

- F. *Our limited experience with an 18-year-old minimum in the United States demonstrates that it works satisfactorily. The experience of other nations that have an 18-year-old requirement is irrelevant, since these nations have governmental systems quite different from ours.*

"... The proposition which this resolution [constitutional amendment lowering the minimum voting age to 18 years] advances has been tested in practice. The State of Georgia has furnished the United States and its sister states with the laboratory proof of the desirability of reducing the minimum voting age to 18 years. A former Governor of that State [Ellis Arnall] attests to the success of that experiment...."<sup>14</sup>

"The mere fact that youth votes at

18 in Soviet Russia seems to be no argument that 'evils of youthful voting' will follow. It makes no difference whether you are 18 or 80. Your vote doesn't count for anything in Soviet Russia anyway. The idea of getting the young people of America to do any goose-stepping around seems to me to show an utter lack of comprehension of the American youth. I don't think you can regiment the youth of this country in any such way. In fact, I think just the opposite is true...."<sup>15</sup>

**III. ARGUMENTS OPPOSED TO LOWERING THE MINIMUM VOTING AGE TO 18 YEARS**

- A. *In general, youths of 18 lack the maturity of judgment and experience that the exercise of the ballot demands in a free society.*

"... Eighteen to twenty-one are mainly formative years where youth is reaching forward to maturity. His attitudes shift from place to place. These are the years of the greatest uncertainties, a fertile ground for demagogues. Youth attaches itself to promises, rather than to performance. These are rightfully the years of rebellion rather than reflection. We will be doing a grave injustice to democracy if we grant the vote to those under 21...."<sup>16</sup>

"... The right to vote implies full citizenship—or should at least—and

this entails certain duties and responsibilities, concomitants of citizenship. Just to mention one: the duty, none too pleasant, of serving on juries in both civil and criminal cases. It is doubtful if many teenagers would possess the judgment, sound reasoning, and emotional stability to make jury service a practical possibility...."<sup>17</sup>

"On the question of teen-age voting, as proposed by the President in his State of the Union Message, we are of a mind with his predecessor. Mr. Truman has observed that hardly any of us knows enough about American politics and history at the age of 18 to make an intelligent choice at the

<sup>14</sup> S. REP. No. 2036, 82d Cong., 2d Sess. (1952).

<sup>15</sup> Statement of former Representative Kenneth B. Keating during a radio debate on the question "Should 18 year olds vote?" presented by the American Forum of the Air. See CONGRESSIONAL DIGEST 78, 80 (March 1954).

<sup>16</sup> Statement of Emanuel Celler, D. of New York, *supra* note 1.

<sup>17</sup> Lyon, *Shall We Lower the Voting Age to 18?* 79 AM. MERCURY 143-44 (August 1954).