

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: Mr. Chairman, and fellow delegates, I will not repeat the arguments that were used against the five per cent of the registered voters because you know exactly how the Committee felt when we made our recommendation for five per cent of the gubernatorial vote. I will draw your attention to the fact that three per cent divided in half is one and a half per cent to suspend legislation. This I would call a tool in the hands of a small minority, to thwart the will of the majority; one and a half per cent would be all that is necessary. I feel this would be injustice to our new legislature and also would impede good government. I also would like to stress the fact that the present provision, if you read the total article, states that there will be sixty days to petition to referendum and a full thirty days for securing the first half of the signatures. Under today's Constitution we do not have that assurance, and we took this into consideration when we recommended raising to five per cent. Today it is conceivable that the Governor will wait until the last day before he signs a bill into law, and will leave less than twenty days for petitions to be secured. We have arranged it by our recommendation that a minimum of thirty days pass in order to suspend legislation with the full sixty days to take to referendum.

I urge you not to keep it at three per cent. We all know that this year there was a petition which was successful in signatures against the tax reform, and petitions successful in signatures against, if I am not mistaken, the Fair Housing Act. These two were successful with signatures at three per cent. They were unsuccessful for other reasons.

I suggest that it will be too easy to secure signatures at three per cent. Let us retain it at the five and strike a happy balance.

I would like to call to your attention that we will if we leave it at three per cent, invite the same difficulty the legislature had in 1962, when it had to raise it. Let us not knowingly write provisions for revision in our new Constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: That completes the controlled time debate. I would like to advise Delegate Miller that as we go into the uncontrolled portion of the debate, her proposed amendment to an amendment will be in order.

It is unnecessary to give it now, but at any time now it will be in order.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Miller.

DELEGATE E. MILLER: May I be recognized for a minute in opposition to the amendment?

THE CHAIRMAN: The procedure is for someone who is in favor of the amendment to speak for three minutes, and then for someone who is against to speak for three minutes. We will have to recognize a person in favor. Delegate Koss, do you wish to speak?

DELEGATE KOSS: No. I was going to ask whether or not we had used up all our time because I wanted to yield some to Congressman Miller if it were available.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand that. You have only used eight minutes. I had been under the impression that you had concluded your time under controlled time.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield then some time to Delegate Miller, as much as he would like.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Miller, all right. Delegate Miller, you have gotten in under the controlled time.

DELEGATE E. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, my thoughts are very brief on this subject.

We all are anxious to have a safety valve, and I believe there ought to be some provision for referendum, but I think we ought to think also of the practical side, that every time we have a referendum in the future, and it fails and it becomes merely a lot of commitment with no results, we have not accomplished anything for the State of Maryland. It seems to me it is very unlikely that we can get enough public sentiment to override the legislature if we cannot get 5 per cent of the signatures, and just from a purely practical standpoint, I think the Majority Report is the one we should adopt.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further use of controlled time? If not, we will go to the uncontrolled time. Does anyone wish to speak in favor of the amendment under the uncontrolled time? Does anyone seek to speak? Does Delegate Hutchinson wish to speak in favor?

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: Yes, I do. I was hoping someone else would speak first, but I just want to say one thing about Mrs. Cardin's remarks about the sus-