

plex society is even more demanding on our young people. Each day young people are being demanded to contribute more to the economic, the social, and the political structure of the society.

And yet even with all these contributions of the young people there are still many of us who maintain that young people are irresponsible, that young people have no experience. You know, every speaker on the minority has used these two words of experience and responsibility.

It reminds me that each one of us had to go look for a job at one time in our lives after school and there were all the personnel directors who said, "I am sorry, friend, you do not have any experience".

If that be the case of the minority, if it be the case that you vote against nineteen-year-olds because they have no experience then I say you and I do not belong here. After all, where did we get experience to write a constitution? I had none and I am sure you had none.

We profess to give every opportunity to the electorate to vote. We set up local districts. We bring local units to the neighborhoods to get them to vote. We put the polling place a couple of doors from their homes. We even give them two hours now to go out and vote and yet our response is very poor.

If your criteria for voting against the committee recommendation is your observance of the draft-card burners or the hippies or whatever they are called —

THE CHAIRMAN: You have a little less than one-half minute.

DELEGATE DABROWSKI: I suggest you realize this is only a small segment of the young population. In the past few months we have put a little new blood into our constitution. I suggest now that we open the doors and let some good fresh air in and have our nineteen-year-olds vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Rybczynski, you have two and a half minutes left that you may allot.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate reserving those two and a half minutes for rebuttal.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well.

Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, I yield three minutes to Delegate Beachley.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Beachley.

DELEGATE BEACHLEY: Thank you, Delegate Koss.

Mr. Chairman, delegates to the Convention, as an educator, as one who has been associated with the counseling of high school youth for many years, I would like to express my approval of the reduction of the voting age from the current twenty-one years to the age of nineteen primarily because I have faith in the ability and judgment of our young people to make wiser decisions than those that were made by those of similar age in the past generation.

This opinion is based on the fact that there is a state school requirement for all secondary pupils to include in their course of study, prior to graduation, at least three credits or three courses in social studies. The term "social studies" includes such things as civics, U. S. history which is a required subject, problems of democracy, contemporary challenges and subjects of similar nature that would contribute a great deal to the knowledge needed in decision making.

There are many other courses in high school that help to broaden the vision and judgment of our young people. But in addition, the youth in our high schools today have an unusual opportunity through the international student exchange program to come in contact with youth of other lands, and to get broader outlooks on life than their parents have had.

Since by the age of eighteen many of our students, and I say approximately eighty percent of our students, have completed high school, they are ready to take the next step, both educationally and vocationally. If they are ready for that, they are ready to assist in the formulation of policies, whether they be on the local or state level, by using the ballot box.

So, friends in the Convention, I hope you will give consideration to this proposal of reducing the age to eighteen. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, I assume I have about six minutes left. Is that right?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think you have more than that.

DELEGATE KOSS: All right.

THE CHAIRMAN: About ten minutes.

DELEGATE KOSS: I yield three minutes to Delegate Sickles.