

are we planning to tie the hands of the people. We are simply trying to make it appear that if the people are interested, if they really want to be involved, let them do so but let them prove their intentions.

Our third point is that evidence has been secured which shows that signatures are relatively easy to secure. We have appearing before us some students from Maryland U, and within a very short period of time they had secured 5,000 signatures.

If the people will organize, I do not think that the figures we have before you in our report are unattainable. Delegate Koss said the figures fall off in the third month. This may be true, but it also carries out our thought that if the people are sincere, if they are really and truly planning to go through the referendum, then in the third month they will follow through and get the required number of signatures.

For these reasons, I would hope that you would favor our Minority Report.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Delegate Murray.

In order to balance this out, the Chair must allocate another three minutes for the pros people in favor of the amendment.

Dr. Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly take issue with my sweet colleague from Prince Georges County.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the doctor in favor of the amendment?

DELEGATE PULLEN: No, sir; I am against it.

THE CHAIRMAN: In order to balance out the time, the Chair is going to be forced to recognize another speaker, who is for the amendment, in order that each side will have six minutes.

DELEGATE PULLEN: That is perfectly agreeable with me.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone who wishes to speak in favor of the amendment?

*(There was no response.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: No one wishes to speak in favor of the amendment.

I will recognize Delegate Pullen to speak against.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Somewhere in the Declaration of Rights in the Virginia Constitution of 1776 there is reference to the Constitution getting back occasionally to fundamental principles. I am afraid we are trying to interpret and guide human nature by a system of mathematics. It cannot be done.

The story is told of an astronomer who could predict with mathematical exactitude where a certain planet would be at 12:01 A.M. in the year 2067, but the same man could not tell where his own daughter was going to be at 11:00 P.M. that night.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am old-fashioned enough to believe that the right thing is the ultimate wisdom of people if they have the facts. The big question here is, have the people of Maryland abused this privilege?

If you will turn to page 9 of the report of the Committee, you will find some rather interesting results.

In 1966, 538,360 people voted on the issue, in which it was turned down by 40,476. The year before, 644,220 voted in the referendum, and the motion of the bill was carried by 41,210, and so on down the line, Mr. Chairman, as far back as 1938. Only twelve cases were brought before the people.

It is a rather interesting thing and something that strikes me rather strongly at this time, that the lowest number of voters in any referendum voted for this Convention, 190,000. In 1938, 224,000 voted. I do not think it makes too much difference, except one point: that it ought to be easy for the people to judge what their legislature has done. After all, the legislature is not infallible either.

I stood in this room some twenty years ago and saw the political powers of my county come up with a proposal that was political in nature, to take over the insurance contracts in Baltimore County. True, that was a local bill but the people turned that down, nearly 90,000 to about 17,000. All I think is this—

THE CHAIRMAN: Thirty seconds, Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: That is all I need.

Justice Holmes said, if the law does not prohibit it, let them have it. I do not believe we should put roadblocks in the way of the wishes of the people.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other dele-