

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, I yield three minutes to Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Mr. President, you have heard from several of seven members of the minority in our Committee and may I say that no matter how adamant they have been on this issue, we of the majority still love them.

But we have been considering in this Convention quite a number of ways in which we can help the voter to make informed choices. In various other articles, in the legislative article for example, we have provided for single-member districts, we have eliminated the test of judicial elections, we have as another part of this report a provision which would separate county elections.

All of these have been done in part, at least, so that the voter with the modern methods of communication, with the modern news services and magazines and what have you, can have access to the information he needs to make an informed decision when he comes to the voting place.

May I submit to you that we are no longer in the days of 100 or 200 or more years ago when the only way that a person could learn enough to make intelligent decisions at the ballot box was by living and moving around and having a wide range of acquaintances.

Youngsters now of nineteen and twenty — and after all, the report of the Committee is nineteen, not eighteen, as some of the minority members would have you believe—youngsters of nineteen and twenty as well as youngsters of twenty-one and twenty-two, have access to all these sources of information. If we are to believe the stories we hear, they make use of these sources of information far more than most of their elders.

I submit to you that under these circumstances, whatever reasons may have existed in terms of lack of an opportunity to get information for having a higher voting age in the past, exists to a much lesser extent today, and that under the circumstances, the action of our Committee is an appropriate one.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have one-half minute, Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: I suggest also if we are to play some of the numbers games with regard to other ages for other activities it might be wise to consider that there are twelve, not three states that per-

mit people below the age of twenty-one to sign binding contracts. In this State the age of majority for many activities including the slot machines in Anne Arundel County outside of this building is nineteen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, I call on Delegate Dulany to speak up to three minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Dulany.

DELEGATE DULANY: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, it is very unpopular to speak on any subject where you are going to deprive certain people of the vote.

This is an emotional question and a political question. We are going to deprive a certain group of people the vote but only for a certain time. We are talking about a group of voters in the future. But I also had an experience last summer. I was speaking to a group of 150 youngsters at a youth camp at the National Conference of Christians and Jews. I was amazed to find that at least fifty percent were against lowering the voting age. If we are lowering the voting age of this group, we are actually lowering the age for the full rights of citizenship, because we will find we will end up with the legislature giving them the full rights of citizenship when they are under twenty-one.

I would like to read a letter from Judge Weant.

“I think that the cardinal factor, the welfare of the eighteen-year-old, is being completely overlooked in this matter. My friends in Kentucky, where the eighteen-year-old was enfranchised in 1955, indicate that this movement led to majority status at eighteen and that this had a great deal of support from used car dealers and small loan companies.

“I am informed that it was argued successfully that anyone old enough to vote should be old enough to buy a used car or borrow money. Of course, the next logical step is an effort by the beer and whiskey interests to lower the age for the consumption of alcohol. If our child is then in a position to fight, to buy a car and to pay 36% interest, he certainly should be old enough to drink—and he will probably need one after all that.”

Me, too.

“In addition, I feel constrained to point out that in Kentucky, at least, the change in voting age showed no appreciable impact on the outcome of subsequent elections.”