

DELEGATE PULLEN: I am asking if he knows what the facts are.

THE CHAIRMAN: He has answered you. I take it he has answered you to the best of his ability, Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: May I respectfully suggest he read the attorney general's opinion on it?

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, do you have another question?

DELEGATE PULLEN: I have a lot of them. I had better bring them up later.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions of the Vice-Chairman? Delegate Grant.

DELEGATE GRANT: Delegate Adkins, I wanted to ask you for clarification of an answer you gave to Delegate Frederick. Did you indicate that if the comptroller were a constitutional office that the powers that would be assigned to him would be different than if the office were created by the legislature and was not mentioned in the constitution?

DELEGATE ADKINS: I suppose the answer to that would depend on the nature of the constitutional provision that this Convention ultimately wrote, if it wrote one. If the comptroller were given by the new constitution the same powers which he now has, my answer would be yes, that they would be different from the powers which a legislatively selected or legislatively authorized comptroller would have, because he now is what amounts to the chief fiscal officer for the State. I suggest that under the proposal of the Committee, which will come under consideration later, the legislature could not create such a broad fiscal officer, free of gubernatorial appointment. Does that answer your question?

DELEGATE GRANT: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions of the Vice-Chairman? Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: Delegate Adkins, did I understand you correctly to state that if we have an elected comptroller that would constitute a plural executive, which is not good for this State?

DELEGATE ADKINS: You certainly did not understand me to say a plural executive would be good for this State. No, I do not think a plural executive would be good for this State.

THE CHAIRMAN: You misunderstood Delegate Mason, I believe.

DELEGATE ADKINS: Maybe I did.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason, would you restate your question?

DELEGATE MASON: I said, was it not your testimony that the election of a comptroller would constitute a plural executive?

DELEGATE ADKINS: It is my statement to the extent that the executive power is vested in more than one elected executive; to that extent we have a plural executive. That is not exactly the way I phrased the term, but I think that is an accurate statement.

DELEGATE MASON: Is it not a fact that most states elect from six to eleven statewide offices, whereas Maryland only elects three?

DELEGATE ADKINS: There are only ten states which elect a comptroller. I do not have the figures on the total. I could get them. I do not have them in my mind. There are only ten states which elect a comptroller, which would be comparable to our comptroller here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: But there are a considerable number of states that elect a fiscal officer by another name, is that not true?

DELEGATE ADKINS: Yes. There are other states that elect a fiscal officer by another or different name. Some call him a treasurer. If you will bear with me a minute, I think I have the information on that here. No, I do not have it. I thought I had it, but I can get it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: I am not interested in the numbers, Delegate Adkins, but is it not a fact, as far as statewide offices, elected officials are concerned, that most states elect from six to eleven statewide officials?

DELEGATE ADKINS: Suffice it to say it is certainly true that there are many states which have more than two statewide elected officers, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: Now, did I understand you correctly that the governor of Maryland would be a weak governor?