

for Baltimore City, the Court of Appeals again to be held by chief judges of the circuits. The section formulated contained also a provision that judges should hold office during good behavior. A minority report was filed by Henry W. Archer, of Harford County. In the debates, the usual differences were again argued, especially that on the question of life tenure of the office, that on the choice of an arrangement for expediting the disposal of appellate business, and that on salaries. There had been little gain by the existing Court of Appeals on the mass of cases in arrear on its docket. Again was heard the belief that the judiciary had deteriorated under the elective system; and again there was agreement in a desire to assure independence of the judges, with a difference of opinion on the means of doing it. Mr. Archer proposed a fifteen-year term in place of the life tenure preferred by the judiciary committee, and the amendment was adopted. The reason frequently given nowadays for approval of the plan of having a Court of Appeals held by trial judges, that it secures to the appellate bench a valuable background of human contacts and trial experience, appears to have found little expression in the debates of the convention. It was mentioned in the course of discussion by Henry Page, of Somerset County, one of the later judges of the Court of Appeals. There was expressed some fear that the combination of trial work and appellate work might prove too severe a burden for the chief judges generally, and it was ultimately agreed that the amount of trial business in Baltimore City precluded the use of a trial judge from that jurisdic-