

All those in favor, signify by saying Aye; contrary, No. The Ayes have it. It is so ordered.

The next item of business is the Fifth Report of the Committee on Rules, Credentials and Convention Budget. This report is with respect to a proposal that was submitted to the Convention on Friday, September 15, and referred to the Committee on Rules. The Fifth Report is on your desk today. Does everyone have a copy? The Chair recognizes Delegate Scanlan, Chairman of the Committee.

DELEGATE SCANLAN: Mr. President, fellow delegates, I have the honor to present to the Convention the Fifth Report of the Committee on Rules, Credentials and Convention Budget. This report recommends, and the committee favorably recommends, that Rule 22 [23] of the present Rules of the Convention be amended by adding to the list of eleven standing committees provided for by that rule, an additional standing committee to be known as the Committee on Public Information.

The proposal for this amendment, as you know, originated with Delegate Robey, who introduced it in the Convention last week. There were a number of other delegates who supported Delegate Robey's proposal. Delegate Robey appeared three times, I believe, before the Committee on Rules, Credentials and Convention Budget to explain his proposal. In addition, at one of the sessions of the committee we were favored by the President, who came and explained some of the problems in the public information area, and what the officers of the Convention were doing in an attempt to cooperate with them.

Delegate Robey brought to the attention of the committee numerous precedents in other Constitutional Conventions; and some of these are set forth in the appendix, which is attached to the fifth report. The Michigan Constitution is interesting. However, I think they went further than your committee wishes to go in recommending a Committee on Public Information. In Michigan the Chairman of the Committee on Public Information had supervisory authority over the Michigan equivalent of the Director of Public Information.

The Committee felt that in view of the clear statutory admonition found in section 14 of the Enabling Act that the creation of the Commission was, if not necessary, most desirable. In that section, the General Assembly said, "The Convention shall establish an information service for the purpose

of regularly communicating to the people of Maryland information about all pertinent issues and shall further provide for the publication of the whole Constitution in such manner and at such times after the Constitution is proposed by the Convention as will allow the people of Maryland an opportunity to become informed before voting on May 14, 1968."

I think the Committee unanimously was substantially in favor of dealing with this matter by committee. There was some division in the committee as to whether it should be done through a new committee, or whether the function of public information as proposed here be vested in one of the existing procedural committees such as, for example, the Committee on Rules, but a significant majority believed that the matter would be best handled through the creation of an additional committee, and the report so recommended.

There was further discussion in the committee as to whether the duties and functions of a Committee on Public Information should be listed or specified in the Rules themselves. Again, I think a substantial majority was against that. We noted that no other rule, no other committee of the Convention, has its functions listed in the Rules, and we did not think there should be any exception or any deviation from the committee structure in connection with the creation of a Committee on Public Information. However, the committee wanted to make it perfectly clear, and I believe Delegate Robey agreed that this was acceptable to him, that in creating this committee, we did not intend, at least our committee did not intend it to be an administrative committee, with supervisory or day-to-day authority over, say the Director of Public Information, and the staff that would be concerned with public information.

The committee would be advisory. It would recommend and help in developing proposed policy in the public information area. Its recommendations would, I assume, go first to the officers of the Convention. If these were ignored or discarded or avoided by the officers, then the committee, of course, like any committee of this Convention could come to the Convention with its proposal with respect to a certain policy matter in the public information area, and if the Convention approved what the committee did, then that would be the policy of the Convention. A hypothetical example comes to mind; for instance, perhaps when we got into the Committee of the Whole, the question might arise as to whether the proceedings should be carried on live TV or