

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STATEHOOD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, April 12, 1982
4:54 o'clock p.m.

Auditorium
Ninth Floor
PEPCO Building
10th and E Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Present:

Delegate William Blount, Chairperson
Delegate David Clarke
Delegate Jan Eichhorn
Delegate Janette Harris
Delegate Brian Moore
Delegate Gwendolyn Paramore

C O N T E N T S

<u>WITNESSES</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Delegate Gwendolyn Paramore.....	3
Delegate Philip Schrag (in absentia).....	12
Douglas S. McNish, Esq. (in absentia).....	14
Ms. Barbara Baker.....	18
Delegate Barbara Lett-Simmons.....	29
President Charles Cassell.....	40
Delegate Courts Oulahan (in absentia).....	52
Adjournment.....	57

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRPERSON BLOUNT: The public hearing will come to order. We have present with us members of the Judiciary Committee: Delegate Brian Moore, Delegate Janette Harris, Delegate William Blount, Delegate Gwendolyn Paramore, Delegate Dave Clarke. We are very pleased to have our public hearing today, April 12, 1982, beginning at 4:54.

Delegate Gwendolyn Paramore will lead off our speakers, and there are a few other changes or additions to the witness list. On behalf of Delegate Philip Schrag, Delegate Clarke will read into the record a letter that he sent to us. And Delegate Brian Moore will play a tape and discuss the judiciary from the aspect of a visit he made today at Lorton. We're also going to have at the end, if there are any citizens who come in and would like to speak, we will certainly welcome their comments.

So, we will begin with Delegate Gwendolyn Paramore.

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE GWENDOLYN PARAMORE

DELEGATE PARAMORE: I believe for the sake of fairness and equity that judges should be definitely elected at the levels of the lower court system. In support, traffic courts, rental courts, and trial by jury courts where the judge has a great amount of influence or makes the