

was not fully considered and was not fully explained. I think, therefore, that it would be very desirable for the Committee to reconsider the vote that was taken at that time together with a full, clear, and lucid explanation of the purpose of this amendment.

I shall give you what I consider to be the purpose of the amendment and then leave it to other and more experienced hands to fill in perhaps more of the details.

The committee recommendation as it now stands would provide two things for eligibility to vote in a particular area. First, he would have to have been a resident of the state for six months. Nothing in the James amendment seeks to change that. I want to emphasize that right away. Nothing in the James amendment seeks to change that. The second requirement is that the voter would also have to have been a resident for three months next preceding the election in the delegate district in which he comes to vote. The James amendment would change that and provide that the requirement to vote in addition to the six months would be that the proposed voter would be a resident of the delegate district as of the time of the closing of registration.

This is a pretty esoteric concept and perhaps I can illustrate it with an example.

As you all know, I live just down the road from a well-known sheep farmer, in Sparks, Maryland, which is not too far from Harford County. Let us assume that I have built a house and am going to move into Harford County and I do move from Sparks to Harford County within the three-month period. Follow that? I have moved within the three-month period but before the books have closed in Harford County.

Now under the Committee Recommendation as it is now before you, I could not vote in Harford County, although I am going to live there perhaps for the rest of my life and even though the books were still open for registration there. I would have to go back to Baltimore County, vote for county officers in this county, perhaps vote for the bond issues that are up in that county, which do not really mean a thing to me. How much better it would be if I could vote in Harford County, the place to which I have moved. We vote in essence for the future, not for the past.

So in voting for the future, I would want to vote, it seems to me, for the people

who are going to represent me in Harford County from that time on.

Additionally, it would be no real concern of mine as to what the financial situation in Baltimore County was and yet I would be allowed to vote for the bond issue in Baltimore County where I would no longer pay taxes but I could not vote in Harford County for a bond issue up there where I would be paying taxes.

It seems to me on a very practical basis the James amendment is a good amendment.

It has been suggested that it might be difficult to change the registration so quickly. I suggest to you that with the advent of computers, and the advent of other sources of informational retrieval which we do not even know now, it would probably be quite simple.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have a quarter minute, Delegate Case.

DELEGATE CASE: The fact of the matter is that hooking the requirement into the registration date gives a degree of flexibility which can be met with all our modern means of transmission of information and does not stereotype it and standardize it in the Constitution. I think Delegate James offered a good amendment. I think it is workable now. I think it will bring fairness. I think what we have in the proposed constitution is stereotyped and in the case I mentioned, would be unfair. I, therefore, think that we ought to reconsider this vote and I think we ought to pass the James amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition to the motion to reconsider?

Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, since Delegate Case has spoken to the substance of Amendment No. 5, I assume it is in order to speak in opposition.

THE CHAIRMAN: On motion for reconsideration the subject matter of the principal question may be discussed fully.

DELEGATE KOSS: The Committee was very fully aware of the constitutional amendment that was passed last year by the Senate which would have accomplished the same thing as Delegate James' amendment would do. In all our deliberations, we tried to find out how many people would really be affected by the operation of this present system. While we would be most