

job. The arguments for the present system roughly run as follows: First, experience shows that it provides us with an experienced man of honor and trust to perform the multiple duties of state treasurer. Second, it provides a time-tested method for securing honesty in the handling of public funds. The supreme confidence in a computer may be present in some areas, but there has been no machine which has been invented which can not be tampered with or circumscribed by the ingenuity of man. Third, the office provides continuity in public finance which is extremely valuable to both the governor and the legislature. Fourth, it provides a vehicle to whom the legislature can delegate certain administrative functions with confidence.

There are many functions which the legislature has delegated to the Board of Public Works only because it has confidence in the hard quality of that board and only because it knows it has a representative there upon whom it can rely to exercise good judgment.

Fifth, it provides a relatively non-political administration of the office of treasurer. Now, I would like to quote Governor Agnew, and I am quoting directly from his address to the Constitutional Convention, State House, Annapolis, Maryland, at 2:00 P.M., September 29, 1967. The Governor made this statement: "In my opinion the Board of Public Works should continue but be reconstituted. The Board provides a forum for public scrutiny and presents an opportunity for the expression of legislative views on significant decisions. I believe the state treasurer, an adjunct of the legislative arm, should continue as the representative of the General Assembly."

Now here is a governor who works with the treasurer all the time expressing his opinion about this office. I think the legislature would like to continue to elect the treasurer.

The fortunate thing about the election of the treasurer, is that when the governor makes the recommendation to the legislature and the governor and legislature can agree upon the appointee and the person elected, he is going to be a man of high caliber.

Let us look at the New Jersey experience back in the forties, when Governor Hoffman had the appointment of all the fiscal officials. These people conspired together and took thousands of dollars from the treasury. I do not know the exact figure, but it is my recollection it ran to a

million or better. The State did not find out about this until Governor Hoffman died. It was several years after he left office, and it was never discovered.

If you permit a situation where the governor and his appointees have full control over all of the fiscal affairs of the State, you run the risk of a situation developing which has never occurred in Maryland.

You may say we are going to have honest officials and I think we do in the main. I hope so. My observation is that we do. But nevertheless, as Edgar Bergen said to Charley McCarthy, "You would not cheat the friends who trust you", Charley said "Well, those are the only ones you can cheat".

We want to have a system which provides the necessary scrutiny of public finances so if there be any temptation whatsoever the system will overcome the temptation. The retention of the treasurer in the constitution provides a logical office for legislative designation to this board of administrative review or interdepartmental review.

If we do place a treasurer in the constitution under section 4.23, the treasurer would be appointed as an executive official. Certainly the legislature would never elect an official of the executive department to act as the legislative representative on the Board of Public Works, so that the time-honored system of providing the treasurer as the legislative representative on the administrative board dealing with court matters would be eliminated.

We have a practical and pragmatic association. The governmental theorists look and say it should not work this way, because this is wrong in theory. I say to you that the constitutional nature of the position draws good men.

How could we possibly obtain more highly qualified persons for this highly qualified office than we have had in Maryland's experience?

If the treasurer becomes a mere appointee of the governor, certainly you are not going to get the type of individual who has a high standing in the community, so you run the risk of having the appointment of a political person. And when this happens, the man who does the work really is chief deputy and the politician is a figurehead.

As Delegate Adkins said, Maryland has been fortunate in having high class treas-