

Let us take away from the people the right to determine who their judges are. Let us assume that a select few can pick the best executive and the best legislators and once we have them in office, then let us keep them there for life, because I think that that is what the adoption of the Niles Plan would do. I, therefore, urge you to support the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Winslow.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: Mr. Chairman, may I rise to a point of personal privilege first, and then to speak?

THE CHAIRMAN: You may.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: Mr. Chairman, you will recall that on Friday you read some excerpts from a letter quoting some students who had visited the Convention, and in those excerpts there was mention of one candy bar given to one of the delegates.

I understand that there was no request made in connection with that gift for any support or lack of support for anything that happens on this floor. But I should like to add that the wrapper of that candy bar carried the inscription "Forever Yours."

Now, may I speak against the amendment?

THE CHAIRMAN: You may.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: There was a time when I naively believed that a letter to the governor from an interested citizen asking that he perform his function of judicial appointment carefully, and in the interest of equal justice, would have some effect. I tried it.

I was assured by the then governor that I had nothing to fear at his hands, whereupon the governor appointed a judge, who spent the mornings setting forth even-handed justice from the bench and the afternoon rounding up support for his political party.

I suggest that only a very superior sort of person can do those two jobs equally well at the same time.

I may say, I was not very happy about that appointment, and recognizing that my letters to the governor would not have very much effect, I began looking around for some new and different and perhaps more promising way of selecting judges, and in the pages of the journal of the American Juridical Society, and this may I say was almost forty years ago, before most of you knew there was an American Juridical So-

ciety or a system of Maryland Courts, I found there a scheme outline for the selection of judges.

It was a scheme which became a little later the Missouri system, and I have watched its progress from that day until this, and am convinced, even more now than I was then, that this is the proper method of securing the best possible judicial candidates.

I am pleased that the minority agrees with me. The minority position is that we should have nominating commissions at the appellate level. Why? In order to secure judges of superior quality, the best of the best. But I get a little troubled by the logic of the minority. If we can get the best of the best of the nominating commission I suggest that by all that is consistent we apply the same scheme at the trial level, for the minority insists that there are the courts where most of the cases arise, and where most of the cases end. These are the courts where most of the people have contact.

I urge the delegates in this Convention to support the majority position and vote against this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is left approximately seven minutes of the time as extended. As far as the Chair has been able to observe there are two persons desiring to speak in favor of the amendment, both of whom have spoken before.

There are two delegates desiring to speak in opposition. The Chair will recognize each of them, if they will keep their time down to considerably less than three minutes, otherwise all four cannot be recognized.

For what purpose does Delegate Mitchell rise?

DELEGATE MITCHELL: I would like to speak in opposition to the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Johnson and urges that he confine his remarks to a minute or a minute and a quarter.

DELEGATE JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I should just like to answer my very good friend, fellow member of my Committee, Delegate Hargrove. I read as many constitutions as I could and supplemented my research with information gathered by the Convention staff and have answers to the following questions: First, what states