

1 Yesterday I asked Delegate Mason when he was
2 presented the minority view several questions, and I
3 hope you followed them carefully. The gist of those ques-
4 tions were simply to point out that with respect to the
5 function and responsibility of the attorney general's office
6 when there were times when he was advising two opposing
7 factions, that when one is placed in such a position
8 it is clear that there is a conflict of interest.

9 Now, what we are doing by requiring the election
10 of the attorney general and the continuance of his func-
11 tions and responsibilities in the same manner that they
12 have been over the period of years, we are the ones who
13 are placing that attorney general in a conflict of interest
14 situation.

15 It is not necessary. There is no question but
16 that the office itself would function just as efficiently
17 under the appointive procedure as under the elective pro-
18 cedure. In that method or manner of appointment there
19 is no difference that resolves the conflict of interest
20 when it arises in his dual function of advising the execu-
21 tive and the General Assembly.