

would imagine, or maybe a little later, a great deal of talk about the Missouri Plan. The Missouri Plan was brought into effect in Missouri through initiative. I doubt very much whether that would ever have reached the people in any other way.

I think the essence here in our proposal is for something in the future, for some way the people can, in some orderly, controlled manner, feel that they are still a part of the democratic process in a democratic political structure. I think one of the great dangers we face is to forget that the people are growing farther and farther away from their government.

We would hope this would be one, small way that we could retain a democratic touch in the future, some means of contact between the people and the government.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: I think all the arguments on this have been made. I would like to refer anybody who feels the need for any additional ones to page 7 of the Committee memorandum. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to respond, if I could, to what seems to be the problem many people have here, on a practical level, not philosophical. All objection I heard to this minute are of a statutory nature. I did not deem it wise to place in the constitution a great number of statutory protective devices to identify the number of opponents, how they would draw it, or how they would present it. If we had done that, we would have been attacked from a different quarter for a different reason.

We made it clear, I think, to this body that the legislature will have the power to respond to all these questions presented, but we are facing, I might suggest to you, Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen, a very fundamental issue and that is whether or not the people shall have this right to participate in their government. I think we can very easily dismiss these things and say, oh, well, there will be all sorts of practical problems and oh, my, we know what is best for the government. I think the people should put all these silly things into law. They may be silly but they are the people and this still is, I suggest, Mr. Chairman, a democracy.

THE CHAIRMAN: That concludes the controlled debate. We now go to the uncontrolled debate and speech is limited to

three minutes. We have 20 minutes of uncontrolled debate. The Chair recognizes Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: I rise to speak in opposition, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: The delegate may proceed.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: I will just touch on two points not previously mentioned. One is there is no provision within this section for fact-finding. That is, there is no provision within this section which would allow for what the legislature does and what we have been doing down here for nine weeks, that is to go into the facts behind a proposed bill.

The other is both a question and a statement of fact. If the sponsors that endorse what Delegate Schloeder has said about less representation and representation getting further away from the people feel that is the fact, I strongly suggest that we take this up under the Legislative Branch and reconsider the number of delegates to be sent to the House of Delegates and possibly raise the number to a figure to suit them. Perhaps we need a larger House of Delegates.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any member wish to speak in favor: Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: I think time is growing short. We might conclude our presentation. I would ask only this, that the body here assembled recall very clearly what the decisions are we have made to date and what the decisions will be. We decided the legislature shall be smaller, further from the people, more efficient. It was recommended by the Executive Committee we eliminate certain offices from their elective status, make the governor more efficient and stronger.

It is recommended by the Judiciary Committee that we leave the judges free of the elective system, and give the people a role in their selection. We have taken away from the small, rural counties a delegate. We have tightened up referendum.

I think it behooves all of us to be very cautious about all of these moves and reflect upon them when we vote for a device which would give directly to the people a right and means to participate directly in their own government.

I would much prefer, Mr. Chairman, to go back to my people and say yes, we have done all this. We have strengthened gov-