

## STATEMENT

By JOHN M. SKEVIN, Delegate Bergen County on Proposal No. 51

Considering the requirement of Reynolds v Sims that both houses of a bicameral state legislature must be based substantially on population, it is now even more important than ever that there be meaningful differences in the composition of the houses, if bicameralism is to be retained. This proposal provides for several such significant differences. The terms of office vary; senators terms being 4 years and Assembly members terms being 2 years. The most meaningful difference, perhaps, is that with only 2 exceptions, the constituencies of Senators and Assemblymen are different. Through this structural device, fuller and more equitable representation is achievable.

The 15 Assembly districts, which are similar to those proposed by the bipartisan Legislative Reapportionment and Congressional Redistricting Planning Commission for the Congressional districts, retain county lines and municipal boundaries as much as possible within the objectives of the proposal and keep deviations from the average population per seat well within constitutional limitations.