

majority of the people of our State would accept, I would have voted as I did against Amendment No. 21.

Our Committee had this matter before it, we gave extensive hearings to it and we had three choices. We had those who wanted to include in our state constitution the right-to-work law. If we had included this without any say for labor, then we would have had all the labor organizations against the constitutional draft.

Our Committee wisely decided not to include that in the constitution. On the other hand, we had labor's bill of rights and proposals before us. If we included that, we knew we were tying the hands of the legislature, we were crippling this State in its operation, we were crippling the municipalities in its operation and hospitals and many other institutions which should not have this right to organize, collectively bargain, and walk out on strike.

On the other hand, we had the other choice not to give to the people what they sought and what labor sought. We had the other choice which the majority made, to say nothing in this field. That was our committee's recommendation. That was until you unwisely, in my opinion, voted in Amendment No. 21.

The effect of Amendment No. 21, as I mentioned, covers all employees. I asked the question whether it covered all employees and they answered yes. They had no alternative but to answer yes, because the word "employees" is all-inclusive and all-embracing and means employees wherever they may be, state, municipal, and subdivisional employees, as well as household and hospital and institutional employees, and so on down the line in areas where you would not want labor organizations walking in and making demands and walking out the next day and striking.

I will point out one classic example. What would happen in the State of Maryland if the employees of the comptroller's office decided they wanted to have more wages and they were allowed to organize and there were no restrictive legislation?

If we put it in the constitution, the legislature will be foreclosed, the door will be shut in their face because they can raise the point that if any restrictive legislation is placed in it they will be able to say that the Declaration of Rights was acted on unconstitutionally.

What happens if the comptroller's office goes on strike? Where do you get your

checks? Who collects the revenue for the State of Maryland? Who pays all these employees? The Employees' Association that appeared before our Committee wrote letters such as Delegate Kiefer got this morning. They do not want this. They say it would be a big mistake. Those letters were not read, but the sentiment of their organization is as strong as if the letters were read to everyone of you. If you heard these letters, you would not have voted for Amendment No. 21.

Just think what might happen at any of the mental institutions if those employees decided they could not get their pay raise out of the legislature and they could not deal with the state offices. They could go out on strike. Who is going to feed and keep these poor insane people from starving?

My friends, if that ever happened, I know that a lot of you would get down on your knees and pray that the Lord and the rest of us would forgive you for the sin committed this morning.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Weidemeyer, you have left just three minutes, including time for answering questions.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Thank you, Mr. President. I do not want to answer too many questions. I just want to tell them the mistakes they make.

I want to say, in summary, you can correct this by adoption of Amendment No. 22 which I have offered. If you are going to leave this concept in the constitution and Bill of Rights, then you should at least be fair about it and protect your State and municipalities and leave an exception in there where you do not give every employee in the State of Maryland the right to go in as you have afforded under the present Amendment No. 21.

I hope that you do think about what you have done and adopt Amendment No. 22, in some way clarifying and improving what you have done this morning.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions of the sponsor of the amendment? Delegate Lloyd Taylor.

DELEGATE L. TAYLOR: Delegate Weidemeyer—

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Weidemeyer, do you yield to a question?

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: I was trying to yield to a private question while Lloyd Taylor was talking. I will be glad to yield to a question from him.