

The first part of the report that federal numbers should be used in finding the basis of representation was not approved by the majority of the convention. Federal numbers had been recognized in Maryland for the first time, in an amendment of the constitution in 1836. It was the result of a compromise based upon federal numbers and territory. According to this one senator was elected from each county and Baltimore City, while representatives followed the federal ratio of population.

If federal numbers had been taken as a basis for representation, it would have deprived southern Maryland of a large part of her population in representation. In Baltimore City there were less than three thousand slaves, while her free-negro class numbered nearly twenty-five thousand.

As free negroes were to be counted as whites, though having no political rights, federal numbers would have reduced the southern counties' representation unduly. In Prince George's and Charles counties the slave population exceeded the number of whites and free negroes combined. In addition Baltimore City had a large alien population, which, on the basis of federal numbers, would be made equal to citizens in the counties, where the population almost exclusively consisted either of native-born, or of naturalized citizens.

Federal numbers in apportioning representation in the Congress of the United States was the result of a compromise between the slave and the non-slave states. It provided that taxation and representation should be apportioned equally. The slave-holding states received as a compensation for the non-enumeration of a portion of their slaves in the apportionment of representation, an exemption to the same extent from taxation.

In Maryland there was no such compensation or equivalent exemption proposed, or contemplated. The effect of adopting federal numbers as a basis for representation would have been to throw the loss occasioned by slavery,