

cated by law among and within not more than twenty principal departments grouped according to major purposes. The number of principal departments may be changed by law enacted by a three-fifths vote of all members of each house of the General Assembly. Regulatory, quasi-judicial and temporary agencies and commissions established by law may, but need not, be allocated within a principal department."

Mr. Chairman, I think we went over 4.18 but that was not considered when the amendments were offered.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have not reached section 4.18 yet.

Delegate Della.

DELEGATE DELLA: I think I questioned the Chairman on 4.18.

THE CHAIRMAN: On presentation. But it is open for amendment.

Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Chairman Morgan if he would yield for a couple of questions, please.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Morgan, do you yield for a question?

DELEGATE MORGAN: I do.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: Delegate Morgan, do I understand the words that the finance department are meant to mean that the comptroller shall not exercise any tax collecting functions and that is all that they mean?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Morgan.

DELEGATE MORGAN: That is correct. The comptroller is not supposed to exercise any function with respect to revenue estimates.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: Am I to understand your answer with regard to the finance department conceive that the comptroller could be placed under the finance department?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Morgan?

DELEGATE MORGAN: It is possible.

He would still be an independent, elected official.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: What I am getting at, are you not really intending that the comptroller still be an independent officer of the state government but have these limited functions that you are attempting to describe here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Morgan.

DELEGATE MORGAN: That is correct and also be a member of the Board of Public Works.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: Again, Delegate Morgan, do I understand that he is not to be under any other principal department but to be a separate department?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Morgan.

DELEGATE MORGAN: He might for housekeeping purposes be placed in a department, but he would not be responsible or the head of that department. He would be an independent elected official.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: May I ask you if you would accept an amendment to strike out of the last sentence the words starting with "or" and going on "or of any other principal department of the executive branch", and insert therefor the words "but shall be an independent officer of the state governor."

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Morgan.

DELEGATE MORGAN: I think that is implicit in the fact that the comptroller is an elected official. He is not responsible to any other person in the state government. He is only responsible to the electorate.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: Delegate Morgan, I do not want to debate linguistics or detail at all. Would you have any objection if the Style Committee were to add such language in here to clean it up?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Morgan.

DELEGATE MORGAN: I would have no objection to the Style Committee doing that if they thought it would change the meaning of it and I do not think it does change the meaning of it myself.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mentzer.

DELEGATE MENTZER: Is there any reason why we cannot have the amendment that makes the comptroller a member of the board of review before us now?