

going to be involved in the consideration of the budget.

I suggest that while this power of the legislature to preserve whatever power it might decide to give to the Board of Public Works is theoretically present, as a practical matter if the governor wanted to diminish it, to distribute it around so it could not be effective, to eliminate any publicity the legislature might have required for the board action, any resourceful governor could delay the legislature acting for this fifty-day period.

The question therefore is not whether it is desirable that this be a constitutional board, but whether it is desirable that we have any such board. If you feel we are to have such board, the only way to protect it is to make it constitutional.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Grumbacher.

DELEGATE GRUMBACHER: Mr. Chairman, I rise to correct what I believe is a misunderstanding on the big hassle we had last year in the legislature over the purchase of some land from the Naval Academy Athletic Association.

My memory seems to be that at that time the Department of Public Improvements, not the Board of Public Works, was negotiating for the purchase of that property at \$1,300,000, that three members of the House of Delegates got together and had at least three appraisals made, all of which were very substantially low, in fact a fraction of this figure; that the governor and the legislature together in cooperation then worked out and set up a figure of \$800,000 as a limit that the Board of Public Works could pay for that property; and that is the amount which the Board of Public Works approved on the 10th of January of this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bushong.

DELEGATE BUSHONG: Mr. Chairman, I cannot get over the fact that if you take the Board of Public Works out of the constitution that the governor of Maryland will be able to do pretty much what he wants to do insofar as the legislature gives him authority, In answer to Delegate Hanson, I am surprised that a person as knowledgeable in public law as he is would not know that a three-to-two minority report published might do some good for the people of Maryland if there were something rotten in Denmark.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates: In listening to the discussion that has taken place with respect to this proposal today, I am somewhat at a loss with respect to its evolving around the question of its contributing or adding to the governor's power.

I had one experience in appearing before the Board of Public Works representing some clients who owned some property they were duped into buying in Massapique Island.

The government wanted to take over the property. After analyzing the proposal, I felt it was a bad deal for the state government. I was not opposed to having that property taken over for all the people.

We were entitled to a two-day hearing before the Board of Public Works. These property owners constituted something like over 1,000 individual families. I felt then it would have been much better if those people had an opportunity to get to their House of Delegates and State Senate and urge their case before committees of the General Assembly with respect to that proposal of the Department of the Interior.

I feel this is not a question of adding to the governor's power. If I felt it was so, I would vote for the proposal and against the Committee Recommendation.

My answer to Senator Clark is that if they want to change this every four years, that is what we entrust them to do; if in their judgment it is the state of things that it be changed, it should be.

I do not like a legislature to delegate their power to a body that is not responsible to the people. I hope the Committee Recommendation will be supported.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment against the Committee Recommendation? There is opportunity for one speaker.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Mason to speak in favor of the recommendation for one minute.

DELEGATE MASON: I merely want to ask Delegate Morgan a question.

THE CHAIRMAN: That would not be possible, because he is on the opposite side.

Does anyone desire to speak for one minute in favor of the Committee amendment?

DELEGATE MASON: I have a brief question.