

DELEGATE BYRNES: Mr. Chairman, I think this is one answer to the problem that we may have created.

Time will tell, by our apparent judgment to create single-member districts.

There is a need for the development of sound political authority with metropolitan regional perspective in this state.

The day is far away when regional governments will be accepted by the people. This is assuming their value as a solution to this growing problem.

It is entirely possible that regional government will never be established, and that at best we will be forced to suffer a welter of authorities, commissions and the like, with different metropolitan responsibilities.

Maryland is a small state, Mr. Chairman, and the population in the metropolitan region, already forms a great area of the state.

Maryland is also uniquely situated geographically. The day will soon be upon us when a great portion of Maryland is a small portion of the Eastern megalopolis. In short, many of Maryland's regional inter-governmental relations and problems lend themselves to state level solutions. It is possible some day that the Senate will assume a limited or full role as the legislature responsible for regional and inter-governmental problem-solving, making necessary new additional layers of government or authorities of taxing power.

To add thrust to this movement, this amendment is offered. It would at least place in our state legislature persons who by political necessity must adopt a regional metropolitan perspective, leaving the House of Delegates to continue the needed county, city, local perspective in state problem-solving.

It would also begin the long educational process by which the people of this state will come to appreciate that the problems of our day have torn asunder the geopolitical fabric we have known for so long, and that it must be rewoven.

This convention must look to this problem of intergovernmental relations, and regional development patterns, and it must take some positive steps in response to them.

This amendment, Mr. Chairman, is a very tiny step now that will permit great strides at some future time.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Gallagher?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen, I believe that the subject matter of this amendment really belongs more properly in Section 3.02, which has not as yet been reported upon by the Committee on the Legislative Branch. This really addresses itself to the question of redistricting, and I would suggest to Delegate Byrnes that he consider withdrawing the amendment and offering it at the time we come to Section 302, redistricting, where it can be debated more intelligently. I ask if he would consider that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Byrnes?

DELEGATE BYRNES: I do.

THE CHAIRMAN: Amendment No. 14 is withdrawn?

DELEGATE BYRNES: The amendment is withdrawn.

THE CHAIRMAN: Amendment No. 14 is withdrawn.

The Chair requests that all delegates remain in the chamber. I hope that we can adjourn in a very few minutes, but it is imperative that all delegates remain in the chamber.

Is there any further amendment to Section 3.04? If not, we will move to section 3.05.

The Chair intends to recognize Delegate Hopkins for presentation of the minority report, and then immediately recognize Delegate Powers so that the Committee may rise.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Hopkins.

DELEGATE HOPKINS: Do you mean for me to explain this or merely present it?

THE CHAIRMAN: You do not have to do anything for the moment. You have the floor. Before recognizing the Chairman of the Committee on Calendar and Agenda, the Chair feels impelled to call to the attention of the delegates that we have spent a great deal of time today in debate and in fruitful debate, but we have fallen into the habit of not violating, but not observing the true spirit of the rule, that in the Committee of the Whole a delegate may speak more than once.

There have been delegates who have