

*(Whereupon, the motion was duly seconded.)*

THE PRESIDENT: The amendment is seconded.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Key to speak to the motion to reconsider. Please keep in mind this is a motion to reconsider the vote by which Amendment No. 1 was adopted by a vote of fifty-nine to fifty-six. On the motion you are privileged to speak not only on the motion to reconsider, but on the main question. We have been following the policy of doing so in order to save time.

Delegate Key.

DELEGATE KEY: Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen, I would like to reconsider the vote by which the words "economic opportunity" were added to the preamble of the constitution that we are now drafting for two reasons.

First of all, let me say that I guess I am more in need of economic opportunity than anybody else. I hate to keep reminding you of that, but I do represent the most economically deprived area in Baltimore City stated statistically by the Department of Health.

But, first of all, we have not in this Convention been willing to put in the body of the constitution any reference to economic opportunity and this is where it has meaning.

My second reason for wanting to reconsider is because it has already been stated in the preamble, and I see no reason to restate what has already been stated. If you refer to your preamble, we have here stated that all government is instituted to secure peoples' right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Now, according to my dictionary which I keep over here because not being a lawyer I have to refer to it quite often, it says:

Life is defined as livelihood and livelihood is means of support or subsistence which, I think, we all would consider economic opportunity.

Liberty is defined as the positive enjoyment of various social, political, or economic rights and privileges.

Happiness, in pursuit of happiness, is defined as a state of well being and contentment, good fortune, and prosperity. I think the words "economic opportunity" are aiming at all of these, but I think the phrase "right to life, liberty, and pursuit

of happiness" says it more adequately than "economic opportunity" ever could.

THE PRESIDENT: Any other delegate desire to speak?

Delegate Kiefer.

DELEGATE KIEFER: Mr. President, I think I ought to yield to Delegate Koger. It was his amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Gill.

DELEGATE GILL: Mr. President and fellow delegates, of course, Delegate Key's amendment to reconsider comes as a surprise to me. When the original proposal came to include it in the main body of rights, it seemed to me then even though I voted for it, it would be something hard to attain, but worthwhile if it were possible, so I voted for it.

After talking with Delegate Koger for several days, we decided that it really would fit well in the preamble because it is an ideal philosophy of life. It is something that all of the people in Maryland need, whether they are white or black or yellow or any other color or whether they are rich or poor or whether they are advantaged or disadvantaged. It is an equal opportunity whether you live in the mountains, whether you live in the city, whether you live on the seashore, or whether you live in southern Maryland.

Let us all aim to have that equal chance whether we can actually attain it or not, and that is why I believe it should be in the preamble. I was very proud when it won out by three or four votes. I did note that three negroes did not vote for it, and I was wondering why. Of course, I know why when I see Delegate Key did not vote for it. I hope those who voted for it will not vote against it now because it is being reconsidered. It is an ideal that I think belongs in the preamble, and it certainly does not duplicate what is already in there so I hope that it will be voted on favorably to go into the preamble.

THE PRESIDENT: Any other delegate desire to speak on the motion to reconsider?

Delegate Beatrice Miller.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I rise to support the amendment to reconsider and to state that although I was one of the people who voted reluctantly this morning to include the words, I would now vote with far less reluctance to take them out.