

voting age, but I do not think that lowering it to nineteen suits our purpose and suits what we are meant to do here.

The principle involved here is one of responsibility. The age when someone becomes responsible to his government and someone becomes responsible to himself is involved here, and I submit that that age is eighteen, not nineteen.

It is at the age of eighteen, not nineteen that a man is required to register for the draft. It is the age of eighteen, not nineteen, that a person is considered old enough to work without the consent of his parents.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hutchinson, I regret to inform you that through misadventure your words are not being recorded. We will stop a moment.

Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Ladies and gentlemen, while off the record, may I state it appears at least technically speaking that being twenty-one is not being the magic age.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hutchinson, if you will repeat about the last two sentences, I think you will be fully recorded.

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As I said, at the age of eighteen, not nineteen, men are required to register for the draft. It is at eighteen, not nineteen, that a person is allowed to work without the consent of his parents. He is working, paying income taxes, and, therefore, as Mr. Schloeder told you, more than one-fifth of the total population of eighteen-year-olds is paying taxes. It is at the age of eighteen, not nineteen, that the government heaps upon individuals many added forms of legal responsibility.

I do not believe that the old cliché "old enough to fight, old enough to vote" is necessarily a valid argument. However, I do believe that if we can tell a person at the age of eighteen that he must join the service, that he must serve his country and his government overseas or anywhere, and that if called upon he must give his life for his country and for his government, then I submit to you that he should have the right to say what governmental officials should send him overseas.

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

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: You may ask why not lower the voting age to some-

thing lower than eighteen. I said any age is arbitrary, but the age of eighteen is the age where you can combine education and maturity and one's responsibility to himself and to his government and at that age, eighteen, a person should be able to vote.

Ever since I have been down here I have heard many times that we in state government, are allowing the federal government to encroach upon state duties.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired, Delegate Hutchinson.

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: I submit one of the duties of the State is to take care of the voting age. This we have not done. We have allowed thirty-seven members of the House of Congress, thirty-seven members of the U. S. Senate, to try to lower the voting age to eighteen.

I submit to you that we should do it and we should do it now.

(Applause.)

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

Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates, I will just ask your indulgence for a short statement on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee did consider setting the voting age at eighteen and rejected it. The Committee felt there was a distinction that could be made, and indeed the Committee made it, between eighteen-year-olds and nineteen-year-olds.

Most nineteen-year-olds are out of high school. They have either joined the labor force or they have gone on to college. In both of these roles they are assuming the responsibilities that we are apt to associate with adulthood. For that reason the Committee agreed upon nineteen, and I would very much urge your rejection of the amendment now before you.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in favor?

Delegate Dorsey.

DELEGATE DORSEY: Mr. President, I am unable to understand the attitude of this Convention. The Hamiltonian theory which was stated last week ****

(Applause.)

The electorate of this State won a voice in the election of attorney general, comp-