

which we could basically all agree. That proposal, ladies and gentlemen, is before you. Whether you like it or whether you dislike it, I ask you to realize that this is a sincere effort on the part of men of different, strong views, to arrive at a position, at a posture for this Convention which makes it possible for us to go forward. This is an important question, but it is by no means the most important question with which we have dealt or will deal.

The critical point for all of us is to get our job completed, submit to the people of this State a document which we can all enthusiastically support. Despite my prior views, I have agreed to sponsor this amendment. I sincerely urge that when the vote on it comes, that vote be resounding, because only then will all of our compromises have been made worthwhile.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Jett?

DELEGATE JETT: Mr. President, fellow delegates, I am most reluctant to rise on this occasion, but I cannot remain seated in the face of what appears to me not a compromise but a complete capitulation.

I think there is not a man or woman sitting in this Convention that is not down here at great personal sacrifice. I honor the men and women who have tried to arrive at this compromise but I suggest to you all, as you look at this thing, with the eyes of the State of Maryland, and other states upon us, are you going to take this step and embalm in our constitution an office which at least half of this Convention thought was unnecessary when it had much greater duties. You have cut those duties to the bone, and now you have suggested that that office should be perpetuated.

We do not have before us this provision about the Board of Public Works. They tell us it is coming, but I say to you, we must rise above the things that we do not believe in.

This is a gut issue. This is an issue that each one of us has to take to heart to understand that we are not going to be pressured into putting into our constitution, a meaningless office, regardless of who holds it, now or in the future, and that it is our duty to write a constitution, the best constitution that we can come up with and present it to the people in the hopes that they will accept it, but not stand here crying for fear that if we do not put some particular individual in, they will turn the constitution down. I say to you, it is

our obligation to face it squarely, flatly and to vote our real sentiments, with our hearts in our hands.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sickles?

DELEGATE SICKLES: Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

I must confess that as one who I think has expressed himself quite clearly on this issue for the past few days, I had my problems at first about agreeing to the amendment and then after that, sort of worrying about what I had done. I must admit that when Delegate Weidemeyer stood up and expressed himself to show how unhappy he is, I felt a lot better, because we are both unhappy about the arrangement.

But the thing that interests me is the fact that the governor was quoted just recently, in effect, criticizing what we were doing. As I indicated earlier, having been a politician, I would have been surprised if he had not done that. Let us say it takes one to know one, but I am not sure that he has really done his homework, because part of the statement which was quoted, and I am now reading it, said, it was the recommendation of the Eney Commission, which submitted the carefully researched draft instrument to this Convention, that the office of comptroller be appointive under the Governor. But if he had read that document closely, on page 149, he would have noted the language wherein there was a caveat, which said, "although it can be argued that control of the actual disbursement of state funds should not be in the Chief Executive. . . ." I think that that is what we are doing, and since the governor also indicated that he was in favor of a continuation of the Board of Public Works, we will change the name, he will have control, and I think he has no reason to object. I am unhappy but I do not see why he should be.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Fornos?

DELEGATE FORNOS: I want to speak in favor of the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry.

Does any delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Penniman?

DELEGATE PENNIMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have not intended as Chairman of the Committee on Style to speak on any issue before this Convention. I rise to speak on this issue because I am opposed to the