

opinion that the electorate of a district should not be precluded from choosing any qualified Marylander whom the electorate believes can best represent them.

Some members of the Commission, however, feel very strongly that only a resident of the district should be eligible to represent the district in the General Assembly, but by a vote of 13 to 7 the Commission rejected the requirement.

The difficulty in residence requirements is that it causes gerrymandering. We had classic examples of it last year in Baltimore County. I am sure the other large counties that were districted for the first time experienced the same thing.

Political people, to preserve their political bases, insisted on drawing the lines in a certain manner so that they could run in certain districts. This is the thing that is wrong with residence requirements.

I have great confidence in the voters to make the choice. I doubt that the voters of a district in Baltimore County are going to vote for someone from Carroll County or Montgomery County or Baltimore City; but if they do, I think if that is their choice, they should have the right to make the choice if they feel this man can most ably represent them.

I point out that as Mrs. Hopkins said, at the Congressional level there are no district requirements. I think this is an example of what we see in Maryland, it has not posed any undue burden or caused any carpetbagging. I urge support of Amendment No. 15.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, I think that the issue is fairly well-drawn and I do not intend to yield any time unless there are any members of the Committee who desire to speak against the amendment.

I have not had an indication that this is the case.

THE CHAIRMAN: For what purpose does Delegate Gilchrist rise?

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: For the purpose of an inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Parliamentary inquiry?

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Of the proponents of the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hopkins, will you yield for a question?

DELEGATE HOPKINS: Yes.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Delegate Hopkins, yesterday, in the course of the argument concerning single-member house districts, a very great point was made concerning the representation of particular small areas all over the state, the point being that single-member districts tended to greatly broaden the representation in the legislature. I am wondering how consistent this amendment is with the position of yesterday in view of the fact that this would enable the same kind of situation to prevail throughout a senatorial district where there will be a number of persons within the district. In other words, you could have the same sort of situation which occurred with respect to this Convention where, for example, I believe in one district in Baltimore all of the members resided within a mile of each other.

Would this not be possible under this amendment?

DELEGATE HOPKINS: Mr. Gilchrist, of course this would be possible, but I think highly unlikely. I think we are getting back again to the arguments for and against single-member districts, and I do not think this has a great deal to do with what we are proposing, as far as doing away with an unfairness that might result.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Hopkins for the purpose of yielding time.

DELEGATE HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman, I would have to ask Delegate Hanson whether he wishes to speak. We had planned—may I yield three minutes to Delegate Hanson?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: Mr. Chairman, as a member of this minority, I think that the report of the Committee is not unreasonable in requiring residence in senatorial districts but not in the house district.

On the other hand, we feel that it would be preferable if there were no residence requirement other than that of residence in the State of Maryland.

As to the question of whether this defeats the whole purpose of single-member districts, we strongly argue it does not. The country which essentially invented single-member districts for representation, England, has never required residence in the parliamentary district for the purpose of serving in the parliament of that country.

This is much the case in many countries.