

Here we are dealing with a different area, and here I think the Committee is dealing with the most basic area that we could deal with, that of the preservation of our natural environment, our natural assets and values. We should preserve these in some respect and the mandate does so; it is no answer to say that there is no enforceable remedy. If the General Assembly does not carry out the mandate, it seems to me, as the Chairman of this Committee has pointed out, the final judge of that lack of responsibility is the electorate. I hope that this amendment is defeated, and that the Committee amendment is approved.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher, do you desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, at the appropriate time I would ask Mr. Scanlan to yield for a question.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is not the appropriate time.

Is there any other delegate who desires to speak in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Willoner, do you desire to speak in favor?

DELEGATE WILLONER: I would like to ask a couple of questions of Delegate Hardwicke if I may, very short ones.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may.

Does Delegate Hardwicke yield for a question?

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: I yield, Mr. Chairman.

DELEGATE WILLONER: Delegate Hardwicke, is this means to pre-empt the local governments from taking measures in this area?

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: No, it is not.

DELEGATE WILLONER: The second question is, did you leave out the word "improve"? When the Chairman read it he did not read "improve."

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: No. I intended that all of the nouns be made verbs; that is, conserve, enhance, improve and protect.

DELEGATE WILLONER: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are quite correct, that as I read it I did not include the word improve. I understand that it is to be included, Delegate Hardwicke?

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James, for what purpose do you rise?

DELEGATE JAMES: Would Delegate Hardwicke yield to another question?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke, do you yield to another question?

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Yes, sir.

DELEGATE JAMES: The use of the term, state government, would you mind substituting General Assembly for the words state government, or do you still insist upon those words?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke?

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Delegate James, I seriously intended that all branches of the government be empowered to do whatever was appropriate in this area, including the General Assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: Would this give independent constitutional authority really over and above what the policies of the legislature may adopt?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke?

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Conceivably it could.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: I do not want to ask any more questions. I have my opinion now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Wheatley?

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a question also for Delegate Hardwicke.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you yield to a question, Delegate Hardwicke?

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Wheatley.

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: My concern is not so much with the substance of the amendment, but the basis on which we are deciding.