

representative as it is and should be, and making of it an oligarchy. Under this amendment the Executive authority overlaps and assumes the functions of the Legislative Department; the people of right have always been jealous of the prerogative of their representatives to initiate appropriations; and to provide against hasty action have vested in the Executive the power to veto. Here we have the situation changed. The Executive initiates the appropriations and the General Assembly has the power to veto. The members of the estimable commission which drafted this Bill is evidently of the opinion that the people, through their representatives, are not capable of governing; Hamiltonian in their ideas, evidently believing in concentration of power and holding a contempt for the people's representatives, they have drafted, not a wonderful Bill, but an amazing proposition. Our present Constitution contains ample authority whereby a budget could be submitted to the Legislature and it is my firm opinion that, had our former Governors and Comptrollers done their duty under the present law there would now be no shortage in our State finances. Theirs has been the fault, together with the fact that the needs of the State have been greater than the revenues. So you can see, Mr. President, that in order to vote for the submission of this amendment, I must violate all the theories of Government I have ever entertained and I am frank to say that, had I been nominated by the convention which drafted this celebrated plank in our Party Platform, I would not have accepted the nomination. I come here not the nominee of a political gang, jammed through a convention or in a primary, but only and solely by the votes of my fellow-citizens; of which fact I am justly proud.

But, Mr. President, I am a Democrat, holding full allegiance to my party and ready and willing to rise or fall with it, and as my party has drafted this plank and gone before the people and the people have apparently approved it, my present duty is clear. I must vote for its submission—fervently hoping it will be slaughtered at the polls by an awakened and enlightened citizenship.

[Said Bill was then sent to the House of Delegates.]

Also

SENATE BILL No. 16, BY MR. OGDEN.
SUBJECT: STATE TAX COMMISSION.

[Which was read and recommitted to the Committee on Finance.]