

tion of Election Officials who should be, and I believe are, the most qualified to discuss the validity of frequent elections or less frequent elections, sent us a letter stating their position very clearly. This organization which is made up of all the election officials made this statement and I quote: "The Association wishes to go on record as opposed to annual elections." I find similar opposition to elections three years out of every four because of the intolerable administrative burden this would impose on Boards of Supervisors of Elections throughout the State and the additional financial burden on the taxpayers of the counties involved.

We then went out of the State and we went to Mr. Henry Bain and received from him a consensus of the political scientists who have thought longest and hardest about american government and we are all concerned about voters turn-out. Their analysis is that the theoretically desirable objective of separating elections is in practice by no means a step toward good government. Rather, it creates a lower voter turn-out.

Then we went to our own Dr. Loevy, Advisor to the Legislative Branch Committee, and Professor of Political Science at Goucher. In his report he cites two main items for increasing voter turn-out and assisting elections, which are: One, reduce number of officers and we have already done that, and two, reduce frequency of elections.

It is no accident or no mere whim that we suggest this. But to be a little more practical, we will go one step further. The pressures that will be created by the new home rule adoption by the other nineteen counties that we have now instituted will be tremendous. The Committee Recommendation would add additional pressure of another election, with the costs to the counties of that election, with the pressures on the county officials of that election and the pressure on the residents of that county.

Having been active in some politics at the local level, I can say the money required to run for office by an independent today has spiraled to almost monumental cost. If you make elections almost annual, you will make it prohibitive for the independent who wishes to file and call on independent volunteer groups to assist him to run: You will then be forcing the party groups to go to the same residents and citizens year after year asking for solicitations, asking for assistance. It will be

insurmountable. What will happen is the average voter will not come.

I suggest to you that you think this over very carefully. We have discussed with many of the delegates the disadvantages of more frequent elections and they far outweigh the few possibilities that would occur if you allow the off year.

One final point. There is a possibility in the new local government of staggered terms and this is a possibility which we wish to offer to the new government. If we have an off-year election in 1971, you will force elections annually, because staggered terms would then have to be one, three and five. You could not possibly institute it any other way.

I suggest you leave total freedom by leaving elections to even years.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: At this time, the Committee would like to yield three minutes to Dr. Winslow.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Winslow.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: Mr. Chairman, point of personal privilege, if I may.

THE CHAIRMAN: State the privilege.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: There are in the gallery above my head seventy-three students from the Ridgely Junior High School in Baltimore County together with their teachers, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Webb, Mr. Bennett and Miss Knachel. I hope the Committee will join me in welcoming them to this assembly. (*Applause.*)

THE CHAIRMAN: Delighted to have them.

The Chair now recognizes you for three minutes of debate, Delegate Winslow.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise with some fear after the remarks of the last speaker, who quoted an associate of mine from Goucher College on her side of the fence. I have great respect for my colleague. I helped to bring him to Goucher College, but I point out to the assembly that he is still a young man. I should like to speak particularly to the third portion of this recommendation of the Committee.

I do this in spite of the fact that if I had been making this speech twenty years ago, I would have been on the other side.