

SENATOR JAMES: I will be glad to.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Morgan.

DELEGATE MORGAN: Do you recall the testimony of the comptroller before the Executive Branch Committee?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: I could not answer that question because I was not there.

DELEGATE MORGAN: I will read from the statement that he gave to the Committee. Clearly, he said, his most important responsibility is as a member of the Board of Public Works.

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

Delegate Gill.

DELEGATE GILL: Mr. Chairman, this is the first day I have not been proud to be a member of the Constitutional Convention.

During the primaries when I was asked to run, I agreed to do so and was glad to do so, and in the first eleven weeks here it was a pleasure; I felt that all of the delegates were following their convictions and thinking through the problems and voting the way they felt.

Today it has been a different thing. When Senator Malkus got up today and wanted to postpone this, I was glad, because I had decided to ask if it could not be made a special order for another day, to give the people a chance to think over what had happened in the halls, and on the telephones and in the homes, because I felt that after thinking it over carefully they might come back again and vote their convictions on what they really thought.

This morning when the compromise was brought in and I read it, I said, what is the compromise, this is simply one side getting everything. To me a compromise is one side getting something and the other side getting something. Then this afternoon just as I was coming into the door, they said there was another compromise, and I asked what it was and they told me. I said, it is the same thing; the same side is still getting nothing.

When I came here I believed that the comptroller should not be elected to his office and I vowed that it should not be in the constitution, but I was willing to listen to reason and be convinced otherwise. Since I have been here I have not been convinced and I still believe it should not be in the

constitution. I still believe it should not be an elective office, and the compromise which continues the Board of Public Works is not a compromise. The compromise which continues the comptroller as an elective office is not a compromise. The compromise which allows him to be on the Board of Public Works, and that was one of the main reasons we wanted the Board of Public Works is not a compromise.

I cannot see how the compromise is anything except giving up your principles and once we begin giving up principle, we will continue doing the same thing. I shall vote against it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Fornos.

DELEGATE FORNOS: Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates: I have always maintained that this constitution shall represent the collective wisdom of the people of the State of Maryland, and that the ingredients of this constitution shall reflect that collective wisdom.

I, too, share the very sad feelings that some of us are evidencing here tonight, by the necessity of this compromise. However, compromise is the ingredient of life, and I think that when the people of this State, out of some 700 candidates, selected these 142 men and women they showed their collective wisdom in selecting you as the best qualified. Now you have the burden of letting the collective wisdom of this Convention prevail and hopefully turn out a document which will endure, a document which I think we can be proud of because of our labors, not because of the kowtowing that we may be doing on one or two issues, because not all of us are going to be one hundred percent pleased with the document, but we will be with the overall product, and I certainly hope that you will vote in favor of this compromise.

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

DELEGATE MENTZER: I am opposed to this amendment because I believe we are not asking the voters of the State to select their chief fiscal officer, but only a pre-audit bookkeeper. Therefore, we say we rationalize this because we are selecting him statewide because he is a member of a Board of Public Works or board of review. Ladies and gentlemen, the average citizens of this State do not know the important work of the Board of Public Works, and to educate them in the new doings of the board of public review is too large a job, I submit. In addition, we are placing