

ernment. We have made it more efficient. We have taken all these offices away from you, we have taken government as a whole further from you, but we have balanced this by giving you something you did not have before. That is the direct and orderly way in which you can participate in your own self-government. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone wish to speak against the amendment? In the absence of members wishing to speak on the subject, the matter is before the Committee. The question arises upon adoption of Amendment No. 11. Would the Clerk sound the quorum bell so that everyone can be registered.

This is a roll call on the amendment.

DELEGATE DELLA: There is a lack of quorum.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the delegate seeking a quorum call?

DELEGATE DELLA: That is what I thought you called for.

THE CHAIRMAN: I just asked that he sound the bell so that the people come in and register themselves on the amendment. This is an actual vote on the amendment.

The Clerk will record the roll call. There being 27 votes in the affirmative and 86 in the negative, the amendment fails for want of a majority.

The question now is the submission of the entire subject matter under Committee Recommendation S&E-1 for adoption or rejection by the Committee of the Whole. I think we promised Delegate Hutchinson an opportunity to submit his amendment to a small portion. I think yours, Delegate Gilchrist, goes to the entire matter. That would be the last thing we take up.

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: I would like to submit amendment lettered M.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the amendment prepared? ~

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: Yes, it is.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Clerk will read the amendment marked M. Does everyone have a copy of the amendment?

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 12 to Committee Recommendation S&E-1 by Delegate Hutchinson: On page 3 line 8 of Committee Recommendation S&E-1 add the following: "7. Re-enactment of Repealed Legislation. Once a law has been repealed by the people of the State, no subsequent

law designed to accomplish that which was rejected by the people may be re-introduced in the General Assembly until a period of two years has elapsed since the effective date of the repeal."

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Hutchinson.

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: Mr. Chairman, we discussed today and tonight the issue of referendum and initiative. We have been speaking about public involvement and at one point last week it was pointed out that at times we do have to represent the people who have elected us.

I have in my hand twenty-eight petitions, some completely filled, some not. These petitions were given to me by people of my district in support of a proposal I put in, Proposal No. 61, which is similar to the amendment before us. The only difference is that in the original proposal I had set a three-year limit. In response to these petitions, which amount to close to 400 signatures, I must speak in favor of this amendment. If this amendment is defeated, I will propose a second amendment again out of courtesy to the people of my district.

We have been speaking, as I said, on referendum, and in a way we have taken the bite out of it. We have stated that 46,000 people must sign a petition in order to refer a law and I do not disagree with this requirement. We have stated that at least 25 per cent of those people voting must vote on the issue, which means a considerable portion of the population of the state must vote on the issue.

Because of that and because a considerable number of people must vote, it seems to me that if we are going to listen to and take the recommendations of the public, of the people of the State of Maryland, we must pass an amendment of the sort I have put on the desk.

It may be said that one of the major arguments against such a proposal, and I can see the reasons for saying it, is that this does not allow the legislature to be very pliable, to change with the times, that they would be dictated to for two years. I think this is a very good argument against such a proposal.

Yet, I am not a person who is always in favor of protecting the people from themselves. I think if the people act or react to an act of the legislature, they must take the consequences whether they be right or