

felt it would be affecting the powers that were most detrimental, that perhaps as I interpret your view, the law establishing the popularly elected representative regional government could be subject to referendum but every time there was a change in powers, you would not want this brought to referendum. Is this a correct interpretation?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Winslow.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: I did not speak to the question which my colleague suggests. I only pointed out that as the amendment was worded it would have the effect of putting to referendum every change in powers, however slight. That seems to me to be highly undesirable and for all practical purposes impossible. I did not speak to the other part of the question but I am glad to do so. I would leave the committee report as it is.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: In continuing that particular line, I am confused as to if there were any difficulties with this popularly elected regional government, who would be empowered to bring this to referendum? Would it come under the provision that no more than fifty percent of the signatures may come from any one county? If there are only two counties or a municipality in the county involved, how would we effect a referendum?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Winslow.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: The referendum would be effected in exactly the same way under the present wording of the provision as it would under the lady's proposed amendment, because her amendment makes no provision either as to how it should be effected.

The committee report shows that the effectuation of the referendum today would be left in the hands of the General Assembly. It could provide any kind of petition it pleased in both cases, whether this should read "may" or "shall."

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: One last question. Could the word "may" preclude any referendum?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Winslow.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: Not that I can see.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further debate in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: Mr. Chairman, you may call me out of order because it is not strictly in favor, nor is it strictly against, but I would like to point out that in our deliberation in the Local Government Committee we did decide that a regional government could preempt entirely a county government's function although it would not necessarily have to do so. A regional government may exercise all the powers of the former counties involved whose boundaries lie within it. County lines would still exist, but powers could be given by the General Assembly to that regional government.

On the other hand, powers would not have to be given so broadly and it would certainly be consistent also with the existence of county governments that a limited regional government be established. Let's make no bones about it. If you vote for this you are voting to permit the General Assembly to permit an all-powerful regional government. I do not say vote against it. I merely say understand that when you do vote for it, if you do.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question arises on adoption of Amendment No. 1. Are you ready for the question?

*(Call for the question.)*

A vote Aye is a vote in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1. A vote No is a vote against. Cast your votes.

*(Whereupon, a roll call vote was taken.)*

Has every delegate voted?

Does any delegate desire to change his vote?

*(There was no response.)*

The clerk will record the vote.

There being 20 votes in the affirmative and 90 in the negative, the motion fails. The amendment is rejected.

Are there any other amendments to section 7.10?

Delegate Case.

DELEGATE CASE: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment in the process of preparation striking at the same point we have been discussing here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other amendments to either Section 7.10 or 7.02?

Delegate Sybert.