

WEDNESDAY, April 9, 1851.

The Convention met at ten o'clock. Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRAUFF. The roll was called, and A quorum being present, The Journal of yesterday was read.

EVENING SESSIONS.

Mr. STEPHENSON offered the following order:

*Ordered.* That on and after to-morrow, this Convention will hold two sessions each day, the morning session to commence at 9 o'clock, A. M., and continue until 2 o'clock, P. M., when it will adjourn to 4 o'clock, P. M., at which hour it will meet again for the transaction of business.

The order having been read,

Mr. PHELPS suggested that the order should be amended by adding the words—

"And will sit until half-past six o'clock."

And he made that motion.

Mr. PHELPS said:

It was competent for the Convention to enact laws for its own government. They might say that they would meet at a particular hour or adjourn at a particular hour, and the President would adjourn the Convention at the hour designated, without any motion being made.

Mr. BIER moved to amend the amendment by inserting 10 o'clock p. m.

The PRESIDENT. The question will be on the longest hour.

Mr. STEPHENSON desired to be informed by the Chair, whether it was competent for a gentleman to offer an amendment which could have no other object than to defeat the proposition?

Mr. BISER. Certainly, that is a singular question. The gentleman is disposed to show to his constituents and to the world, that he is industrious. I am disposed to shew that I am as industrious as he is—perhaps a little more so. (Laughter.) I am sincere.

Mr. BROWN suggested to the mover of the resolution to change the phraseology by saying, "take a recess."

He, (Mr. B.) held that a motion to adjourn would always be in order, and it ought always to be so. The Convention might dispose of a subject before the hour of adjournment arrived, and might not be ready to take up any other question. In such a case, a motion might be made to adjourn, and such a motion should be in order at all times.

Mr. PHELPS said:

He had a few words to say, and he should then withdraw the amendment he had offered.

The object of the amendment he had offered, that the Convention would adjourn at half-past six, was this: He had witnessed many evening sessions, and had often seen them produce great disorder. And gentlemen might protract the sitting three or four hours longer than was necessary to answer any useful purpose. He thought if the Convention met at ten, took a recess at

two, and came back at four, with the express understanding that an adjournment should take place at half-past six o'clock, gentlemen would come here and transact business. If the Convention was to meet in the afternoon without any certainty as to the hour of adjournment, some gentlemen would not come at all. Others might come for the purpose of delaying the transaction of business, though he did not charge such an intention upon any member of the Convention. At all events, the probability was, that much confusion would ensue.

It seemed to him that if the Convention was to hold afternoon sessions, the hour at which the adjournment should take place, ought to be fixed. Still it would be in the power of the Convention to adjourn earlier, if it should think proper to do so; and the motion to adjourn would be at all times in order. I shall now, (concluded Mr. P.,) withdraw my amendment.

Mr. BISER. Of course then, my amendment falls with it.

Mr. KILGOUR. I move that the whole subject be laid upon the table.

Mr. STEPHENSON. I ask the yeas and nays on that motion.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The question "shall the whole subject be laid upon the table," was then taken, and

Decided in the negative as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Chapman, President, Morgan, Hopewell, Ricard, Chambers, of Kent, Mitchell, Donaldson, Wells, Randall, John Dennis, James U. Dennis, Dashiell, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, Phelps, Bowie, Harri, Brent of Baltimore city, Ware, Davis, Kilgour, Waters, and Anderson—24.

*Negative*—Messrs. Blakistone, Sellman, Howard, Buchanan, Welch, Dickinson, Sherwood of Talbot, Colston, McCullough, George, McVaster, Biser, Annan, Stephenson, Magraw, Nelson, Carter, Thawley, Stewart, of Caroline, Gwinn, Schley Fiery, John Newcomer, Michael Newcomer, Weber, Hollyday, Fitzpatrick, Smith Shower, Cockey and Brown—31.

So the Convention decided that the whole subject should not be laid on the table.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the order.

Mr. WARE moved to strike out the hour of "nine" and insert "ten."

The amendment was agreed to.

The question recurring on the adoption of the order,

Mr. GWINN demanded the previous question.

But there was not a second.

The question again recurring on the adoption of the order—

Mr. BOWIE moved to strike out two and insert "three."

Mr. SMITH hoped, he said, that the amendment would not be agreed to. The session would be entirely too long, if an evening session was to follow it. He was in favor of two sessions a day but of moderate duration. Especially as to the afternoon session, he would prefer that it should