

Committee of the Whole that unfortunately I do not have a copy of the proposed compromise, and I think it really speaks directly to this issue. To the extent that the people want an elected comptroller, it is my understanding, from the discussions in my district that what they really want is someone to exercise some sort of reviewing power over the sensitive functions of the governor, and to the extent that that function is fulfilled in this new board which is my understanding of the proposed compromise, I would think that the comptroller is not necessary.

Stated another way, I think the people really want the review that is promised us by the suggested compromise, and they do not recommend an elected official just to have an elected official. They are interested in his function.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bushong.

DELEGATE BUSHONG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that this Convention is attempting to do away with two elective offices, and replacing an elective office with a lieutenant-governor who will go all over this State, making speeches and preparing himself to be elected when the governor can no longer run under this constitution.

Now, we talk about democracy on the other side, but here we talk about dynasty. And I think the people of this State certainly do not want that. I feel that the people still want to elect their public officials.

We have no objection to the election of a lieutenant-governor, if this Convention wants one; let it be, but why take away with one hand two elected public officers and replace them with one, who shall be the person that goes around the State and tells everybody how good the governor is.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment.

I think if we look at the functions that are performed by the comptroller, we will see that there is no need for the election of this office, and that in fact, it can provide a serious problem for the future development of a strengthened executive branch in Maryland.

The way to check the executive branch, and the financial activities of the executive branch, is with a vigorous legislature, an

effective appropriations system, and an effective post-audit, and with laws requiring publicity for financial decisions.

I think we would not create the office of comptroller, or even consider it if we did not already have that office in the present Constitution.

We have already removed the post-audit functions and placed those in the legislature where they belong.

I am somewhat worried about some of the discussion which suggests that the comptroller must be a watchdog of the treasury, but who watches the watchdog? It seems to me that this properly is a legislative function, and I am far more concerned with the possibility that we would have a comptroller, whom the governor would have no adequate power to check than I am that we would have a governor who would run rampant with finances of the State, and a comptroller simply to control him.

Another function performed by the comptroller is that of the pre-audit. I think all authorities in the field of public financing agree that the pre-audit function is an executive function. It is an integral part of management. It is essential for management to see that its programs are being carried out.

There has been some concern expressed on this floor that the post-audit would not provide an adequate control. A post-audit effectively performed will properly provide a very strong and effective control over the financial operations of the governor, and all of the departments that operate under the governor, because one of the functions of the post-audit is not only to check up on things several months after they occur but to require the executive to undertake the procedures by which those checks can be made effectively and promptly.

So here again we have no need for an independent office. The estimate of revenues is an integral part of the budgetary process and certainly no one on this floor has argued that the budgetary process is something of which we ought to divest the governor.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have one-half minute, Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we can enhance popular control over the finances of this State by making the governor responsible, and by simplifying for our government and for