

(Applause.)

Delegate Dorothy Scott Murray.

DELEGATE D. MURRAY: This certainly is not in opposition. I just wanted to second the motion of Delegate Clagett. We are very happy to have you here, and I will see you when I get home.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bennett.

DELEGATE BENNETT: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen of the Convention: I have listened here this morning to a great deal of what I consider to be tongue-in-cheek oratory or rhetoric about the importance of officers close to the people and the importance of the voter exercising his rights in choosing his officers. It is all very well and good.

I found, incidentally, that keeping your tongue in your cheek when you are in the midst of an argument is a bad place to have it, so I would like to say with some candor that I doubt that if a Harris poll or Gallop poll were taken in Montgomery County there would be ten percent of the voters who even knew who the comptroller was or the attorney general, let alone know what their duties or responsibilities were. I say that if we are to get this charter approved, we are going to have to prove that it means more efficient, more effective government in dealing with the problems of the urban area, dealing with the problems of violence in the street, dealing with problems of crime; and that means, it seems to me, that we have to stick to everything we can do to update our government.

One of the ways to do that is to strengthen the hand of the governor, and not have him handicapped.

THE CHAIRMAN: For what purpose does Delegate Dorsey rise?

DELEGATE DORSEY: To ask if Delegate Bennett will yield.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will you yield?

DELEGATE BENNETT: Yes.

DELEGATE DORSEY: Delegate Bennett, do you live close to the District of Columbia?

DELEGATE BENNETT: What is that?

DELEGATE DORSEY: Do you live close to the District of Columbia, where the attorney general is appointed and the mayor is appointed? How would you compare the crime rate?

DELEGATE BENNETT: If you compare the crime rate of the District of Columbia with a similar area composed of similar people, such as Baltimore, you will find that the District of Columbia has a better record. I say that because, among other things, the chief law enforcement officer of the District of Columbia is not appointed by a District person. It is a person who is probably selected by the attorney general — or he has a large voice in it.

Let me return to my point in trying to get this amendment defeated.

We have to win the support of the people. Yesterday we met with the League of Women Voters, 3500 of them in the State of Maryland. They are the kind of people we are going to have to depend upon to get this charter approved, and after they have studied this question, they stand for a strong governor and an appointed attorney general and comptroller general.

If you want to get it approved, vote down this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone desire to speak in favor?

Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: I notice that the delegate said in Montgomery County it would not make any difference, but I assure the delegate, in Anne Arundel County the people want to vote for the attorney general, and they resent all these offices being taken off the ballot and being subjected to appointment.

So much has been said on the subject that if I were driving a meat wagon and could come in here with a meat wagonload of nice fresh steaks that you could all sink your teeth into, and I could give you something new, I would be glad to do it; but I do not want to come in here with a meat wagon loaded with ripe baloney and expect you all to enjoy it. So I am going to sit down and vote for the attorney general.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

Delegate Bennett.

DELEGATE BENNETT: I was wondering if my good friend Delegate Weidemeyer would have a moment to yield?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Weidemeyer, do you yield to a question?

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: I would be glad to yield to a short question.