

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): The Chair recognizes Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: I believe the answer, Delegate Fox, is, first of all, up to the individual municipality but Ocean City now has a minimum base of \$25,000 for the privilege of voting. The corporation must be worth at least that \$25,000 before they are entitled to one vote.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Fox.

DELEGATE FOX: Am I correct though that the corporation that owns \$25,000 worth of property has only one vote?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: That is correct. It may own several pieces of property but the value would have to be \$25,000, and they would have only one vote.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Fox.

DELEGATE FOX: So there is no danger of all the stockholders in the corporation being able to vote just because the corporation owns land in a municipality?

DELEGATE WHITE: In just a moment we will have the figures that will indicate that they may have more than one vote under certain conditions. The Chairman has that.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Delegate White, wherein does this section 2 discriminate among the class of persons who would constitute or make up the non-residents entitled to vote by reason of owning taxable property?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: Your question is not clear. Are you asking where does it discriminate?

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Yes, where does it discriminate?

DELEGATE WHITE: The extension of the right to vote to non-residents discriminates against the local inhabitants of a municipality by way of diluting their vote. For example, if 50 people reside in Ocean City or whatever the city is and they vote, there are 50 votes that have full value, one for one person. But if 50 people vote along

with 900 who own property, it means that their 50 are diluted by 900 and, therefore, do not have the same value. That is discrimination and is not one vote for one person.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: If we followed the principle which you are here asking us to follow, would we not be getting into serious trouble with respect to the classifications with respect to taxation, for example, where it has been recognized that so long as the class is a proper one and there is no discrimination among the persons within that class then it is a proper legal standard.

With respect to this particular section, as I understand it, in the language here set forth, non-residents would be equally entitled to the exercise of the right of vote provided they simply own taxable property in that municipality, is that not correct?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: My answer is no, they do not have the right to vote. They should not have the right to vote and property as such should not be a qualification. You as a Maryland citizen who has \$10,000 worth of property in Ocean City have no more right to vote in Ocean City than I do if I have \$10. If we are going to extend the right to vote to non-residents, all Americans should be able to vote in all municipalities or no American should be able to vote in a municipality in which they do not reside.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Again I ask you how far are we going to accept that principle? We have determined that there must be a qualification of age, for example, and we have arbitrarily now set that age at nineteen. The principle that you are advocating would be in violation of that principle or any other simple qualification of the right to exercise the vote.

DELEGATE WHITE: No, sir, I suggest the long history of America where there have been other qualifications for the right to vote than just being an American citizen. Age is a factor. If there is an inconsistency, it has been twenty-one. We heard that last night. We said that. It is a human value which has nothing to do with economics. Residence as such — the home is where the heart is, this is where you live —