

were political incompetents in the judiciary, and that there was time for cleaning up the sorry mess. I submit to you that the same argument now applies to allow the governor to appoint the attorney general and all of his assistants, and putting politicians in the legal department of the State, where it has no place. And we are continually creating the same horrible mess that was referred to by Judge Henderson and which he was disposed to clean up.

I submit to you that the only way to have an impartial, independent office in the attorney general is to have it an elected one.

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

Delegate Willoner.

DELEGATE WILLONER: After the last I must get up and say something. Anybody who thinks there isn't politics in the attorney general's office does not know what the facts are. Not only is there politics, but the assistant attorneys general are active politicians, working for the attorney general for governor. Whether it makes any difference to this debate or not, it just is not true that the attorney general is not involved in politics, because he certainly is.

I might mention a couple of other things. We have had so much talk about the people here. The people could care less about the attorney general. If the attorney general is a good lawyer and makes good decisions based on the law, that is it. He has to interpret what the law is. The legislatures decide what the law is.

It seems to me that what you are voting for when you vote for an attorney general is an individual.

We have had some very nice individuals, and if you look at the history, as it has been pointed out today, these individuals are working on the first step to becoming governor. It might be interesting to see what is going to happen in the future where we have a judicial selection procedure. If we will not be able to elevate our attorney general to gubernatorial offices, we will shift them off to the courts.

Politics is a major part of the attorney general's life, and I think probably it should be.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in favor of the amendment. I speak not as a lawyer, but as one who

has probably taken more advice from the attorney general's office than any individual in this room, and I consider it to be the finest advice in that the attorney general's office represents the best in the tradition of state government.

I grew up in the state where the attorney general was called the commonwealth attorney. Here he is called the state's attorney. He is the attorney who represents the people, not any one individual.

I read a statement yesterday to the effect that the attorney general and the comptroller should be the governor's men. The attorney general must represent all of us. He must represent the department even at times involving conflict with the government.

I have received opinions which were not the ones that I wanted, but I respected them. I believe we must have an independent individual in that office.

One final opinion: Anyone who is appointed by another must, of necessity give allegiance to that person. He must so long as he stays with him reflect that opinion. Anyone in an office created for the purpose of protecting all of the people cannot be subservient to any one individual.

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

Delegate Marion.

DELEGATE MARION: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates: This morning a letter was delivered to the Convention. It was addressed to any old legislator, and one of the members of the Convention staff delivered it to my colleague to my right, Delegate Malkus. Delegate Malkus opened the letter. It was from a young lady in Alexandria, Virginia, and when he read, "I am especially interested in finding out what the purpose was in rewriting Maryland's Constitution," he handed the letter to me and he said, "You take care of it."

(Laughter.)

I suggest one of the purposes we are rewriting Maryland's State Constitution is to put the State of Maryland back on the track as a strong governmental entity with respect to the federal system in which we live. I say to those prophets of doom who tell us what will happen to the State of Maryland if we have an appointed attorney general that the United States of America,