

want to exercise their right of religion to have free worship.

Now, I would suspect that the real reason for the laughter and for the change is the kind of a letter I got today, and of all things from a man from whom I bought my last car — Anderson Chevrolet, Mr. H. L. Hosford, President. He had the nerve to threaten this Constitutional Convention saying, "I do hope you will reconsider and change your vote to 'no' before final approval of the constitution. I find it so disturbing I will have to do everything possible to campaign for the nonpassage of the new constitution when it comes to a vote by the citizens of Maryland."

The employers are few; the working people are the masses. I would say, in the words of Judge Bazelon of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia Circuit Court, who is quoted in LIFE magazine on October 21, 1966, on rights, "Some people because they have money and intelligence are tall enough to reach them, others, because they are poor or too short. Do you say that is just too damned bad, or do you give the short guys a box to stand on?"

I would urge that you reconsider this motion to give the short guys, the working people who are the majority of the adult citizens of this State, the right to sit at the bargaining table rather than take to the streets to get fair wages for their labor, which is all they have to offer in the marketplace.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Scanlan.

DELEGATE SCANLAN: It is always very difficult to follow such eloquent ladies, ladies so devoted to their cause and so familiar with the cause that they espouse, but again I suggest their arguments are better directed to the General Assembly of this State, and not to the constitution.

Delegate Bothe, who led the fight for the original provision which you have stricken and is now before you on reconsideration, admitted the fact that this matter was better handled by statute, but the time had come, she said, in view of the development of this nation, to put the right into the constitution.

If that was the end of the matter, I would be with them, but that is not the end of the matter. Unlike the rights of free speech, free assembly and free exercise of religion, the right to bargain collectively must of its nature be regulated and implemented by the General Assembly.

I will give you a simple example. You have a plant, a business. Some of the employees are laborers, some are machinists, some are electricians, some are painters.

Query: is there going to be one collective bargaining group for the whole plant, or are there going to be four or five?

Second query: is it going to be by plurality of the voters or by a majority of the voters, or can each individual unit have its collective bargaining representative?

Third query: how long does the effect of the collective bargaining representation election last? Can they have one next month, or must they wait a year, or two years?

In point of fact, this is a right that can only have meaning if implemented by statutory implementation and regulation. It cannot be set in a vacuum; to do so is a snare and a delusion. Unlike some of the exhortations of the majority some of you have seen fit to put in the constitution, this one means something. This is a substantive right, "employees shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively." It means that the General Assembly, if that language stands, might be prohibited from implementing and regulating that right in a meaningful way, not only to protect the employees but to protect the public of this State.

THE PRESIDENT: Your time has expired.

DELEGATE SCANLAN: I suggest it is to the General Assembly of Maryland these eloquent arguments should be addressed, not to the Constitutional Convention.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak as calmly and as dispassionately as possible. I believe that this is a fundamental right. I think it is merely an extension of that statement we have approved, "The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances, each person remaining responsible for the abuse of those rights." I believe this honestly and sincerely and, sir, I take my stand; God helping me I can do no other.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Kiefer.

DELEGATE KIEFER: Mr. President, I had hoped not to speak on this, but Delegate Pullen being a neighbor and a long-standing friend, I must answer him to this extent.