

sixty days is the time which this Convention establishes for the gathering of signatures, and the petition requirement is five percent, then almost 760 signatures would have to be collected every day. In 1980 almost 1,300 signatures would have to be collected every day. This would almost be an impossible number for any group or organization to collect—every day for sixty days.

It must be remembered that the signers of a petition do not decide whether or not an act of the legislature is approved or not.

The petition only shows that a considerable portion of the people desire to vote on an issue. The final decision remains in the hands of the people throughout the State of Maryland.

Since the remainder of the Committee proposal insures that a considerable number of the people must vote on the issue in order for it to be rejected, we sincerely recommend that the Convention reject the suggested five percent petition signature requirement and instead retain the present three percent requirement.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Are there any questions for the purposes of clarification? Delegate Hanson.

**DELEGATE HANSON:** Just one matter of information, Delegate Hutchinson.

How many states require as little as three percent for referendum or less than three percent?

**DELEGATE HUTCHINSON:** Out of the twenty-two states that have referendum, the great majority, I believe all but two if I am not mistaken require more than three percent.

**DELEGATE KOSS:** None less?

**DELEGATE HUTCHINSON:** Three percent less. I am sorry. Three require three percent or less. That is only two.

**DELEGATE HOPKINS:** Is your answer only two, Maryland and one other state require three percent or less?

**DELEGATE HUTCHINSON:** That is right, two others, as pointed out.

We must remember that we are not writing a constitution for another state but we are writing it for the State of Maryland, and 80,000 signatures—in 1980, which is only thirteen years away, would be an excessive amount.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Any other questions? If not, Delegate Hutchinson presents a formal amendment to the members of the Committee of the Whole. The clerk will read the amendment. This is Amendment No. 8.

**READING CLERK:** Amendment No. 8 to Committee Recommendation S&E-1 by Delegates Byrnes, Hutchinson and Rybczynski: On page 2, line 3 of Committee Recommendation No. S&E-1 strike out the figure "the numeral five" and insert in lieu thereof the figure "numeral three".

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Delegate Koss. This is under control.

Delegate Hutchinson.

**DELEGATE HUTCHINSON:** Mr. Chairman, before I delegate time to several individuals, I would like to only add this to my report: to date we have reduced the number of representatives in the General Assembly. We have told the people of the state that they have the right to elect only one delegate; thus that they have now only one delegate who they can expect to answer directly to them, thus no matter how we look at the representation, it has been reduced, even if in no other way but by numbers. Since we have reduced representation, it is imperative that we allow the people some method of self-government. This must be in the form of referendum. If we make the referendum more difficult than it is at present, we are again limiting the voice of the people.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Does Delegate Hutchinson wish to delegate any of his time or allocate any of his time to others?

**DELEGATE HUTCHINSON:** Yes. I would like to give three minutes to Delegate Rybczynski.

**DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I will not delay this by three minutes. I will make a couple of points and do it fast.

Number one, the proponents of raising the percentage have shown no abuse of the three percent figure which now exists. In fact, they did not even show abuse at 10,000 signatures, which was the law before the three percent.

Number two, to those of you who feel that securing 28,000 or 35,000 or 45,000 signatures is an easy thing, you should talk to a private citizen in the City of Baltimore by the name of Arthur Sherwood who, after a year of campaigning,