

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Those hundreds could easily put in a share-the-wealth program and carry it out under your proposal.

DELEGATE WHITE: I would suggest that the threat of the corporations and people who do run Ocean City poses a greater threat to less fortunate citizens and to the well-being of Maryland than would the so-called welfare recipients.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): For what purpose does Delegate Ulrich rise? Delegate Ulrich, there are a few people ahead of you. I will get to you in a moment.

Delegate Borum.

DELEGATE BORUM: Delegate White, you indicate that your Committee studied this particular question at length. Did you have any mayors appear before your Committee where municipality non-resident vote is in issue?

DELEGATE WHITE: The answer is yes.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Borum.

DELEGATE BORUM: Your Minority Report suggests something. I am not sure whether it would be satisfactory or disagreeable to the mayors of many of those municipalities. I would be interested in knowing what the opinions of mayors are on this particular issue.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: I am glad, Delegate Borum, you asked that question. I just happen to have several statements that were made by mayors of comparatively small municipalities. The Mayor of Laurel, the Honorable Merrill L. Harrison appeared before our Committee and stated, "I am unalterably opposed to extending suffrage to non-resident property owners. I feel that such an extension of voting rights would be a direct violation of the one man, one vote principle. It would be possible for one individual to own property in several municipalities and I cannot believe that such an individual should be permitted to vote in more than one jurisdiction. Then too such property could be held in several names and it is unthinkable that voting rights should be extended to all such property owners. It also is true some

property is owned by corporations who would fall heir to the voting rights generated by the ownership of this corporate property. I believe that we ought to operate on the sound theory that residence and residence alone should determine voting rights."

And to quote another representative of a municipality who is one of our honored delegates here, Honorable Marvin Smith, who appeared before us, representing the City Council and Mayor of Federalsburg, and said, "I have heard repeatedly the question of permitting municipalities to extend suffrage to non-resident property owners. I recognize readily there are advantages in favor of same. It seems to me, however, that it would be most difficult to set up equitably. For instance, in the Town of Federalsburg where I reside, when such arguments have been advanced, one of the persons that proponents have picked on, as an example, is Earl Bell, who operates a cut-rate store on Main Street, and who lives just beyond the corporate limits. He thought he ought to be permitted to vote. Yet the fact is that Earl Bell operates no store. It is operated by Bell's Cut Rate, Incorporated. It is true that he and his wife are the sole stockholders of the corporation but if one permits suffrage on the basis of stockholders, then stockholders of AT&T ought to have the right to vote because the Telephone Company has a substantial investment in the town."

Of course, I could read on and on. We have any number of mayors who have taken a strong, intelligent and courageous stand and have responded in a like manner.

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

DELEGATE ULRICH: Delegate White, would you not agree with me that this is making a special exception for the municipalities? I would like to state my feelings, if I might, Mr. Chairman.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): This is a period for questioning, Mrs. Ulrich. We have controlled and uncontrolled debate later.

DELEGATE ULRICH: Thank you. I will state my feelings later.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Storm.

DELEGATE STORM: Delegate White, I might preface my question by saying that I feel there is a lot of very good reasoning in your argument. However, I