

from his old residence district. When he arrives at the new district, frequently the three-month period has begun, or the period of limitation has begun. He is removed from his old district and he is then ineligible under the constitution to vote in the new district so that generally speaking he is in a high state of perturbation because although technically he might go back and register, I suppose, in his old district most people do not do it or they just simply do not want to be bothered with all that trouble so the fact of the matter is they just lose their vote. The idea is to remove this administrative difficulty.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate D. S. Murray.

DELEGATE D. S. MURRAY: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry Delegate Rybczynski got ahead of me because I almost lost my nerve, but I will say it anyway. First I am not available for questions from Delegate Case. He scares me. Because if he says do you or do you not, I am afraid I might give the wrong answer.

Now to the point. Delegate Case said that if he left Baltimore City, he would have to go back and vote. I would like to take exception to that because, Delegate Case, you will not have to go back and vote. In case you decided you would go back within that three-month period (I said I did not want him to ask me a question. Neither does he have to answer)—don't you think you would be rendering the people who come in within that three-month period a service because if you know the people for whom you would have voted, there is small chance you would vote for the same ones for whom they would vote even though they do not have a chance right now. Maybe it does not make sense, I know, but maybe it would to Delegate Case.

Please forgive me, President Eney. I am dead serious now. The second point I want to make is that if he had moved to a new county, and he said this was for the future, maybe he misses his first turn to vote. This does not bother me a great deal because if it is for the future, you have to know the people for whom you will vote. That is the reason you go to the community. You must have found something attractive there; otherwise you would not have moved. I do not think this three-month period would bother anybody. It would not restrict it. It adds a good leeway there. I hope you will vote for the Committee Report.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair assumes all your questions were purely rhetorical questions.

Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the motion? Opposed? Delegate Hardin Marion.

DELEGATE MARION: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to comment on the merits of whether or not we ought to vote to reconsider but on the merits of the amendment itself. It seems to me, most everyone has directed his attention to the change of the words "for three months" and substituting the "closing of registration," but it seems to me that the amendment has another defect in that it removes the last sentence of section 1 of the Committee Recommendation which allows a person to remain eligible to vote in state elections. If we remove that, then in the illustration which Delegate Case has given us, if he were to move from Sparks, Maryland, to Harford County, during the time between the closing of registration and the time of the election, he would be effectively disenfranchised in the State of Maryland, not only for voting for those local offices, but for voting for governor and any of the other statewide offices this constitution will create, or if it is a presidential election, voting in that election.

I think that is an important sentence which ties in with the three-month period before and I would urge you to defeat the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Case.

DELEGATE CASE: I am about to flee from the chamber because of the next to last speaker but let me answer Delegate Hardin Marion in this way. I think the last sentence does not have the effect that he suggests. It is proper. The last sentence is perfectly consistent if the three-month test is left in. You have to have the last sentence. If you take the three months out and make the criteria the time for closing of the registration books, then the point you are making, Delegate Marion, disappears because if I am a resident in Harford County at the time the books close, this then qualifies me for all purposes under the James amendment. So it was consistent for Senator James to take the last sentence out.

To put it differently, if the idea is sound that you should have the right to vote, if you are a resident at or before the time the books close, then there is no need for the last sentence at all.