

voted for yesterday, this could serve as a shock absorber during the periods of the shift.

I would now like to yield three minutes to Delegate Sollins.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will call on you later to yield time.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen of the Committee:

I rise, I might say somewhat reluctantly, to oppose this amendment, in view of the wholesale support the sponsors have given the Committee throughout these debates that started last Tuesday.

I should point out that the Committee decided with very little difficulty that we should have a two year general residence qualification in order to be able to seek a seat in the General Assembly.

On the question of whether or not this particular amendment should prevail, the Committee voted eleven to nine against this particular amendment, so that it was very close in the Committee. I believe that the rationale which we have followed is this: that we recognize the difficulties in reapportionment and some of the inequities that are going to occur from time to time. Consequently, all the majority required was that one be a resident for six months of a senate district in order to seek either the senate seat or any of the three house seats within that single senate district. So one need not be a resident of the particular house district, as long as one is a resident of that same district.

Single-member districting, of course, has for its objective not only the high visibility of the candidates and those who hold the elective office, but also a concern for the problems of the particular area.

The Committee compromised 13 to 7 on requiring the six months' residence requirement for the senate district office seeker, either for the senate or for any of the three house districts, because it wanted the candidate for public office to have something more than a passing acquaintanceship with the particular senate district itself.

You will note that the old Constitution had a three year State residence requirement, and a one year legislative district or county residence requirement. We have reduced both these figures, have taken the three year period and reduced it to two for

statewide residence, and we have taken the one year qualification which used to exist for a political subdivision, which has now been translated by virtue of the vote yesterday into state senatorial districts, and made that a six month requirement—we have cut it in half.

We think this is an ideal kind of compromise. We do recognize, of course, that there is a possibility that within a single senatorial district the three house members could all come from the one house district. That is, from a residence point of view. But we did feel we would be cutting it a bit too thin if we tried to require that one must be a six month resident of his particular house district. We compromised to try to take care of these inequities we have to face every ten years or five years, if there should be a five year Federal census.

In speaking against the amendment I do so with the suggestion to you that we do want to require some minimum residence within the district, and we believe six months is not too much to ask one to have resided in a district in order to be able to represent it either in the Senate or the House of Delegates.

Therefore, I would respectfully ask you to support the Committee Recommendation, and not the amendment which you have before you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hopkins?

DELEGATE HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman, I yield three minutes to Delegate Sollins.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sollins?

DELEGATE SOLLINS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee of the Whole, Delegate Hopkins has very ably presented all the good reasons for not imposing residence requirements. I am not going to take up too much of your time.

I would like to point out just one or two things: first of all, the Constitutional Convention Commission in its recommendations, I call your attention to page 130, agreed with the minority position. At page 130 with regard to this position the Constitutional Convention Commission Report states that although they are recommending that there be no requirement that a legislator be a resident of the district from which he is elected, it is stated that candidates will almost invariably be such residents just as are candidates for seats in Congress.

A majority of the Commission is of the