

witnesses who are unable to come to his office, that is, witnesses on wills.

His job goes to the substance of the case and not merely to the form. He has an obligation to see to it that estates are processed in good order. By way of collection of taxes, the office of register of wills of Baltimore City, it is contemplated for this year and next year, will collect approximately five million dollars in taxes.

He publishes notices, he keeps track of debts that are put on file with respect to cases and estates. He keeps records and files on the estates of minors and not only does he do that, but he sees to it that the money is kept in good safe places, such as federally insured building associations and banks.

He handles estates in cooperation with foreign jurisdictions.

Ladies and gentlemen, this office is enshrined in the present Constitution in Section 41 of Article IV, so we are not proposing something new to you. I strongly suggest to you that this is a very proper office, a very important office for an elective position.

Now, Mr. Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen, for the past, I believe the Chairman said six days or four days, we have been talking about this judicial article and from time to time there have been little public remarks made and some private remarks about the attorneys speaking too often and too quickly on all these questions.

Well, we have been talking about our profession. We have been trying to defend ourselves. We hope that whatever product is released from this Committee of the Whole will make for a better judiciary in the future, however in the meantime, I want to speculate on just what is going to happen when we start talking about the executive article and we see all the future aspirants for office of governor, attorney general, and office of controller, who will be jumping up and down like a jack-in-the-box to protect their interests, and wait until the teachers start talking about who is elected to the board, and the housewives wanting two pots for every chicken.

I want to back up Delegate Johnson and his subcommittee. It has been a privilege and a pleasure for me to do it. He has worked it sincerely and I think his Committee worked it sincerely. I have tried to work it sincerely. Delegate Johnson has tried to work long and hard and I hope that before this Convention is over, every-

one will show appreciation to Delegate Johnson for the very hard work that he has put in on this matter.

Just as one side matter. Tomorrow is a holiday. We are going to be sitting down for dinner. It will be a pleasure for me to look up at the shining faces of all my children and all my in-laws and my other family and be able to say "Gee whiz, we really got that Amendment No. 61 through, and I spoke for it, and we can all be happy and proud."

*(Applause.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mudd.

DELEGATE MUDD: May I inquire of the Chair if it is my obligation to answer all of that?

*(Laughter.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: You have ten minutes either to answer or to yield to others.

DELEGATE MUDD: I will take a couple of minutes, if I may, to concur in all the kind things Delegate Rybczynski has said about spokesman Delegate Johnson for the minority.

We worked opposite each other, but certainly he has been conscientious and diligent and I respect his judgment in all of these matters, and regret that I have had to vote against him.

May I say also in explanation for rising in opposition to the amendment, Delegate Rybczynski, that I am not exhibiting myself as a candidate for register of wills. Also I apologize to the lawyers for arising again once too often, but I think in terms of my position as spokesman for the majority as having for my clients the Committee of the Judicial Branch, and no one ever had a better group of clients, except this morning one got out of hand trying to represent himself.

This to me seems to be almost an identical method with that we just dealt with in regard to the sheriff. I agree that this is a most important office. There is no disposition or attempt on the part of my Committee to downgrade the importance of the office or to suggest that the functions now performed by the very many capable registers of wills will in any way be lost to the state.

I repeat again that the work of that office and the statutory responsibility assigned to the register of wills is a quasi-judicial function. To register the wills as