

There are many of us who feel that the three elective offices within the executive branch, in addition to that of the governor, are necessary as a check on the executive power, in addition to the checks of the legislative and judicial branches.

There are other delegates who have urged in the interest of efficiency and progress that we do not clutter the line of authority of the chief executive, and that we eliminate the elective offices because it fragments that power.

I am for efficiency and progress, and so I voted to reduce the House and Senate in number, because I became convinced it was good governmental housekeeping. But I also voted to retain the single member districts, to keep the government close to the people.

I believe that the reforms that we make within our governmental system, ought to be consonant with the kind of government we want to maintain here in America, and that is a democracy. We provide for that by making sure that there is maximum participation of the people in the government through the elective process, and through the election of public officials.

Now, for efficiency and progress, I voted for the recommendation of the nominating commission of the Judicial Branch Committee in the interest of getting a free and independent judiciary, although I am still opposed to closing the judicial elections to any citizen in America who qualifies himself and who aspires to the judiciary.

For efficiency and progress I voted for stronger local government and all of the recommendations of the Local Government Committee.

But now under efficiency and progress we are urged to eliminate all the state-wide elective offices within the executive branch except that of governor, and yet no delegate has given a convincing example of how the existence of the elective office within the executive branch very seriously impaired the efficiency of a gubernatorial office and affected the progress of this State, not one.

I am for strengthening all three branches of government so that they will be co-equal branches, but with all of the testimony about the fragmentation of the governor's power, it still remains as a fact that the governor of this State is the single most powerful elected official, and it is true of all other states.

One delegate said that the existence of these three elective offices as a check on the executive power was an indication of the distrust of the people for the chief executive. I would say that it is a healthy restraint on the chief executive, because in a democracy we need that restraint on this concentration of power.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have a little less than one minute, Delegate Mitchell.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: I think our founding fathers in this State and in other states purposely provided that there would be a fragmentation of the executive power or, if you will, a diffusion of the executive power, because they were so close to the tyranny that comes from the abuses of too much concentration of executive power. I have not voted to retain the treasurer because I believe his duties duplicate the comptroller's, but I shall vote for the lieutenant governor as the Committee recommends, because I believe that that is a valuable and important addition.

I would say, Mr. Chairman, in the interest of efficiency and progress, do not let us become so streamlined that we streamline the rights of the people out of the government.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Morgan, you have a little less than five minutes to allot.

DELEGATE MORGAN: Mr. President, I yield the balance of my time to Delegate Sickles.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sickles.

DELEGATE SICKLES: Mr. Chairman, I have three brief points.

Last week we went to very great pains to remove the judiciary from the political arena, and I think we should be commended for our efforts. We now have that opportunity to do that for the chief legal officer. All logic would dictate that this position should be appointive.

An argument which was raised time and time again in the Committee was that the attorney general's office was a good training ground for governors. It was also suggested that if we listened hard enough we might hear a party call, but I think the wisdom of the individuals involved has been such that there has been none; but even if there were, as President Kennedy once said, "sometimes party loyalty demands too much."

My second point relates to a realistic appraisal of the current situation. Great