

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: May I suggest to you in view of the fact that the entire argument just concluded was based on the assumption thirty days would be the period of time, that this amendment has already been decided and is out of order at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair cannot agree with your assumption. The questioning of Delegate Case by Delegate Cardin indicated that the period of time could be as little as three days. Delegate Chabot, the chair recognizes you to speak to the amendment.

DELEGATE CHABOT: First, Mr. Chairman, I am happy and proud to have been the occasion for an addition to the richness of the English language as practiced in this Convention.

But the whole point of this amendment, I am afraid, addresses itself to just the very argument that Delegate Rybczynski had made before. The one quality of the preceding amendment was that it related constitutional requirements to whatever the legislature would set up by statute as the time for closing the books for registration. Delegate Rybczynski properly pointed out that it was improper that we should set the standards here and the legislature should follow our standards. This would set the standard. It would set it at thirty days.

Thirty days, by the way, is not a day plucked out of the air. There are approximately eight other states which, as of mid-1965, had thirty-day local residence requirements.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, this amendment would retain the last sentence of section 1. It would simply make the appropriate change in that last sentence so a person who removed from one district to another in this State within thirty days prior to the election could still vote at his old residence and there would be no danger under this provision of a person losing his vote simply because he moved too close to election days. I suggest this amendment retains the basic virtue of the James amendment and does not suffer from its faults.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss, do you desire to yield the floor to Delegate Rybczynski?

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, once again this amendment fails to answer the thing that the Committee tried to stress most of all and that is, the integrity of elections. Please keep in mind the main argument which Delegate Koss

presented a little while ago, which is that three months seemed to be a reasonable time in which a new resident could become familiar with the candidates and issues, bond questions, and all the other questions that go into an election.

Thirty days just is not enough time in the majority's opinion. Ninety days seemed to strike a happy medium. We favored that figure and we know you will too, just as you indicated by your vote a little while ago. We suggest you vote against this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor? Delegate James Clark.

DELEGATE JAMES CLARK: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I think the Chabot amendment is an excellent compromise on the question which we have before us. It seems to me we should endeavor to make it easier for people to vote, not make it more difficult. I certainly hope the amendment prevails.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak to the question? Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Just a second, if you will bear with me, Mr. Chairman. That last remark was not exactly fair to the Committee. We did make voting easier for people. We reduced it from six months to three months. We took this into consideration. The present law is six months. We reduced it to three months so we did exactly what Senator Clark suggests now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardin Marion.

DELEGATE MARION: May I address a question to Chairman Koss?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss, will you take the floor to yield to a question?

DELEGATE KOSS: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Marion?

DELEGATE MARION: When the Committee recommended the language appearing in lines 12 and 13 where you speak of three months next preceding an election, "election" in that sense, I take it, refers to a general election and would not refer to a primary election. Is that correct?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: That is correct, that is the current practice in this State.