

Mr. Chairman, I do think that it is possible to carry out the provisions of the section that is sought to be deleted here. We have provided that it shall be done by rule. I think that all the arguments that were made with respect to visibility are applicable, and I think there is no necessity here that we attempt to provide at 9 o'clock the following morning the debates that took place the day before.

Quite obviously what the Committee on the Legislative Branch had intended was to have a record of what took place on the floor. Despite the difficulties that may exist in actuality, I am certain that if there is a need that the need can be met, and I think it will provide a significant public service.

I think that in trying to advance the vision of the people and the responsibility of the legislators that we ought not jettison this particular feature which found favor with this body when we debated it earlier and when it was voted upon. And therefore, Mr. President, I would urge you and the other members to vote against the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Chair should make this further comment, although I am sure it will be greeted by laughter, notwithstanding the comments of Delegate Rybczynski and Delegate Gallagher.

I was not attempting to, I will not say not attempting to influence your vote, because I am attempting to educate it; but I am not attempting to tell you how to vote, and the Chair does not intend to vote. My concern was only that the delegates have the benefit of the information that is available to the Chair and which you would not have unless you were told by me.

I would certainly expect any delegate to vote his conscience, and I would expect any delegate to be free in debate to tear to pieces any comment the Chair has made.

Is there any further discussion?

Delegate Burdette.

DELEGATE BURDETTE: I should like to touch upon an entirely different point, or really two points.

From the point of view of the Committee on Style, and I as an individual member speak for myself, this transcript has been of enormous value in discovering intent. It has, I should think, likewise for the State of Maryland enormous value in the judgment which the people make about the performance of legislators and the judg-

ments which are made in courts about legislative history. The value of the transcript is not only transient, but permanent.

I should like to make the point also that I do not interpret any requirement in the language here used to require a printed transcript. I should like to suggest to the President that I should certainly interpret this language to permit a recorded transcript which could be made available in that fashion by proper indexing.

I do not think we are in any sense limiting the General Assembly in its power by rule to make a printed transcript, or to make it available at any particular time or to any particular audience. I simply suggest that it is of enormous value to the visibility of our legislature and for the enlightenment of public life in this State.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Chair should advise you that there is another amendment which, I suppose, would be offered in the event this amendment is defeated, or may be offered anyhow, which would strike out the word "transcript" and insert the words "visual and audible record."

I do not know whether that is intended to cover the point you make or not, Delegate Burdette.

Delegate James Clark.

DELEGATE J. CLARK: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen:

I rise to support the amendment. I think that perhaps in the light of what we have learned from our experience that it is certainly unwise to include this in the Constitution.

If in the future the General Assembly wishes to follow this course, this is always open to them, and I would certainly hope that the amendment prevails.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Beatrice Miller.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, as we discussed this in the Legislative Committee there were a number of us that felt that this was one of the most important changes that we would be making or important recommendations that we would be making. Some of us have come to the legislature year in and year out trying to find out what is going on, trying at home to get reports of what has happened, how our legislators have done, what the issues were, what was said, and it is very difficult to get this information.