

the rostrum we have today Ralph Hostetter, Delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

*(Applause.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: This will be Amendment No. 3.

The Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 3 to Committee Recommendation S&E-2 by Delegates Cardin and Dulany:

On page 1 section 1 Eligible Voters in Federal, State and County Elections in line 9 strike out the words "nineteen years" and insert in lieu thereof the words: "legal majority as determined by the General Assembly".

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment having been offered by Delegate Cardin, seconded by Delegate Dulany, the Chair recognizes Delegate Cardin to speak to the amendment.

DELEGATE CARDIN: Mr. Chairman, I bring this amendment to the attention of the Committee of the Whole because I think we should establish for the record whether or not the voting age is a full determinant of adult responsibility.

I yield to Delegate Dulany, if I may.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee of the Whole, again let me state that the Committee did consider the whole question of the age of majority and its significance or its relevance to the age for voting.

There are at the moment, as I said before, many different legal ages. You have already approved setting the voting age at nineteen. The adoption of this amendment would throw back the question of the voting age to the General Assembly. That aspect of the voting age was also considered by the Committee, and we felt that the voting age probably was a concern of the Constitutional Convention and that that decision should be made here.

Actually, what the adoption of this amendment would do would be to negate the decision you have already made as to the voting age and to give that responsibility to the General Assembly.

I sincerely urge that you reject Amendment No. 4.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Dulany.

DELEGATE DULANY: Mr. Chairman, fellow Delegates, the only purpose of this amendment is to make certain that all the voters of this State are full citizens of the State exercising full privileges of citizenship.

If we have decided we want to have the voting age reduced to twenty or nineteen or eighteen, whatever age it is, I think that that citizen ought to have all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

I believe the right to vote is related to the capacity for being a good citizen and knowing what your responsibilities are. I do not believe we should have people who are voting who do not have the responsibilities that everyone else has.

I, therefore, urge you to support the amendment.

This amendment will leave it up to the legislature to determine what the voting age is. By setting the legal majority as it stands at the present time, in this State it is twenty-one; the voting age, if the provision is adopted as recommended, would be nineteen. So we would have people between the ages of nineteen and twenty-one who would be voting who would not have full privileges of citizenship.

I urge you to support the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Finch, the Chair has just been handed your amendment A-C. I think it could be offered as an amendment to the pending amendment. If the pending amendment is adopted, I do not believe your amendment could be offered. If the pending amendment is rejected, your amendment could be thereafter offered.

What is your pleasure?

DELEGATE FINCH: I would like to offer it.

THE CHAIRMAN: When?

DELEGATE FINCH: Now if you say now is the proper time.

THE CHAIRMAN: I gave you a choice. I say if you do not offer it now and Amendment No. 3 is rejected, you could offer it. If Amendment No. 3 is adopted, you could not offer it.

DELEGATE FINCH: I will defer it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do what?

DELEGATE FINCH: Defer it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well.