

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: We have suggested, Delegate Murray, that it is necessary to have in one of the two houses in the General Assembly a body, a membership, which has a political base, which is metropolitan or regional in color or tone or respect.

We think one of the great problems we face now is that all members of the General Assembly are elected from the traditional political subdivisions we know. We think that the House should remain so districted, but we also think that we must recognize the growing regional problems of the State, and that problem-solving will not begin until the authorities vested by this constitution with the responsibility to solve them, themselves have a base which is centered in a metropolitan or regional political subdivision, rather than the traditional subdivision we have known.

The point of the amendment is to require the redistricting apportionment authority recommended by the Legislative Branch Committee to require them where they can constitutionally and where they can in terms of population, to cut across county lines and to create senate districts which would include house districts in two counties, Baltimore City being a county.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Murray.

DELEGATE E. C. MURRAY: Since I must pose this as a question, do you not realize, since you are speaking of Anne Arundel County, that the people of Anne Arundel County, that the interests of Anne Arundel County are just about as diverse as could possibly be, even though you brought in a part of Baltimore City?

This has always been true.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: I would say in answer to that, I do not question that for a moment. I know perfectly well that the interests of Anne Arundel County are diverse from those of Baltimore City.

I also know that the third district of Baltimore City's interests are different from those of the fifth district, and I say that in the House that those diverse interests should be protected, but in the Senate we should also recognize that although there is a diversity of interest, there is also a commonality of interest.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Byrnes, you have left only one minute.

Delegate Murray, do you have another question?

DELEGATE E. C. MURRAY: I have this question only, sir. Do you not realize that we would rather retain our own destiny?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: I do realize that, but I think that I can recognize also that this Committee of the Whole approved almost unanimously the power to be vested in the General Assembly to go beyond the political subdivisions that we know in solving these problems.

So I think that although we do treasure our history and our political subdivisions, since we have known them so long, we also have to recognize that there are common problems that cross these lines.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions of the sponsor of the amendment?

Delegate Lord?

DELEGATE LORD: I have a very short question.

THE CHAIRMAN: It will have to be. I think he has left only 30 seconds for both question and answer.

DELEGATE LORD: Delegate Byrnes, shouldn't you also be amending some language in there about following natural boundaries as nearly as possible?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think you have about time to say yes or no, and not much else.

DELEGATE BYRNES: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Just briefly, Mr. Chairman, while I applaud Delegate Byrnes' ultimate objective to get a regional frame of mind where regional interests require it, I do not think this is the way to do it, and I would respectfully oppose it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion?

*(There was no response.)*

Are you ready for the question?

*(Call for the question.)*

The question arises on the adoption of the Amendment No. 1 to Committee Recommendation LB-2. The Clerk will please ring the quorum bell.