65th minute of debate on this secondary amendment.

Delegate Hopkins.

DELEGATE HOPKINS: Thank you.

I wish to speak in opposition to the amendment to the amendment. Delegate Cardin has pointed out the gerrymander that we have lived under in Baltimore City all of my life, and if you need any further reference, I merely refer you to all of the election returns for many, many years. This applies both to members of the minority party and members of the other minorities in the City.

If you have lived in certain parts of the City or if you are of a certain party, you therefore cannot ever get elected.

If this Convention does not do something about this in recommending and standing behind single-member districts, we will be accused of carrying on the gerrymander.

Thank you.

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

DELEGATE VECERA: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee of the Whole: I speak in favor of this amendment because I see that political kingdoms could arise in Baltimore City. 33,000 people would only take a matter of a few blocks. Political kingdoms could arise, more than we have now, if we have any at all, and I therefore speak strongly in favor of this amendment for a multi-member district.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Gill to speak in opposition to the amendment.

DELEGATE GILL: I was hoping I would not have to raise this argument, because of trying to elect more Negroes to the legislature. That is not my intention. My intention is to try to get adequate representation for people in Maryland, no matter where they live.

Baltimore City, of course, is a prime example of the fact that Negroes are not elected. From the first district, the third district, from the fifth district, from the sixth district they never win any Negro representation.

That is not the only group that is not represented. From all of Baltimore City there are many groups, many people who

are not represented down here, and as a result of the multi-member representation, everybody represents nobody, or very few.

We have between 60,000 and 70,000 people in each of the six districts in Baltimore City. In the fifth district, most of the people come from a certain precinct and live within a mile of each other. How is that representing 70,000 people? You can take almost any other district in Baltimore City, or anywhere around the State and find the same thing. So many people are not represented because with multi-member representation it is impossible to represent people in certain areas. So what happens? The people who are selected are selected because they can pull so many votes, and by pulling so many votes they get on the ticket and that ticket is elected. And of course it goes over and over again.

We have an opportunity here to try to represent more successfully, different kinds of people, and all the people. If we continue to elect multi-member districts we will continue to elect certain people, certain areas, and the other people will simply keep trying and never get elected.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does Delegate Lloyd Taylor desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

DELEGATE L. TAYLOR: Against the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Wheatley.

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am aware of the adage, "Blessed is he who has nothing to say; he cannot be persuaded to say it;" but even at that risk I think I am compelled to rise to express myself on what I consider to be one of the key issues of the legislative branch of government.

I think I have been consistent in my approach that the government is truly good that is close to the people, and for that reason I have tried to listen very intently to those who represent many counties of the State where sparsity is indeed a great factor. For that reason I have tried to express through my vote the wishes of their constituents, to the degree that I am able.

I think now I call upon them to look upon those who are in a different situation, where not sparsity but density is a factor, and I think density can be just as much a problem as sparsity.