

ing now for nearly eighty days to bring the legislature up to where it belongs, co-equal with the executive and the judicial.

I know of nothing that we could do that would drop it further back than to permit this kind of a situation to develop where at the very beginning of the session, voting on those who are going to conduct the sessions, we do not have the members stand up and be counted publicly on a matter as vital as this.

I think it goes to the very heart of all that we have been trying to do. I do hope this amendment will be defeated.

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

Delegate Marion.

DELEGATE MARION: Mr. Chairman, I certainly hope we adopt this amendment. Every citizen of this state in electing its executive officer has an opportunity to go into a voting booth and cast his vote in secret.

By action of this Committee of the Whole earlier today we approved a provision by which the president of the Senate may well become the governor of this State and it seems to me that the duly elected representatives of the State elected by secret ballot of all the citizens of this State should have an opportunity to vote in secret for the person who may very well become the governor of this State.

I urge its adoption.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Beatrice Miller, do you desire to speak in opposition or in favor?

DELEGATE B. MILLER: In favor, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates, it seems to me it is a grievous error to equate a secret ballot that a citizen exercises to elect his representatives with the vote of an elective representative.

Certainly it is incumbent upon the elective representatives to have the courage enough to cast his vote in the open forum of debate, in the open forum of public scrutiny and this certainly seems to me to create a suspicion of the legislature by creating a secret ballot situation in which you almost go into a voting booth and hide your public views as to who should exer-

cise the leadership in the halls at Annapolis. It seems to me to elevate the cowardice in public to a point which I just simply cannot accept.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Beatrice Miller.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I yield to no one in my efforts to strengthen the legislature here in this Convention, and I am aware that we have at several times provided for the accountability of votes, that is today when we proceeded in the legislative article, we even said that the final votes of members in committee shall be listed and recorded in the journal.

This is because there are times when a representative is supposed to be accountable and visible to the people and at those times his votes should be recorded. However, there are many times when we vote as citizens and it is necessary to safeguard our vote so that it represents the free and unencumbered judgment which we hold and in those elections, the elections I would give you for president or governor or for other officials, we vote secretly, and this has been the American tradition.

I think that when we ask our legislators to go in and set up their own organization, there is no accountability to the people at this point. Their accountability should only be to their own judgment and I would trust my legislators and for this reason, I would allow them to vote in secret.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

Delegate Della.

DELEGATE DELLA: Would Delegate Miller yield to a question?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Miller.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Della.

DELEGATE DELLA: Would you suggest we have a secret ballot on all legislation?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Miller.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: No, sir. I thought I had made my point. I do not want to have a secret ballot on any legislation because I have elected my representative and I want to know how he votes on legislation. But I do not need to know how he votes on organization. That is a secret matter.