

side of the bay in the wintertime, and to say that they could not vote would drastically affect Ocean City.

In the town of Snow Hill we would like, and I know are contemplating, extending the right to vote to people who live around Snow Hill, because as time has gone on, a lot of businessmen and people who own the property and conduct the business have moved a little further out, but they still maintain their interest and property in Snow Hill and they want the right to vote there.

The significant thing is that not one single person from one municipality that extends the right to a non-resident property owner appeared and asked that this be done away with. They are not offended. They want it.

I do not see why this Constitutional Convention should interfere with extending the right to vote to their citizens who perhaps have lived in town and now moved a little way outside.

I urge that you defeat the amendment and support the committee recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: Mr. Chairman, in response to the request for the accurate figures in the last election in Ocean City, the check shows that 800 non-residents voted, 50 corporations and 50 local residents.

Further information: the county elections under the provisions of the current Constitution indicated that county elections will be held at a different time. Mr. Chairman, how much time do we have left for the minority?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think you have about six minutes.

DELEGATE FOX: Will Delegate White yield to a question?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: I yield.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Fox.

DELEGATE FOX: Was the election that you referred to, the recent election with regard to annexing land outside of Ocean City to the town of Ocean City, a matter in which the non-residents who lived outside Ocean City had the greatest interest?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: According to my information, it was the local municipal election, and not annexation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield four minutes to Delegate John Carroll Byrnes.

THE CHAIRMAN: This will leave you only one minute after that, Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: I yield under those conditions two minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: Mr. Chairman, I want to point out just for the record, if this has not been suggested before, that our Committee did receive correspondence from a great number of municipalities, and I want to read for the record those which absolutely oppose the extension.

These are the mayors of the following: Rockville, Takoma Park, Bowie, Somerset, Forest Hill, Hyattsville, Aberdeen, Bladensburg, Federalsburg, and Easton.

Now, I was one of those who was on the ball on this question. I saw Ocean City and saw that a great number of the property owners of Ocean City did not live there, and I wondered how the cities would survive if the people who owned the property did not participate in the government.

I resolved it this way, by recognizing that this is contrary to the principle of the philosophy of this country and then I looked at it practically and said, those who have an interest in the municipalities certainly have a great number of other ways that they can influence the elections and influence the outcome of the elections in those areas.

I think it was made clear to us by testimony and frankly, by common sense, that the people in Ocean City who actually live there have precisely the same interest as those people who own the property.

It is incredible to believe that the people of Ocean City would act contrary in any way whatsoever to the interests of the people who own the property there, so it was my personal conclusion, and I think many on the Committee agreed with me, that not only does this not appeal to us philosophically but also practically speaking, we felt we were not denying anybody the right to participate in the government of the municipality and certainly did not think that Ocean City's government or economy would suffer as a result of denying this particular right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate White.