

shall apportion the members of the house of delegates among the several counties of the State according to the population of each, and shall always allow to the city of Baltimore four more delegates than are allowed to the most populous county; but no county shall be entitled to less than two members, nor shall the whole number of delegates ever exceed \_\_\_\_\_.

Sec. 3. The mayor and city council of Baltimore shall before the next general election of delegates after the adoption of this Constitution, proceed to lay off and divide the said city into twelve electoral districts of equal proportions as to population and of contiguous territory as near as may be, and shall after the returns of each national census are hereafter published under the authority of Congress, and after the apportionment by the legislature, lay off and divide the city of Baltimore into as many electoral districts as the said city may by said apportionment be entitled to delegates; and each district shall be entitled to elect one delegate.

Sec. 4. The apportionment of the delegates among the several counties and the several electoral districts of the city of Baltimore, shall be as follows until after the returns of the next national census are published under the authority of Congress, and the apportionment by the legislature as aforesaid, viz: each district of the city of Baltimore shall be entitled to one delegate for every seventeen thousand inhabitants, or fractional part thereof over and above one-half, and the several counties of the State shall be entitled to one delegate for every seven thousand inhabitants, or fractional part thereof over and above one-half, and upon this principle and giving to each county not less than two delegates: Allegany county shall be entitled to four delegates; Anne Arundel, three; each of the electoral districts of the city of Baltimore, one; Baltimore county, eight; Calvert county, two; Caroline, two; Carroll, four; Cecil, three; Charles, two; Dorchester, three; Frederick, seven; Harford, three; Howard, two; Kent, two; Montgomery, three; Prince George's, three; Queen Ann's, two; St. Mary's, two; Somerset, four; Talbot, two; Washington, four; and Worcester, three.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I make this motion in order to bring the minority report before the convention for its consideration. I understand that both of the reports will be open to amendment. I do not propose to press the substitute to a vote at this time.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. If that motion prevails, we shall consider the minority report section by section. If not, we shall consider the majority report.

Mr. CLARK. I will ask whether, if this motion prevails, the minority report will be open to amendment? I remember in the case of the convention bill, there were two bills re-

ported from the committee; and when the majority report was before the house, a motion was made to strike out and insert the minority report. The minority bill was open to amendment during its consideration. We must perfect it, and when the amendments are through, take a vote upon it.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Berry) moved to substitute the minority report for the majority report. Pending the consideration of that, if the friends of the minority report desire to perfect it by amendment, that is in order.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. Mr. President, I propose to occupy the attention of the convention but a short time, in support of the minority report. And I am now induced to do so only because our friends here, who favor the report, are, like myself, not prepared to enter upon a full discussion of the subject to-day. It has been the practice here, for the chairman of the several committees, through whom the various reports are made, to reserve to themselves the right to close the debate in support of their report, but as I am requested to open the debate, which I propose to do in a very few words, I desire to know beforehand, if I will be hereafter allowed to discuss the question fully? I do not know but that I will be precluded from doing so by the operation of the new rule referred to by the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Pugh.)

The PRESIDENT. The chair cannot properly determine the question until it arises. If the previous question is called and sustained by the convention, it will be the duty of the chair to allow no further debate, but to put the question at once upon the various amendments.

Mr. BRISCOE. I suppose if the substitute shall be voted down by the convention, it will then be in order to offer amendments to the majority report?

The PRESIDENT. Certainly.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I did not know what course the discussion of this most important question would take in this body. Nor did I expect to discuss it before the convention now. I had intended to follow the course of other gentlemen here, and close the debate in support of the minority report, but under the circumstances surrounding the subject at this time before the convention, I propose briefly to assign some of the many reasons which induced the minority of the committee to make this report, in opposition to the report of the majority of the committee.

The report of the majority of the committee fixes the basis of representation upon the *white* population alone, thereby ignoring the principle of representation as recognized by the general government, in the formation of the constitution of the United States in the convention of 1787, and of every State in the Union, when this population exists either in a state of slavery or freedom.