

ording to the decision of the chair, the house can entertain five or six amendments at the same time.

The PRESIDENT. The house can entertain a thousand amendments.

Mr. HEBB. It seems to me that that is against all parliamentary rule.

The PRESIDENT. There is no limitation to amendments except that they must be in the first or second degree. Every proposition submitted to and entertained by the house by recording it on the journal must be disposed of in some way.

Mr. HEBB. When the call for the previous question is sustained, I do not see how the convention can act upon other than pending amendments.

The PRESIDENT. The interpretation of the gentleman of the operation of the previous question would place the convention in the anomalous position of having various propositions upon its records which it cannot dispose of. When any proposition is entered upon the journal it must be disposed of in some way.

The question was then taken, by yeas and nays, upon sustaining the call for the previous question, and resulted—yeas 28, nays 28—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Baker, Cunningham, Cushing, Delinger, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Greene, Hebb, Hopkins, Markey, McComas, Mullikin, Murray, Nyman, Purnell, Robinette, Sands, Schley, Smith, of Carroll, Sneary, Stirling, Swope, Todd, Wooden—28.

Nays—Messrs. Audoun, Belt, Berry, of Prince George's, Blackston, Brown, Chambers, Clark, Duwall, Earle, Edelen, Harwood, Hollyday, Hopper, Horsey, Jones, of Somerset, Kennard, King, Lansdale, Lee, Marbury, Mitchell, Miller, Negley, Parker, Parran, Peter, Pugh, Stockbridge—28.

The call for the previous question was not sustained.

Pending the call for the yeas and nays, the following explanations were made by members as their names were called:

Mr. ECKER. I shall vote in favor of ordering the previous question. I do not think we are under obligations to gentlemen who come here, make propositions of amendment and alterations, and then go away unceremoniously and leave us in the lurch. I think it is the duty of members to be here at all times. I therefore vote "aye."

Mr. MILLER. I desire to say in explanation of my vote, that the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgley,) in connection with myself, has in view several amendments in order to perfect the substitute he has offered. If the previous question is sustained, it will utterly prevent any such amendments being offered, and bring the house to a vote upon the amendment in its present imperfect condition. There are two

or three little verbal amendments which I desire to offer, and therefore I vote "no."

Mr. NEGLEY. This subject was left in such inextricable confusion the other day, that I think it would be folly to shut down on all opportunities of amendment, especially as this is one of the most important matters to which the attention of this convention can be called. I feel compelled, therefore, to vote against this call of the previous question, because I do not think that it is proper that this matter should be hurried through in an empty house by a species of legislative trickery. I vote "no."

Mr. STIRLING. I shall vote for the previous question because I believe it is time there should be some ascertainment of the sense of the house upon the general question. I believe it is useless going on arguing particular propositions before we decide the general question whether we want to sell the State's interest in our public works. I therefore vote "aye."

The question recurred upon the amendment to the substitute.

Mr. MILLER. I suppose notices of amendment to the original proposition are now in order?

The PRESIDENT. Yes, sir.

Mr. NEGLEY. I submit the following order: "Ordered, That that 39th section of the report of the committee on the legislative department, together with all the proposed amendments thereto, be referred to a special committee of nine, with instructions to report on or before 12 o'clock noon on Friday next; and that the president of this convention be the chairman of said committee."

The PRESIDENT. That can only be received at this time by general consent.

Mr. HEBB. Does not the adoption of that order take the whole report of the legislative committee along with the thirty-ninth section, to the select committee?

The PRESIDENT. It does.

Mr. STIRLING. I object to the order.

Mr. CLARKE. I presume that in the case of the formation of the constitution of this sort, we might take out a particular section and commit it to a select committee.

The PRESIDENT. The chair does not understand how the convention can commit a section without committing the entire report.

Mr. CLARKE. As the chair decides it is beyond the power of the convention to do that, I would move that this legislative report be committed to a special committee of nine, with instructions to report the same back to this convention by 12 o'clock on Friday next with a substitute for the thirty-ninth section.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Is it not perfectly proper to commit a report to a select committee?

The PRESIDENT. It is; or to re-commit it to the standing committee from which it emanated.