

operates on a fee basis now reporting to the comptroller and hiring people at the comptroller's — subject to the approval of the comptroller, — all that will be done away with and we will have a really local system of a county system whereby many of these functions could be transferred.

Again, some of the tax-collecting functions might well be transferred either to the comptroller or to a new department of taxation that has long been recommended. The clerks collect in Baltimore City a huge sum of money from traders licenses, traders taxes and things of that sort. The register of wills collects huge sums as inheritance tax, and all those things could be properly transferred to a state agency who would do it on a much more efficient basis.

I suggest for all of the practical reasons and because, at best, this system could never be put into effect under the transitory provisions, the clerk would hold for the balance of their term, so that in the meantime the legislature would have a chance I think to work out some of these details, whether duties would be assigned to other people as between local and state officials and so on.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

Delegate Dulany.

DELEGATE DULANY: I yield three minutes to Delegate John Hargrove.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hargrove.

DELEGATE HARGROVE: Mr. Chairman, I will not repeat all that has been said already as to why the Minority Report should be adopted, but I will point out this, that today in our present court system the courts in the numerous counties and the court in Baltimore City are pretty much autonomous. They are systems within themselves and the counties who have today, including the City of Baltimore, sole responsibility to a large extent for their operations.

Now, we have talked about functions. I think the history of the court clerk is very interesting. In the State of Maryland the many functions which have been placed upon the clerk of the court have been put there not so much because they are judicial functions but because the clerk's office in many counties was the central place in that county and in many instances were the only county offices which were open every day of the week where the people could go and acquire certain licenses and so forth.

But today we have put together a completely new judicial system, a part of which is the administration of the clerk's office. We feel today that these many functions which have accumulated and been thrust upon the clerk's office over the years should now be made a part of the county and a county function.

I think Judge Henderson alluded to Baltimore City. I would suggest that in Baltimore City we have a court of common pleas whose sole function virtually is to collect for marriage licenses, liquor licenses and these functions could expeditiously be replaced by the city treasurer's office and thereby one clerk of the six who are elected in the City of Baltimore should be disposed of.

We therefore suggest that today is the time to get rid of the many non-judicial functions of the clerk when they properly should be in the county's office and give the courts a full-time clerk who does nothing but administer the functions of the court on a daily basis.

We therefore urge you to support the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will interrupt the debate at this point for a few moments to recognize Delegate Freedlander.

DELEGATE FREEDLANDER: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, four years ago almost at this very hour, the world was shocked and saddened by the news of the death of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

The death of this vigorous, young leader was a great loss to the forces of democracy around the world. History, the American tradition, and the continuance of the federal system were his references. He believed in strengthening state governments.

It is fitting and proper that we, who seek to forge a new charter of democracy to serve Maryland for the next century, rise for a moment of silence in memory of President Kennedy, the first President of the United States to have been born in this century.

THE CHAIRMAN: Governor Tawes.

DELEGATE TAWES: Mr. Chairman and members of this Convention, Delegate Freedlander has very effectively reminded us of the tragedy which took the life of President Kennedy four years ago. There is very little I could add to what has already been said. However, I should like to sec-