

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Winslow.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak to the amendment and not to the question of reconsideration. I am concerned about this matter of being able to vote in an election without sufficient residence in the area so that it may be made relatively certain that the voter is qualified.

I relate an experience which I had rather recently during the only political campaign in which I was ever a candidate. I wrote a letter to a registered voter in my district and then I called her on the telephone to see if I could solicit her support. She said, but I do not live in your district. I said, well, the registration books say that you do. She said they are wrong. I have not lived in that district for four years and I have been voting elsewhere for four years.

If this situation is at all prevalent through the registration books of the country, it seems to me the provisions of this particular amendment will throw wide open the registration books to people who come in, register from a motel, vote in the election, and their ballot will be cast before anybody has time to check as to whether they are there or not.

I do not have sufficient faith in the kind of registrations which prevail in this State to want to cut down the possible period in which a check may be made. I shall therefore vote against the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: I also hate to get up again, but I would like to answer both Delegate Marion and Delegate Winslow. As to the James amendment, it would make the section read that a person would have to be a resident of the House of Delegates district in which he offers to vote as of the time for closing of registration.

If at the time of closing of registration you happen to live in Baltimore County, you could vote there. If you happen to live in Harford County, you could vote there. Irrespective of what happened thereafter, you would always have a place where you could vote. It is clear if you did remove from one place to another within the twenty-eight day period proposal provided by law, you would be eligible to vote in the residence from which you removed.

So far as residence is concerned, mentioned by Delegate Winslow, I understand that the legislature shall define what resi-

dence means but it has always traditionally been understood to mean domicile. That means a person goes to the place with the intention of making it his permanent home and living in a motel does not mean residence under the law of this state as it exists or as the General Assembly will, I am sure, ever enact it. I submit both arguments are erroneous and I urge you to vote in favor of reconsideration and in favor of the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in opposition? Delegate Frederick.

DELEGATE FREDERICK: I would like to ask a question but we are not on that particular point, being on reconsideration. I find it very confusing when they speak of election to know whether they are speaking of primary elections or general elections.

Now if the James amendment stands, it would be possible then to vote in one subdivision in a primary election and vote in another subdivision in the general election.

As you all know, the last day for registering varies in practically every county in the State. I hear it says in the statute the books are open twenty-eight days before each election but that is not entirely true. They vary.

In this particular case, I could move, say, into a new subdivision. If I moved there, say, twenty-eight days before the primary election, I could vote under this section. I could register to vote in the primary election, 28 days later, because I would be there three months prior to the general election. I do not think it is proper for anybody to vote, and I do not think it is desirable for anybody to vote in one subdivision in the primary election and in another subdivision in the general election. It just does not make sense.

As far as uniformity is concerned, if we do pass the uniform election laws or uniform registration, I think this can be tied down, but we definitely have not passed it and I would say the last day for registering in various counties is different. There is no uniformity at this present time. Under this amendment you could vote in one election in one subdivision and in the general election in another subdivision.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the motion? Delegate Gleason, do you desire to speak in favor?

DELEGATE GLEASON: Mr. Chairman, I am inclined to vote in favor but I do