

the question of the election of the comptroller.

DELEGATE SYBERT: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sybert, I was of the impression before adjournment that the controlled time allotted to you and to Delegate Adkins had expired. The time keeper has just handed me a note saying that you actually have four minutes of controlled time available to you. I am sorry.

DELEGATE SYBERT: That is what I understood.

I would like to yield three minutes of that time to Delegate Carson.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: When I came to this Convention I think I approached the issues of the comptroller and the attorney general with an open mind. I had, in fact, stated during the election campaign preceding my coming here that I thought we ought to investigate whether or not these offices should remain elective.

I have attempted to give these issues my best thought, and I have become convinced that both should be elected.

The comptroller of this State has been in existence for 166 years now, beginning in the Constitution of 1851. My memory of history shows that in 1851 this State, so far as the fiscal matters were concerned, was in a perilous state. We got out of that situation, and for 166 years we have had decent and responsible fiscal management in the State of Maryland. We have had responsible and eminent persons willing to run for and be elected to the office of comptroller, including an eminent delegate here today who later became governor of this State for two terms, and did a fine job.

I think this office should, because of this history, be retained as an elective one. I think we should not discard what history has shown to us to be a good office performing a valuable function.

I think it is also important that the people overwhelmingly think this. They desire this. They understand this. They want it.

I think we should vote in favor of it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Adkins, I understand you have a little over two minutes that you may allocate, if you choose.

DELEGATE ADKINS: Mr. Chairman, I surrender the rest of my controlled time. I am perfectly willing now to hear from the rest of the delegates.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sybert.

DELEGATE SYBERT: I will do the same, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment against the Committee Recommendation?

Delegate Della.

DELEGATE DELLA: Mr. President, is that under uncontrolled time?

THE CHAIRMAN: Uncontrolled but limited time.

DELEGATE DELLA: Mr. President, fellow delegates to this Convention: I suppose six months ago that you would have gotten odds of a thousand to one that I would be speaking in favor of Goldstein retaining his job, because I have never voted for Mr. Goldstein and never will. But I am leaving personalities aside.

I have had experience with the comptroller's office. He has been there to audit the president of the Senate's books as to disbursements and I was well satisfied with the job that was done. I thought it was necessary that it should be done. I am sure, if any vouchers are to be paid, I think we need someone — I am certainly not speaking of personalities when I speak of Mr. Goldstein — but I think we need someone to look over the fiscal matters of this State, and I might say that that job as comptroller is more sensitive than the job of being executive of this State.

You must observe government and you must go through the experience of seeing how the office operates.

I would prefer that the governor be appointed by someone rather than have the comptroller appointed, because I think the comptroller speaks for the public.

Now I have heard stated in the halls around here that Mr. Goldstein embarrassed Mr. Agnew. Lo and behold, I think each branch of government has embarrassed the other branch at one time or another, and certainly the legislative branch has very often embarrassed the chief executive of the state. However, I think we have to get away from personalities, and such considerations of the fact, for example, that Mr. Goldstein embarrassed the governor on estimates of income, and, therefore, we have to get rid of Mr. Goldstein.