

Delegate White, could you tell us about the status of the people in Ocean City? I mean by that, are they very unhappy with the situation as it now stands?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: I believe that when the Honorable Clarence Mitchell of the Washington Branch of N.A.A.C.P. appeared before us he responded to this same question by indicating that silence or the lack of protest on the part of citizens is no indication of their happiness. Some people are very unhappy but they are afraid to protest.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Murray, do you have another question?

DELEGATE D. MURRAY: I will not take more than my question. I am sorry Delegate White answered what I believe was Mr. Mitchell's answer. I asked for Mr. Williams' answer, please.

DELEGATE WHITE: I cannot argue against my position. I rely on the opposition to do that.

*(Laughter.)*

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

DELEGATE DELLA: Delegate White, I believe you mentioned Laurel and Federalsburg. The Mayor of Laurel came before you and objected to non-residents voting. Do non-residents vote in Laurel?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: I do not know that. I do not think so. They have the right to do that, but I am not aware whether they have extended that right.

DELEGATE DELLA: In other words, the municipalities govern themselves and they refuse to have non-residents vote there.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: Apparently they have not extended that right.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Della.

DELEGATE DELLA: Does that not also apply to Federalsburg?

DELEGATE WHITE: I have a list but what is the impact of your question?

DELEGATE DELLA: I believe you said the counsel for Federalsburg was against granting to non-residents the right to vote.

DELEGATE WHITE: I do not see that this has any relevance. We are here writing a constitution for the State of Maryland. To some of us, I hope the great majority of us, extending the right to vote on the basis of economic considerations is repugnant to the concept of voting rights based solely on people and not on property. A mayor of any town whether or not he has non-residents exercising the right of ballot, still has the right to express an opinion which would affect his municipality, which may be considering the extension of such a right, and the position taken by such a representative might impel such a locality not to extend this right to non-residents, as has been done by some municipalities.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Della.

DELEGATE DELLA: Delegate White, did you have before your Committee the Mayor of Ocean City?

DELEGATE WHITE: We had a representative from Ocean City.

DELEGATE DELLA: Did he object to giving non-residents the right to vote?

DELEGATE WHITE: He did advocate that they should continue that.

DELEGATE DELLA: In other words, what you are trying to do is to deny those people the right to have their form of government as they would like to have it?

DELEGATE WHITE: What I am trying to do is to have all of Maryland line up with the position of the Supreme Court of the United States, which has said that one person should have one vote.

For example, in the reapportionment fight, this fight has gone on and on. In doing some reading, I discovered that in some instances a county that had ten or fifteen thousand citizens sent the same number of delegates to Annapolis to the General Assembly as a neighboring county that had 90,000 people. In other words, if you have two delegates from a district which represents 10,000 people and two from a district which represents 90,000 people, the first delegates can outvote me on any question and my vote is thereby diluted. This, as I recall, was the position held by the Supreme Court that the representative who is sent to a lawmaking body by 90,000 people certainly should carry more weight