

DELEGATE CASE: As I said, Delegate Taylor, the provision here is drafted in broad and meaningful terms and gives the legislature all the power that it needs to deal with these problems, but how the legislature will deal with them or what specific answers can be given to the problems that you have suggested is, in my judgment, a matter of legislative concern, and not constitutional dimension.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions, Delegate Taylor?

DELEGATE L. TAYLOR: You say agricultural uses of land is a matter of constitutional dimension —

DELEGATE CASE: For the reason I suggested earlier, because it had a long and somewhat interesting history in this State, and it had been presented to the people in 1960.

This is the reason it was included in this particular document.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Taylor.

DELEGATE L. TAYLOR: Do you not agree that this Constitution was written about 100 years ago, and the country was mostly rural and farm country, as was the State of Maryland, and now we move into another era, and of course the document should reflect the future, and not the past.

DELEGATE CASE: I am afraid you have misunderstood what I have said. The provision that you directed my attention to was written over seven years ago, not 100. This is a very current-life subject, and this is why it was included in the document, because it was so current, was so live, and had been submitted to the people in such a recent past.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions, Delegate Taylor?

DELEGATE L. TAYLOR: How much land do we have in agricultural use in the State of Maryland, compared to the urban areas?

DELEGATE CASE: The statistics are available, but not in my head. I can supply you with them if you would like to have them, and I would be happy to do so, Delegate Taylor.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Kathleen Robie.

DELEGATE ROBIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Case just what provisions, or how do you see these laws pertaining to the farmers that are in some of these areas not too far away from the

cities, but still close enough that they can no longer get help to do their farming? Down in Charles County, now, there are many people in this category, and my husband and I happen to be one, where we have had a farm for years and years — in fact, ours was in our family before the Revolutionary War, and they had tobacco on this farm.

Now, all of the tenants who did tobacco farming have gone to the outlying sections of Washington and are now building houses. It is impossible to get a farmer.

Is this not playing into the hands of the land sharks and the developers when you have a place and the taxes have gone so high? When you are making nothing on it you cannot afford to pay the higher taxes, so you must sell out at a very low rate, and then the developers have quite the advantage.

DELEGATE CASE: Was that a question?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think so.

DELEGATE CASE: Delegate Robie, I wish I could answer that question with the clearness and definitiveness that I know you would like to have. I do have some difficulty in following exactly what you want me to respond to.

If you are suggesting whether or not the Committee reviewed the problem from the standpoint of the availability of help on farms, I would have to respond that we did not.

If, on the other hand, your question suggests would a farmer who was actually conducting a farm in close to the metropolitan area be given the same treatment as some other farmer, the answer is that we did discuss this subject, and he would be afforded the same treatment if he were in the same class.

DELEGATE ROBIE: Perhaps I really would like to ask you a question: Are these farmers who have no longer — well, if they have put their farms in the pasture-lands and things of this kind, are they then counted as farmers?

I know you have gone over this —

DELEGATE CASE: Oh, yes.

DELEGATE ROBIE: — but I do know the labor market has a great deal to do with this particular question.

DELEGATE CASE: If the land is in a soil bank, it is a farm, if the man who owns it is a farmer.