

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Jett.

DELEGATE JETT: Mr. President, and fellow delegates: I wish to speak in favor of reconsideration, because this item is an item that is too important to vote on lightly.

Regardless of all of our feelings as to the consumer—and we are all consumers—this is something to affect every man, woman and child in this State, and in every walk of life.

I further want you to reflect on the fact that I think this is an unwarranted reflection on the thousands of honest merchants in this State, and the millions of intelligent consumers in this State. We are not infested with a bunch of crooked merchants, and we are not a state inhabited by subversives.

This provision makes you stop and ask: What is unfair? What is harmful? Are we attacking the profit motive? Is the amount of profit unfair?

In trying to ask the public what have we done for you, I say to you very sincerely if we put this type of thing into the constitution we will have done nothing for the public but have given them a terrific headache as to what on earth this could possibly mean in terms of any kind of protection that the legislature or anyone else could provide for.

I ask you very sincerely to vote for reconsideration.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Sickles.

DELEGATE SICKLES: Mr. President and fellow delegates: I strongly urge that you vote against reconsidering this matter that we have twice passed in this Convention. I think that there is no question but that there is no mischief that results from this particular provision.

There is no question but that it does not have any impact or effect until the legislature does pass appropriate legislation, but I think we ought to understand that this has been one area where there has been much discussion but not much action on the national or, in many of the states, on the state level, and there is a reason for it, because there is a basic thrust that we are concerned with.

I think most of us lawyers know and others too, the adage: "Let the buyer beware." What has happened in our society as it has become more complex is that this is an adage that we cannot live with exclu-

sively, so that by breathing life into our constitution by including this provision it seems to me we are recognizing really the advent of a new principle, a principle which should be recognized in this constitution, and should be passed on to our legislators.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Harry Taylor.

DELEGATE H. TAYLOR: Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen of the Convention: As a result of the vote the last time I got up to talk. The people who were opposed to this motion for reconsideration have invited me to speak in favor of it.

*(Laughter.)*

We heard a lot about Pandora's box here in the Convention, and I submit that the lid has been flipped up and down so often that the hinges are now loose, and ready to fall off, but I do not think we have ever given it as big a flip as we will if we pass this provision allegedly to help the consumer.

The riots and the protests that we have today I think are more from political promises that are incapable of enforcement than anything else.

This particular provision does absolutely nothing. It holds out hope, but still it may well do great harm to those people whom we seek to help.

I say that for this reason. The General Assembly of Maryland has acted in this field; the Attorney General has set up a consumer's protection section within its office. These people are running hard to help the consumer, and sometimes when someone is running hard, you give him a little push and you make him fall. And this push, to the General Assembly and all of those who are working so hard to help the consumer, may just be the thing that says, well, we cannot satisfy everybody, so let us get out of this and not beat our brains out. I ask you to vote to reconsider this, and let us strike this thing out of our constitution.

We talk about freezing in the constitution things that are not necessary there, and if we freeze in enough of them we are going to create an iceberg that is going to sink on May 14th.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Key.

DELEGATE KEY: Mr. President, and ladies and gentlemen: