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## The Cabinet Issue: Pro and Con

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## THE CABINET ISSUE: PRO AND CON

Perhaps the most controversial of all the constitutional revision issues facing the voters in November is whether to abolish Florida's unique cabinet system of government. The opponents of the elected Cabinet describe it as intolerable. The defenders of the elected Cabinet depict it as indispensable. The issue will be resolved, for better or worse, by the electorate.

Jon C. Moyle is a student of Florida government. A lawyer and a political activist, he was graduated from Duke University in 1955, served in the United States Marine Corps for three years, and was graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in 1961. He served as a legal assistant to Governor Farris Bryant and then began the private practice of law in West Palm Beach. Since that time, Moyle has been active in the political campaigns of Reubin Askew, Lawton Chiles, James Kynes, and other Florida Democrats. He served for several years as chairman of the Democratic Party of Florida. Most recently, he was a member of the Constitution Revision Commission.

Like Moyle, Malcolm B. Johnson is a seasoned observer of Florida government. For forty years he covered Florida government as a newspaperman, retiring in 1977 after twenty-four years as editor of the *Tallahassee Democrat*. For many years his daily column, "I Declare!," was a fixture on the front page of the *Democrat* and in the editorial pages of twenty-five other Florida newspapers. Johnson has won almost numberless awards for his journalistic and other achievements. Six times he has been cited by The Florida Bar for his journalistic contributions to the administration of justice. In 1976, he was selected as one of a handful of "Florida Patriots" by the Florida Bicentennial Commission. Currently he is a member of the Florida Ethics Commission.

From their differing perspectives, Jon C. Moyle and Malcolm Johnson have developed sharply contrasting views about Florida's elected Cabinet. Moyle feels that the elected Cabinet should be abolished and replaced by an appointed Cabinet chosen by the Governor. Johnson feels that the current system should be retained, although perhaps with some modification. The thoughts of these two men are offered here in the hope that they will shed some light on the divisive Cabinet issue.

