

very important provisions; several changes to be made in the Constitution during the session of this Convention. I hope, therefore, it may be postponed until some day next week. I move that it be postponed and made the order of the day for this day week, at one o'clock. I would suggest some earlier day next week, but our Church Convention meets in Baltimore on Wednesday next, and several of our members are lay delegates to that Convention, and would like to attend it. I, therefore, would prefer to have it postponed until Thursday of next week and made the order of the day for that day, and I hope the majority of this Convention will consent to that postponement. I think that as a matter of courtesy to the minority, the Convention should give ample time for each member of this Convention to have opportunity for full and free discussion of this subject. I trust the majority of this Convention will consent to have this subject postponed to some day next week; say to Thursday. Then every member will have an opportunity to look into and ascertain the important changes in the present Constitution proposed to be made by this report of the Committee on the Bill of Rights, and will then be prepared to come here and at least offer such suggestions to the Convention as he may deem important—as to the propriety or impropriety of the proposed changes.

In matters of this sort, except so far as the personal inconvenience of members of this Convention may be involved, I do not think that time should be regarded as material. We are making a Constitution not only for ourselves but for posterity also. We are to form an organic law which in all probability will be the organic law of the State for years to come, and in consideration of this fact I think that every member of the Convention should be allowed an opportunity to debate every measure of importance which may be proposed; particularly any important changes which may be proposed in our organic law, and should calmly and deliberately consider and discuss all those changes. If that opportunity is given to every member, then as a matter of course we shall discharge our duties here, and can return home to our constituents with the proud satisfaction of knowing that we have performed our duty, no matter how humbly that duty may have been performed. I will myself at any time consent as a matter of courtesy to the majority of this Convention to postpone any measure so vital as this to any day that may suit their convenience, and as a matter of course I shall ask that the same courtesy may be extended to the minority of this Convention. And I hope that as a matter of courtesy to the minority the majority will consent to the postponement I have proposed.

Mr DANIEL. I hope the motion of the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Berry)

will not prevail. This report upon the Bill of Rights is the only report from a committee now before this Convention, though we have now been here over three weeks. I think that if there are any questions which have been considered, and considered for months past, they are some of the questions which arise in this report, and which these gentlemen, I know, want to debate. Now it seems to me that my friend has stated the proposition somewhat improperly. He seems to put it as if he was asking for time to discuss these questions. That is not the point to be now considered; but the point is—when shall we begin to discuss them? The effect of his motion, should it prevail, would be to stave off the commencement of the discussion. Now if we never commence, of course, we shall never get through.

This report has now been made about a week; it has been printed, and laid upon our desks, and every member has seen it, and had time to investigate it. The proposition which I submit is simply to delay the commencement of the debate until to-morrow. As I have said on another occasion, I want gentlemen to be fully heard upon this subject. I admit that this report proposes very material alterations, affecting the interests of the people of this State, to a greater degree perhaps, than any other alterations which may be made, and I admit that we should allow fair and full time for deliberation and discussion. But that question properly comes up when we shall have commenced the discussion. If these gentlemen shall say they have not had an opportunity to be heard, they can appeal to the Convention to grant them full time to discuss the question. But are we to sit here another week and do nothing at all—to postpone the commencement of the discussion of this subject till this day week, and in the meantime sit here, day after day, looking at each other, and pass perhaps an unimportant order now and then? Not at all. I think the proper way to bring the attention of members to this subject is to begin the discussion; and when you get members listening to each other, and their attention aroused, then, and not until then, will they come properly to the investigation of the subject, and prepare themselves for intelligent action upon it. The longer you put it off the longer will members delay to prepare themselves.

I think it is time for us to get to work, for we have much work before us before we conclude our labors. After we have got to work, if gentlemen want further time, it will then be a question of appealing to the sense of justice of the majority here to allow them full and ample time to discuss these questions. I was one of those who just now voted to require a majority of the members elected to this Convention to incorporate any provision into the Constitution, because I de-