

kin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Ridgely, Russell, Schley, Schlosser, Scott, Sneary, Stirling, Swope, Sykes, Todd, Vaillant, Wickard, Wooden—50.

Nays—Messrs. Belt, Bond, Brown, Chambers, Crawford, Dail, Davis, of Charles, Dent, Duvall, Gale, Henkle, Hodson, Hollyday, Horsey, Jones, of Somerset, Lansdale, Lee, Marbury, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan, Peter, Smith, of Dorchester, Turner, Wilmer—25.

The order was accordingly adopted.

Mr. RIDGELY, when his name was called, said: I do not understand what effect this order can have. It certainly is not intended to form a part of the constitution. It can have no force or effect as law or anything else. According to my understanding it is not a part of the constitution, and can in no way at all have any effect of law. I vote for it nevertheless, because I believe it to be harmless. I vote "aye."

OPERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. DAVIS, of Charles, moved to suspend the rules, in order to proceed to the consideration of the following order submitted by him on yesterday:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention, that all constitutions framed by conventions, called by the voters of any State for that purpose subject to their ratification, ought to be submitted to the legal voters of such State for their ratification or rejection before such constitution or any part thereof should go into operation, and any attempt by a convention to adopt and put in force a constitution or any part thereof in violation of promises to the people, that the constitution to be framed should be submitted to them, would be a breach of faith, and any convention acting in such manner as above described ought to forfeit the confidence of the people."

The question being taken on the motion to suspend the rules, it was not agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE.

Mr. BELT. I move that this convention now adjourn *sine die*.

Mr. AUDOUN. There was an order adopted on the 21st of last month in relation to the adjournment of this convention.

Mr. BELT. I will explain my motives for making this motion. I was not present at the time of the adoption of the order referred to. My view of our duty to the people is that when we finish our business here, we ought to adjourn *sine die*, and submit our work to the people who sent us here. We were not sent here to constitute ourselves into a sort of long parliament, with a committee of safety at the head of it, to regulate the affairs of the State. Nobody can tell the effect of continuing the session of this convention. Suppose among other things that this constitution should be rejected by the people. Is this

convention to be reassembled for the purpose of framing another?

Mr. STIRLING. The resolution states expressly that if there is no interruption in the State between now and the time the people are called upon to vote on the constitution, and the vote is fairly taken upon it, then the president shall declare this convention adjourned *sine die*.

Mr. BELT. Can a parliamentary body delegate to any one the right to adjourn it? I am opposed to the constitution of any long parliament in this State. I demand a vote on my motion to adjourn *sine die*.

The PRESIDENT. The motion is in order. It is competent for the convention to repeal any order heretofore made.

Mr. AUDOUN. If I understand the object of my colleague (Mr. Abbott) in offering the order to which I have referred, it was for the purpose of providing against any emergency that might occur. Under that resolution I believe three or four members of this convention are designated to act as president, in case of the death of the now president of the convention, for the purpose of calling this convention together, in the event of an invasion of this State, to prevent the vote being taken upon the adoption of this constitution. Such a thing might occur, and I have no doubt that there are some upon this floor who desire it, and feel anxious that it should take place. But I say openly here, that the majority of this house have provided against any such emergency, and we are determined to prevent any such thing occurring.

Mr. BELT. Does the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Audoun) allude to me in the remarks he has just made?

The PRESIDENT. The difficulty in which the chair is placed is this: The convention being a deliberative body can, like all other deliberative bodies, change or alter any of its rules, or any action which it may have taken. It is utterly impossible for the chair to restrict gentlemen in any motion they may choose to make, provided they catch the eye of the president. The gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Belt) was recognized by the chair as being entitled to the floor. He submits a motion for this body to adjourn *sine die*. If the convention determines to do so, the chair knows of no parliamentary rule to forbid it. The chair conceives the motion of the gentleman from Prince George's to be in order, upon the supposition that the convention may desire to retrace its steps, and rescind the resolution it has adopted. The question is not debatable.

The question was upon the motion of Mr. BELT to adjourn *sine die*.

Upon this question Mr. BELT called for the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.

The question was then taken by yeas and nays, and resulted—yeas 25, nays 49—as follows: