

reflecting upon the committee, or undertaking now to destroy its work so far as it has gone, by the course proposed by the gentleman from Howard. I am very sure that the same reasons which apply to the increase of that committee might apply to all the committees with equal power. After we have faithfully discharged our duties and determined upon various matters, we shall have to begin the whole work over again, if the order is passed.

Mr. SANDS. As I stated, there was a motion to adjourn on account of the absence of Mr. Jones. I opposed the motion at the time, stating that in all probability I could not be present to-morrow, and that would necessitate another adjournment. I wish to state the facts fairly. Of course every gentleman who is a member of the committee knows the fact that there was a motion to adjourn on account of the absence of Mr. Jones, and that I opposed it on the ground that I should be absent to-morrow, so that there would still be but six members of the committee present. I did not mean any reflection upon the committee.

Mr. CLARKE. I did not consider that as a reflection upon the committee.

Mr. SANDS. I certainly meant no reflection upon the committee. I have found them very pleasant, honest, and earnest gentlemen, and I take pleasure in saying that for them. But I believe the business of the committee will be facilitated in the end by the admission of other members. And I believe that the business of this Convention will be facilitated by the mutual intercourse of many of the committees, especially those which have a great deal to do. What hinders any member of this Convention, who has been kept out of the committee room, from making and advocating any suggestion of his own after the committee have reported? So after the reports come into this chamber, you may have the reports of A, B, and C, and the suggestions of A, B, and C, to debate and act upon. I think in view of the facts of the case, the business of the Convention will be facilitated by increasing the committee.

Mr. BOND. If the reason given by the gentleman from Howard is a good one for increasing the Judiciary Committee, it will apply to every committee of this body. If the absence of a member of a committee is to be a reason for enlarging it, the same reason will apply to every individual committee. Perhaps every gentleman upon this floor is a member of some committee or other; and by the appointment of an additional member upon any one committee, you obstruct the labors of other committees, and they are furnished with a still greater reason for adjourning and asking an enlargement of their numbers. I see therefore no sufficient reason for the prevalence of the motion that has been made.

I concur with the gentleman from Baltimore city, that so far from facilitating business by increasing the number appointed upon a committee, you actually obstruct it to some extent. Certainly the fewer the number of members upon a committee the greater the facility for the interchange of opinion and the rapid performance of their duty.

Mr. MILLER. I offered the amendment that I did merely for the purpose of testing the sense of the body upon the proposition that if a committee is to be increased, it should be increased in the regular way by appointment of the President of the Convention, he having the power to appoint. I have no desire at all that that committee should be enlarged, but think if it is to be enlarged it should be by appointment by the President, and not by naming the additional members in the resolution.

Mr. EARLE. I wish to state to the Convention, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, that there was no direct motion this morning in this committee to postpone its action. I made the suggestion myself, that as Mr. Jones, a member of that committee, was not here, and had not met with us, we should postpone action; but the moment the gentleman from Howard stated that he could not be present to-morrow morning, that suggestion was withdrawn, and the committee at once proceeded to attend to the business for which they were appointed.

Mr. CUSHING. I would like to know if it is the desire of a majority of that committee to have it increased. If it is a question of sufficient importance for the action of the Convention, it would impress itself upon the minds of a majority of the committee, and induce them to request the increase of the committee. But I do not think it is desirable, unless there are some extremely good reasons presented, to change the basis of our committees; for if we begin to increase the committees, there is no knowing how far it will go. If a majority of the committee are of opinion that it should be increased, and give sufficient reasons for increasing the committee, it should be done in the regular way by requesting the Convention to appoint additional members.

Mr. STROCKBRIDGE, (chairman of the committee.) In reply to the question asked by my colleague as to the preference of the committee, I wish to say that I do not at all know what is the preference of the committee. The matter was not at all before the committee, and they have expressed no opinion upon it, excepting so far as individual members have expressed an opinion here since the order was offered. Here for the first time we have heard of any desire to increase the number of the committee.

Mr. BELT. I move that the order, together with the amendment, be referred to the Judiciary Committee, in order that they may report to us whether they desire that the committee should be increased.