

the chances for youngsters to be willing to follow a dictator. If they do not have the opportunity to be involved when they have the knowledge and they have the desire to participate, they may use other methods by which to participate and have some effect in state government. I would have this further to say. Although the allusion has been made already, we cannot ask the youngsters to perform more responsibly than adults do. If you take any voting records in any part of the State on any governmental vote, you will find that on the average you may get thirty to thirty-five percent of our so-called responsible adult voters out to vote.

If you work hard and issues are really hot, you may get fifty per cent. All of you are aware of the fact that last year by mistake the General Assembly passed a bill that in order to encourage our adults over twenty-one years of age, to come out to vote, they would be allowed to take two hours off from work with pay. You will find a number of schemes have been suggested in order to encourage our responsible adult voters to come out and vote, such as voting on Sunday, opening the polls earlier, keeping them open later, voting for two days.

I think this reflects the fact that our adult voters now are not responsive. I do not think we can ask those under twenty-one to be any more responsible than our adult population. This is not the issue.

I think the issue is whether those who are under twenty-one really are ready to vote. I submit that they are.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Rybczynski for two and a half minutes.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen of this Committee: I think that what has not been said by the majority, is just as significant as anything that has been said.

You will note that no one from the majority has addressed himself to this question of what we do about the question of when a person is responsible for his contracts. They have not answered our charge in that respect. I ask you to give this very close attention when it comes time to cast your valuable vote in this regard.

Now, again we talk about the question of responsibility. Let us remember that when this twenty-one year minimum age was set forth many years ago, children were working from the age of thirteen,

fourteen and fifteen years, full of responsibilities, full of worldly knowledge, and yet even at that time the decision was to go along with the age of twenty-one years as the best time for people to start participating in their government.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge all members of this Committee to disregard this question of the military. For those of you who have not had the benefits I had of two years in the U. S. Infantry, allow me to suggest to you that the only thing that you do in the Army is obey orders blindly. This is taught to you so that when a superior gives you a certain order on the battlefield, you do it and you do it blindly. This is the only form of training given to you in the military, not questions of discretion, but questions of might.

As to the polls, anything can be done with polls. It is just like statistics. You do anything you want with them.

But let me point out to you that on our very first day of consideration of this question in our Committee two members of this delegation brought some school children into our committee room.

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

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: They told us about the fact that these children had not been prepared, that they were coming in raw, that they were ready to answer any questions we asked them. You know what they said? They were not ready to vote. These were children brought in unprepared on the question and their answer was that they agreed that they were not ready to vote. It is better to leave it at twenty-one. They thought so. We think so. We know that you will think so.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Koss for three minutes.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, is that all the time remaining to our side?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is.

DELEGATE KOSS: I think it appropriate at this point, if I may, to reply to some of the questions that were raised. First of all, let me remind all of you that Georgia lowered the voting age in 1943, and Kentucky in 1955. Nobody has ever produced to us any dire results as a result of this change.

I would also like to point out in terms of the issue of contracts and legal age, that in Maryland, there is a great variation as