

lel of the absentee ballot to the men to whom we want to give the prerogative to vote.

Who is better qualified to cast a vote? A man who spends his waking hours at his business or a fellow who lives out of the county in the next state, and we extend the franchise to him on an absentee ballot.

I suggest the more qualified man is the gentleman who works and earns his living in the municipality and pays the taxes.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: Mr. Chairman, I yield two minutes to Delegate Borom.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Borom.

DELEGATE BOROM: Mr. Chairman, and fellow delegates, I rise to support the amendment presented by the minority and I would remind you we are talking about the issue of non-resident voters. We are talking about people who are engaged in profit-making ventures, people who apparently already have some faith in the government of the community. They have some faith in the voters and in the community.

We are talking about people who have made choices. I would be willing to say that any businessman who wants to invest in a community must have some faith. He gets his rewards not primarily by having the right to vote as a non-resident, but he gets his reward primarily from the profits that he can pull from that community.

And I will remind many of you who are familiar with the company town branch office, that one of the worst evils in many municipalities is the branch office where you have an interest in profit-making rather than an interest in the health and welfare of the community.

I would urge you against including a constitutional provision for non-resident voters.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: I call on Delegate Fox and yield up to five minutes to him.

*(President H. Vernon Eney resumed the Chair.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand the maximum is four and a half minutes.

DELEGATE FOX: Mr. Chairman, I will try to stay well within the time. I am reminded of the words of the Rubaiyat, "Myself when young did eagerly frequent / Doctor and saint, and heard great argument / about it and evermore came out by the same door as in I went."

This is not any matter of one man, one vote. Let us destroy that right at the moment and let me answer Delegate Smith's argument about the man who voted in a municipality even though he did not live there, and he could vote in two counties.

If you can vote in two counties, you can vote twice for a delegate to the legislature or twice for a senator. If you live in Baltimore City, you can vote for the mayor and council on the day that they have the municipal election, and then on the day that they have the state election, if it should be a different day, you simply then vote for your representatives to the General Assembly. This is all you are saying to people who live outside of the municipality as I do, in the county where I vote in the county election. And I own property in the City of Salisbury and so on the election day I can go to Salisbury and vote there.

There is absolutely no problem about policing this. It is very easy to tell whether a person has a right to vote by virtue of owning property in a municipality. You have to take a certificate from the tax assessor with you when you register to show that you are a property owner. There is no difficulty about policing the thing at all.

Now, I must seriously question this statement that was made here that in municipal elections in Ocean City only 50 residents voted.

They were going to produce the figures and maybe they have them and maybe they do not. So far as I know I voted in the last election in Ocean City because I have a cottage on the beach over there. There was an election over there with regard to annexation that they may possibly be referring to, but as I recall, being on the streets of Ocean City on election day, there were certainly a lot more than 50 residents that were in the line to exercise their franchise.

This would really be drastic as far as Ocean City is concerned. A majority or a large number of people who live in Ocean City and own property and are on the city council there live across the bay in a section they call Captain's Hill.

Their land and interests are in the town of Ocean City, but they live on the other