

I had some feeling this morning as this proposal was made that some of the delegates were supporting it because they intended in that way to salve their consciences and then later to vote against the proposal that had any real meaning. This is sheer hypocrisy, what is taking place here.

Everyone of us knows from our work here and what we knew before that the preamble does not stand for any form of law. All of them know this and to put something like this, economic opportunity, into the preamble without making any provision at all for it in the body of this constitution, in the framework of our government, is the same as the other kind of empty promises that are being made to the poor and causing the kind of problems and havoc that we face.

Are you going to walk out of this Convention and return home and say you have done something for the poor or for the working people and that you have guaranteed economic opportunity? You have put two empty words in the front of the constitution, in the preamble.

Fellow delegates, you put freedom in the preamble, but then you took steps in the Declaration of Rights to make sure that those freedoms were guaranteed. You refused to put equal educational opportunity for children or for education in this constitution. You have just now rejected any sort of equal opportunity for industrial democracy for all of the millions of Maryland people who work on the job and yet you want to go home with the words "equal opportunity" in the preamble.

I refuse to be part of such a hypocrisy. I think it would be far better if we took them out.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Lloyd Taylor.

DELEGATE L. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I rise in support of this amendment. The preamble is just a bunch of words and we are tired of a bunch of words.

The State of Maryland recently filed a case in the Supreme Court under the direction of the attorney general. They filed a case to prohibit the State of Maryland from being covered by the minimum wage law and the present minimum wage law that is effective as of February 1, 1967, is only one dollar and fifteen cents an hour.

And, of course, the State of Maryland has filed suit in the Supreme Court to prohibit employees of the public schools and

hospitals in this state from coming under the minimum wage law. Two words, "economic opportunity," will not help these people who work for the State of Maryland. If we fail to include in the constitution a really meaningful proposal on the right to collective bargaining, the poor and working men of the State of Maryland have not been helped by this constitution.

If you are going to reorganize the State instead of regional government and still have low wages and still have many employees intimidated by private employers and by state supervisors and many state agencies, this will not really help the working man.

Turning back to what President Roosevelt said more than forty years ago when he proclaimed his economic bill of rights, he said, "We have come to a realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence." These words in the preamble will not solve the problem. We have to solve the problem by putting it in the body of the constitution.

The constitution does not have any guts. It has a certain number of political rights, but people cannot eat political rights. They need something for their stomachs, and people throughout the State of Maryland, want something they can see and something they can really put their teeth into, but they cannot put their teeth into this constitution.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Schneider.

DELEGATE SCHNEIDER: Mr. Chairman, I move the previous question.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The question arises on ordering the previous question which is on the motion to reconsider the vote by which Amendment No. 1 was adopted. A vote Aye is a vote in favor of the motion ordering the previous question. A vote No is a vote against.

All in favor signify by saying Aye; contrary, No.

The Ayes have it. It is so ordered.

The question arises on the motion to reconsider the vote by which Amendment No. 1 was adopted. This is only on the motion to reconsider. If it is reconsidered, then Amendment No. 1 will be before you again. A vote Aye is a vote in favor of the motion to reconsider; a vote No is a vote against.