

convention and cry and wail and complain and shout and scream, but I hope I will never stand up and advise this Convention that I do not think it understood the issue; that I do not think it understood what we were talking about; and that I think that I understand it and nobody else understands it.

That is what you are being asked now. You are being asked to reconsider because you did not really know what you were doing yesterday when you voted. You did not know what damages were. You did not understand that when people get hurt, they ought to be paid for it.

As you ride out Indian Head Highway in Prince George's County, there is a house on the right-hand side of the road. It must have cost about \$50,000. You see a road that runs right up to his front door. He used to have a front yard running right up to his door, but now has a clay cliff running up to his door.

I do not know who he is, but he has been damaged. If the State of Maryland runs around like a mad dog in a meat house on this proposition that is one thing, but if they are careful of what they do, maybe they will not have to pay people so much money.

There is a good deal of case law about damages. You have to prove damages. Juries do not just hand money out and legislatures do not just hand money out. You have to prove damages.

If you have been hurt, you ought to be paid for it, and if you have not been hurt or damaged juries will not give it to you and the Maryland Court of Appeals will not give it to you. I do not think we will bankrupt this State any more than the other twenty-three states who have this have been bankrupt.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate want to speak in favor?

Delegate Adkins, will you take the floor to respond to a question?

DELEGATE ADKINS: Yes, sir.

DELEGATE E. C. MURRAY: Perhaps I should apologize to Delegate Adkins, because I was really using him as a vehicle. I want to address a question. Perhaps I should have addressed it to the delegates as a whole.

I want to ask how long the General Assembly has had an opportunity to correct this situation and has failed to do so?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Adkins.

DELEGATE ADKINS: I assume under its plenary powers it has specified the amount that it is willing to have its treasury award the property owners for takings of the State since its inception.

In the last four or five years it has substantially ameliorated the problem by statute. The legislature still has under intensive study this whole problem. I do not think it is a matter that should be dealt with in the constitution unless we consider ourselves a legislative body for enactment of legislation to cure all the ills of the State.

I do not consider that is the purpose for which we are assembled.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Murray.

DELEGATE E. C. MURRAY: Possibly that was not a fair question, but in any event I lack the advantage that you gentlemen have of legal training, but I agree with Delegate Dukes, that it is very easy to see the injustice and the harm that is being put upon individuals and that now we suggest backing off from as a State.

How long do I have, sir?

THE CHAIRMAN: You have a little over a minute.

DELEGATE E. C. MURRAY: I share the apprehension of you gentlemen who think that this will be extremely difficult to determine, but I think that with the training that you have, with the talent that is collected here today if anyone in Maryland can determine this, can lay down guidelines, you can.

In any event, I do not think that a retreat from our obligation is the right answer.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak?

Delegate Rybczynski?

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak against the motion to reconsider for the reason that I listened very carefully to the arguments last night and yesterday afternoon and I have heard absolutely nothing new today which should convince anyone to change his vote.

All of the arguments which were presented on both sides today were presented yesterday and very forcibly. There is no reason for anyone to change his vote today.