

The 31st section of the same Article, in relation to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore city, provides that the Judges thereof "shall each receive an annual sum of \$3,500, payable quarterly, which shall *not be diminished* during their term of office, but authority is hereby given to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to pay to each of said Judges an annual addition of \$500 to their respective salaries; provided, that the same being once granted, shall *not be diminished* nor *increased*, during the continuance of said Judges in office."

It seems quite clear to a majority of the Committee, that construing these sections by themselves, their language by necessary and irresistible implication permits the Legislature to increase the salary of the Judges. The plain rule of interpretation is that effect must be given to all the words used. If the sections referred to had specified that the salary should be \$3,500, \$2,800 and \$3,000 respectively without words added, such language might have fixed the salaries of these figures so that the Legislature could not add to or diminish them. But when we consider that these words are added, viz: "Which shall not be diminished during their term of office," the whole taken together must be construed as an implied grant to the Legislature to deal with the subject of salaries subject to the limitation that the same "shall not be diminished." In no other way can force be given to the concluding words of section 24. When, therefore, after naming the salaries, words are added prohibiting a decrease, it necessarily follows that the Constitution contemplated action by the Legislature on this subject, but saw fit only to prohibit a decrease of the salaries, and hence impliedly authorizes action in the opposite direction.

In both of the sections above quoted it is expressly provided that the salaries shall not be *diminished*; and in section 31, of Article 4, in which this language is used, it is expressly declared in regard to the sum which the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore are authorized to pay to the Judges of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore city, that when once granted, the same shall *not be increased or diminished*.

The whole significance of this careful distinction is lost if the plain prohibition against the *diminishing*