

diction to the district court or to the superior court on matters, let's say, pertaining to traffic court cases. It is clearly up to the legislature to set the jurisdiction. It may withhold traffic court cases from the district court and then set up quasi-judicial courts for this function. However, I do not believe that it is going to do that and I do not believe that it is going to create a system similar to what we have now.

The entire purpose for the minority in bringing this amendment before you was for the Committee of the Whole to decide whether or not it wanted to write a flexible document, whether or not it was going to put trust in its legislature to follow through with the tenets of Article V, and give the specific courts set forth there, the superior court, district court, et cetera, their jurisdiction in accordance with the jurisdiction that the other courts now have under the present system, but reserve—reserve, I submit—the right to create other courts, special courts, as the need may in the future require.

May I reiterate that under the present system, in this day and age, Article V, as written by the majority will take care of all our needs. This is the reason we say it is not a "gut" issue, but we feel is one we should bring before the Committee of the Whole to determine whether or not it wanted to provide for some flexibility in the document, specifically, with respect to judicial power. For that reason I am going to vote for our amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN. Delegate Mudd, you have three minutes left of controlled debate in this portion.

DELEGATE MUDD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I respectfully disagree, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee of the Whole with two observations by the distinguished Delegate Johnson who speaks for the minority.

It seems to me that this is a "gut" issue. It goes to the core of the overall idea of the majority.

We do not imply that it is the intention of the minority at this time or any future time to disrupt or impair in any way the unified court structure proposed by the majority report.

We do suggest that by this amendment the minority may inadvertently open the gates to the legislature, not necessarily now, but in the years to come, unintentionally create a special court that could com-

pletely disrupt the orderly housekeeping responsibilities of a unified, uniform court structure.

It is that fear which prompts the majority to urge you to vote against this amendment. In the humble judgment of the majority our key responsibility is to have this Convention adopt the essentials of a unified, uniform court structure to best serve the people of Maryland.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is now available under the debate schedule fifteen minutes of uncontrolled but limited debate.

The Chair first recognizes anyone desiring to speak in favor of the amendment. Do you desire to speak in favor Delegate Rybczynski?

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Yes, sir. Before you start your stop-watch, I would greatly appreciate your welcoming to our Convention two gentlemen sitting over your left shoulder. State Commander James Gay and First Vice Commander Francis Connor of the Catholic War Veterans of Maryland, who are here this morning to see the Governor on official business and who are sitting here to observe our proceedings.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delighted to have them with us.

*(Applause.)*

Before you start to speak, the Chair also would like to recognize the presence in the rear gallery of forty ninth grade students from South Carroll High School in Carroll County. Delighted to have them with us.

*(Applause.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, Delegate Rybczynski, the stop-watch.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, I think that most of the people in this room who are not lawyers will be greatly surprised to learn that today, this very minute, and for quite some time, the State of Maryland has been operating under a four-tier system. We have on the one side of our building a Court of Appeals, on the other side of our building we have a Special Court of Appeals, on the Church circle we have a Circuit Court, which is the third tier, and in the basement of that same building is the People's Court, which amounts to a four-tier.

This is in existence today. And as part of that existing system, we also have some specialty courts.