

such action will soon be forthcoming and before May 14, and I would hope that all of those delegates who supported the collective bargaining provision and those others who claimed that it was statutory will join in persuading the General Assembly to pass such legislation.

If that should happen, then I think we could look for further support and all go forward to win the hearty ratification and endorsement by the people that this Constitution deserves.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Harris.

DELEGATE HARRIS: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the Convention, it is with reluctance that I rise to concur in the action taken by the delegates who have supported the collective bargaining provision. I believe that further consideration of this provision would serve only to deepen the split that has occurred in this Convention.

I would be remiss in my duties as a delegate to the Convention, as a representative of the people of the great State of Maryland, if I did not enlighten you on some of the errors that we have committed by not approving the collective bargaining provision.

Those delegates covered under collective bargaining agreements are accruing all benefits they normally receive at their work site. Since I am not covered under a collective bargaining agreement, my pension has been stopped.

You in your wisdom and deliberations have made provisions for the judges and their widows' pensions. Is this a constitutional matter? Not any more than my pension which would have still been in effect if you would have passed a collective bargaining proposal to cover all public employees.

The public employees whom you have seen fit to deny the constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively for their economic security are part of the public that you surmise will strike against you. These people have not asked for castles or ready-made fortunes, only the right to organize and elect spokesmen who will then negotiate salaries and working conditions with the proper officials in the government.

As an employee of the City of Baltimore for twelve years, I have seen many people chastised for wanting to belong to a union, and I know fire fighters in the City of Baltimore who on a given morning would report to a work station in Curtis Bay only

to be transferred to another station at Edmondson Village, a punishment for their union activities.

At Baltimore in the Fire Department, the employees are rated by an efficiency rating. The top rating is 81. If you make a choice to support the union which I did, you will never make it. After twelve years I have not, but I can show you many with five years of service and non union activities who have already reached 81. I want the record to be abundantly clear that I personally admire those people who have the courage of their convictions and that I will have to do an awful lot of soul-searching, between about now and next Wednesday, before I can affix my signature to a document patterned primarily for the business interests of the Bar Association and their widows.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Frank Robey.

DELEGATE ROBEY: Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen, I too must confess that there are several parts of this question which I, at the present time, do not understand, and I am sure probably that I shall never understand.

One of the things I shall never understand is the switch in vote from eighty-three for, to a negative vote, to a tie against. There are parts of this constitution of which I do not at the present time approve, but I am not sure that I shall never approve of them.

One of the most notable characteristics of our way of life in Maryland is a continued exploration to apply our principles of freedom to the challenges in the new era. I think this should be a test of a State Constitution. Our institutions of freedom have been and are preserved through a process of continuing development and perfection.

There has existed throughout this Convention a constant awareness of the changing realities of our everyday life and at the same time a recognition of our obligation to protect and maintain our tradition of democracy.

I submit, at this time, that collective bargaining for the citizens of this State has evolved as a partisan part of public policy. Collective bargaining is a part of our heritage. Our challenge in this Convention was to perfect it. Constitutional recognition in this area should have been evaluated on the basis of implementing, not restricting, collective bargaining, but I