

1 length. I might say we had great pressure on us from the
2 state civil defense organization to pass a very lengthy
3 kind of emergency constitutional provision, but we felt that
4 we wanted to reduce it to a skeleton form, to merely
5 provide that the General Assembly could pass legislation
6 in these two areas anticipating a disaster, and at the
7 same time in so doing set aside or allow the possibility
8 to set aside some constitutional procedures.

9 If we didn't include this in the constitution
10 then the General Assembly could do nothing to anticipate
11 an emergency except as would be allowed by the constitution.
12 If this would be the case, the General Assembly might find
13 that it could not adequately handle an anticipated disaster.
14 Consequently, we feel the language is necessary.

15 I might say the Committee went back and forth
16 three or four times before it ultimately decided to do it.
17 This language in 3.19 is the best coming together of
18 language we could arrive at after studying the Rhode Island
19 and New York constitutions in both of these regards.
20 We felt that this was the best method of approaching the
21 problem.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions of