

people of Baltimore since 1851, and he had yet to hear the first word of complaint against it. The majority had offered an additional clerk as a bribe to gain support, but he spurned the offer, and contended that one clerk could do the work under that system as well as five.

Mr. Garey said that prior to 1851 Baltimore city, under the old system, had a separate Criminal Court, and so great was the importance of the criminal business that several judges at one time sat on the bench. Since 1851 but one judge had presided there.

Some gentlemen had come here so imbued with the idea of the defects in the Baltimore system that they wished to organize a system entirely unknown in Maryland. When the Convention resolved to adopt the three-judge system for the counties, it returned to the old system. It was contended that this would also be expected in Baltimore city by the adoption of the majority report, but he denied it. The whole thing was impracticable; it was a compulsory system, and could not be operated. When this scheme was first brought forward it embraced but one clerk for the whole city, and, as soon as this was known, it created great confusion. The most distinguished leaders of the bar opposed it, as tending to subvert the entire system of Maryland to introduce in the city of Baltimore a system which had failed in New York, and was one of the reasons which had induced the calling of a constitutional convention in New York and which had worked badly in Washington. It was a pet scheme gotten up by a few distinguished gentlemen, but not demanded by the people.

Mr. Barnes had been opposed to the majority report and in favor of the principal features of the minority report. He had been hopeful of some system being devised which would meet the views both of the friends of the majority and of the minority, and with that view had made the motion yesterday for a consultation of the city delegation. The substitute which had been agreed upon by a majority of those present substantially embodied the features of the minority report, with the rotatory system of the majority report. This being the case, he was opposed to splitting of hairs.