

right of collective bargaining. The public employees have not been denied this right on the basis of the tort law theory of 'The king can do no wrong', but instead have been denied the right on the basis of, one, the Constitutional principle that legislative authority cannot be delegated, and, two, sound public policy, as stated in the above judicial decisions.

"Therefore, the honorable delegates of this Convention are respectfully requested to omit any provision for collective bargaining, because, one, private employees have this right as a matter of law without the need for a state Constitutional provision; two, sound public policy dictates that the right should not be afforded to public employees; three, public employees under existing statutory law already have the right to belong to an association or union which can equitably represent them before the State, its agencies and its political subdivisions."

It is apparent to me that the demand for this amendment comes not from the employees of the industry and the government of the State but from other sources.

I urge the defeat of this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Kiefer, the Chair's ruling went to the distribution of the letters to which you refer.

I did not of course intend to indicate, as indeed, I could not, that they could not be referred to by you or any other person in the course of your debate.

Delegate Bothe.

DELEGATE BOTHE: Mr. Chairman, I yield two minutes to Delegate Storm.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Storm.

DELEGATE STORM: Mr. Chairman, I became sold on this idea back when I was in the Navy. Up until that time, I came from a very conservative county where labor is not understood. I was very much opposed to the idea, but seeing it work at sea in the merchant ships, I became convinced that this right is a precious one and is good for America.

I submit that the labor movement has made tremendous strides for the good of America. I think they are now responsible people. I think they are cleaning up their own houses. We can respect them, and I think that this is a good amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Kiefer.

DELEGATE KIEFER: Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have left?

THE CHAIRMAN: Approximately nine minutes.

DELEGATE KIEFER: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of this Committee: this is another time when I find myself rising seemingly to vote against motherhood and in favor of sin. Please believe me, I am not.

I urge you to reject this amendment resoundingly. Now, I am not opposed to labor. I have probably been engaged in hard labor as much as anybody here, and maybe more so. I partly worked my way through college in the summertime working as a laborer, a carpenter's helper. I can remember climbing over scaffolding, a hundred feet over the ground carrying loads of lumber. And when we worked away from home, I can remember boarding and living with these same working men. I still represent people and have as friends, laboring men.

I am not opposed to labor. I hope Delegate Storm and you people who will feel you have to vote for this, realize that this is not an anti-labor position. However, I must call your attention again to the fact that we are here writing a personal right, a Declaration of Rights section, which applies to all of the people, not just to a segment of people or to a group, a pressure group.

Now, in our files we have letters and letters from people who are little people, who say, give us the right to work. Nobody is opposed to negotiations. Nobody is opposed to unions.

This can all be regulated by statute. We had Labor Day here on October 19, and the people we had were the same old tired people who come down here every year to the legislature. There were management and labor. They were very fine, sophisticated people. They got into an argument among themselves. Labor wanted the right to organize and bargain, and management said, "yes, you can have it, but we want the right to work."

Now, not only are there some of you who are not completely a hundred percent in favor of one position or the other, but even labor itself and even the employees themselves are not completely in favor of this.

There are 17,000 members of the Maryland Classified Employees Association, 7,000 members of the Municipal Employees Association of Baltimore City, some 1700 of the Baltimore County Association.