

substantial questions of public equity were involved.

This is such a question. We are not writing this constitution for the moment. We are writing this constitution presumably for the next 100 years.

I ask you in your consideration of this question not to let the fact that it has been suggested that we will be divided, that we will be sharply put at each other, to be determinative of the issue in your judgments.

Consider it in terms of the tri-partite system of government with a strong executive, a strong legislature, and a strong judiciary, a government that you can go forth from these halls and defend to your voters. Let not the pressures of the moment decide this basic issue. The majority has every confidence that if a decision is approached with that frame of mind, as this Convention has approached all its other decisions, it will vote with the majority, and more than that, we will go forth a united, not a divided Convention.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Sybert, according to the time keeper you still have seven minutes.

DELEGATE SYBERT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield three minutes to Delegate Storm.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Storm.

DELEGATE STORM: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates:

I think really that the main problem here is strengthening the hand of the Republican governor, and we are willing to do this. Now, please follow me on this, because I believe that a vital question is concerned here.

I believe in a Board of Public Works. I believe in having an elected comptroller on that board. I believe that this is especially necessary when we have a Democratic governor, because a Democratic governor, with the usual Democratic legislature, has a great deal to say regarding the selection of the treasurer. I submit to you that we are writing this constitution for Democratic as well as Republican governors, and I suggest to you that it is good to have public discussion with an elective comptroller able to disagree, and to point out dangers which he knows from being the chief fiscal officer of the State—not to make policy, not to adopt a poverty program and all that sort of thing, but one

who can point out dangers if the governor's advisers want him to do something that he really should not do, and would not do if he understood it properly.

I suggest that you Republicans should support this because this will be insurance in case a Democratic governor is ever elected again, and I believe he will be someday. Then, you see, we do not have a weak governor. When we have a Democratic governor, he is strong. It is only the Republican governor that we need to assist. I am willing to assist him. We are giving him powers of reorganization. We are giving him a majority on the Board of Public Works; but please, do not do away with the Board of Public Works and someone on it who is responsible to the people and able to get up on his feet and say, "Gentlemen on the Board of Public Works, this is not for the best interests of the people, and these are the reasons why."

Then it will be a meaningful press conference and public meeting. But if you just have the governor alone select, when you next have a Democratic governor he will be an absolute dictator.

I agree we should strengthen the power of the Republican governor, but please, keep the comptroller elected to protect the people. The people want this protection, and this constitution, I am afraid, will go down in defeat if you take away from them two of their statewide officers.

Thank you.

(President H. Vernon Eney resumed the chair.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Adkins.

DELEGATE ADKINS: Mr. Chairman, we yield the balance of our controlled time.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to recognize the presence in the gallery of eighty members of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, and to say that we are delighted to have them with us.

(Applause.)

On the basis of conversations which the Chair has had this morning with some of the delegates, the Committee on the Executive Branch, and on the basis of statements made by other delegates, the Chair would like to have the Committee on the Executive Branch make one more effort to arrive at a recommendation to this Convention which could be concurred in by all or nearly all of the members of the Committee of the Whole.