

that time than we will with two sessions a day, if members speak three or four hours at a time. I would like very much to accommodate my colleague in hurrying up the work of this Convention. But I would like to have an order adopted here limiting speeches to five minutes, and then let us see how much work we can do in four hours and a half a day. Yesterday it was nothing but talk, talk, talk, from ten o'clock until nearly half past two, and it all amounted to nothing. If we will reduce speeches to five minutes we will then accomplish some work.

Mr. STIRLING. I will vote for that and the other proposition also.

Mr. BARRON. Then put the two together and I will vote for the proposition.

Mr. PUGH. I will offer an amendment to that effect.

The PRESIDENT. It would not be in order, because it is not germane to the pending proposition.

Mr. BARRON. Then I will not risk the other proposition.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I am one of those who have not the least faith in after-dinner work. We have tried meeting here in the evening, and I believe experience has taught us that we have followed the same track which has been gone over by all legislative bodies that have tried the experiment of evening sessions; it has just amounted to nothing.

I do not agree with the gentleman from Baltimore (Mr. Barron) that our delay in our work is owing to the length of speeches. I think if gentlemen will keep from considering matters which we have no sort of concern with, which have no relation to the legitimate business of the Convention, and make the Constitution the only object of your action here, I think we can do much more than we have done. If we had done that heretofore, I think we would have gone very much farther in the accomplishment of the purpose for which we were sent here than we have gone. If in the arithmetical calculation the gentleman from Baltimore (Mr. Stirling) has made, he includes the same proportion of resolutions foreign to our business, of course we may sit here discussing propositions of that sort until this time twelve-month; just as long as gentlemen choose to offer such propositions. If our legitimate business alone occupied our attention, I do not think we should exhaust a great deal of our time.

I do not think we shall gain much by evening sessions. We will meet here at great personal inconvenience, merely to hear a great deal of idle talk, as the gentleman from Baltimore (Mr. Barron) says. While I feel bound to express these views, as an explanation of the vote I shall give, if it is determined upon, as the gentleman from Baltimore (Mr. Stirling) says, of course there is no use in saying anything. I only enter my protest against any such order.

Mr. STIRLING. I have no objection, if it will affect the vote of my colleague (Mr. Barron,) to withdraw the order I have offered, for the present, to allow the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Pugh) to offer the order he has indicated.

The order was accordingly withdrawn.

Mr. PUGH submitted the following:

"Ordered, That the time allowed each member on any question arising on the pending report of the Committee on the Legislative Department, be limited to five minutes, and that the time of no member shall be extended without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present."

Mr. CHAMBERS. Five minutes to discuss the important propositions in that report? Why, sir, I do not suppose there is unanimity even among the members of the majority here.

The PRESIDENT. This order is in conflict with an order the Convention has already adopted.

Mr. PUGH. The Convention has the power to pass such an order as this at any time; it is not a standing rule.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I do hope this order will not be adopted.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair would call the attention of the Convention to the forty-fourth rule:

"When a question has once been decided in the affirmative or negative, a motion of reconsideration shall be in order at any time thereafter, if made by one member and seconded by two others who voted in the majority."

Now it stands recorded as the judgment of the House, that a member can debate any question under consideration, for thirty minutes.

Mr. PUGH. If the Chair decides that my proposition is out of order, then I will move to reconsider the order by which debate was limited to thirty minutes.

Mr. HENKLE. Did the gentleman vote in the majority?

Mr. PUGH. I did.

Mr. ABBOTT. I hope that order will not be reconsidered. I move to lay this five minute order on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. STIRLING renewed his order for evening sessions

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I do not think the conclusions of the gentleman from Baltimore (Mr. Stirling) are at all logical or necessary from his premises. I do not think it at all follows that, because nearly three months have been occupied in discussing two articles, the same proportionate length of time will even probably be exhausted in the discussion of the remaining articles. It is well known that the principal questions of difference and debate have been passed upon by the Convention, and will not come up