

needed and which could be submitted as separate constitutional amendments by the 1969 General Assembly. This committee consisted of Blair Lee III, Secretary of State; John C. Eldridge, Chief Legislative Officer; and Edmond Rovner, a member of the Governor's staff. This committee proposed eight constitutional amendments, which were passed by the 1969 General Assembly. One of these dealt with legislative compensation.

Historically, most states have had constitutional provisions fixing the amount of legislative compensation and, historically, proposals for increased legislative compensation have been more often than not rejected by the electorate throughout the country. A number of proposals have been advanced from time to time to provide for the fixing of legislative compensation by some means other than constitutional provision. One of the methods adopted by several states in recent years, among them Michigan, West Virginia and Delaware, was to have legislative compensation determined by an independent legislative compensation commission, and this method was considered but not adopted by both the Constitutional Convention Commission and the Constitutional Convention. It is this method that was prescribed by the constitutional amendment proposed at the 1969 session of the General Assembly.

This amendment provided for the calling of an election in 1969 at which time all of the proposed amendments would be submitted to the electorate. The Court of Appeals, in the case of *Cohen v. Governor*, 255 Md. 5 (1969), held that the election could not be held in 1969, and the amendments would have to be considered at the November, 1970 general election.

As originally adopted, the amendment provided for appointment of the General Assembly Compensation Commission during the 1970 session of the General Assembly, necessitating the salary being set by the outgoing body to take effect in the subsequent 1971 session of a new legislature. It was necessary that certain "housekeeping" revisions be provided for in the 1970 session of the Maryland Legislature. The authority of the General Assembly to make such revisions in constitutional amendments already proposed was upheld in *Bourbon v. Governor*, 258 Md. 252 (1970). These amendments were proposed by the Legislative Council in House Bill No. 2 of the 1970 General Assembly and the constitutional amendment was reconsidered by the 1970 General Assembly, and this amendment, in its revised form, was adopted by the voters at the November, 1970 general election by a vote of 311,062 to 209,811:

"ARTICLE III

Sec. 15.

(1) The General Assembly may continue its session so long as in its judgment the public interest may require, for a period not longer than ninety days in each year. The ninety days shall be consecutive unless otherwise provided by law. The General Assembly may extend its session beyond ninety days but not exceeding an additional thirty days by resolution concurred in by a three-fifths vote of the membership in each House. When the General Assembly is convened by Proclamation of the Governor, the session shall not continue longer than thirty days, but no additional compensation other than mileage and other allowances provided by law shall be paid members of the General Assembly for special session.

(2) Any compensation and allowances paid to members of the General Assembly shall be as established by a commission known as