

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Now we will hold that motion in
2 abeyance until we have considered Section 2, discuss
3 Section 2.

4 Mrs. Bothe?

5 MRS. BOTHE: Proposed Section 2 would read:
6 The General Assembly shall provide for a statewide system
7 of free public schools sufficient for the education of,
8 and open to, all children of school age.

9 This carries out what is now contained in
10 Section 1 of Article VIII. We feel without any doubt
11 that there should be a constitutional mandate requiring
12 the General Assembly to provide for a free education to
13 all children of school age and under the terms we use,
14 they are terms of art in a sense, but we don't feel that
15 they are litigation breeders in any way, because the con-
16 cept of free public schools implies it has been accepted
17 as meaning the elementary school system or secondary school
18 system, I think is the correct word. We felt that the
19 Section should be segregated from the intent of the section,
20 as expressed in Section 1 because it is a different con-
21 cept. The one merely encourages the State to provide