

tions to the Board of Public Works is the failure on the part of the legislature to act and to create agencies of government which will suit modern tools of management, a reason why today we still have the Board of Public Works deciding state property transactions, from fountain pens to road construction programs and for disposal of lands which were purchased and never used by the State. This is because we have not established a property disposal agency within the state where under proper rules and regulations, in full view of the public, land and other property of the State might be disposed of.

We have refused to establish modern tools on bonds of the State; we have a Triple-A rating but we have a Board of Public Works which has to decide whether we go ahead and purchase bonds of the type at certain interest rates. Should this not be in the hands of a fiscal adviser?

We could go on, but time is limited. The Board of Public Works has in reality become a super-legislature, an in-between arm where it can act quite contrary to the will of the legislature to change appropriations. There are examples upon examples as we go back over the last hundred years where the legislature ruled one way and the Board of Public Works acted in a completely different manner until such time as the legislature reconvened.

We heard much about the visibility that the Board of Public Works gives to us. On the contrary, the Board has held quite irregular meetings without a set pattern and schedule. Many of the meetings have been secretive in nature and some of them have been hastily called and unannounced to the public as was the case in 1964 when the state property tax was raised from 15 to 17 cents per hundred. Until 1959 the executive secretary of the board has been under the control of the comptroller, not under the chief executive and when we talk about his ability, let us take a look at the record as has been reflected over the years from 1966 to 1967. The minutes of the Board of Public Works were provided to the public seven months after the meeting of the board, March 9, 1959. The minutes of the April 15, 1959, meeting were available five months and ten days later. The first meeting of the fiscal year 1963 was held in July and the minutes were published December 24. We could go back through the pages in the annals of our State and find continually documented evidence that indeed the Board of Public Works has been performing a public service.

It has been a hindrance to Maryland moving into the twentieth century.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Dorsey.

DELEGATE DORSEY: Mr. Chairman, how much time does the minority have remaining?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think you have twelve minutes or so.

DELEGATE DORSEY: I would like to yield that.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have twelve minutes.

DELEGATE DORSEY: I would like to yield the remaining 13 minutes to Delegate Sherbow.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sherbow.

DELEGATE SHERBOW: Mr. Chairman, will you advise me when ten minutes have elapsed?

THE CHAIRMAN: I will.

DELEGATE SHERBOW: May I ask the Chair a question?

THE CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

DELEGATE SHERBOW: The Majority recommends that the Board of Public Works not be provided for in the constitution. I assume that a vote yes is a vote that it shall not be provided and a vote no is that it shall be provided, is that correct?

THE CHAIRMAN: That is correct. But before you proceed, let me make an inquiry of Delegate Dorsey.

The Journal Clerk has handed me a memo which he has received from you indicating that you desire to offer an amendment to Committee Report EB-1 by striking the word "not" on page 1, line 14.

If you desire to offer that amendment the Chair will permit you to offer it now and continue the debate or it will permit you to offer it at the end of the controlled period.

DELEGATE DORSEY: I prefer to offer it at the end of the controlled period.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will rule that it does not interfere with the debate schedule and we will proceed with that understanding.

Delegate Sherbow.

DELEGATE SHERBOW: Mr. Chairman and members of the Convention: I think it is very important that we understand the issue that is now before us.