

barked upon the program to effect the particular result which Delegate Grant would have.

The second consideration was that we were worried about the time lag for those laws which needed immediate implementation. Although the provision does say that there will be an exception unless otherwise provided by law, it may be that there would be no appropriate exception having earlier been provided and one would find that what had to be done in a hurry could not be done because of a significant failure which might not have been able to consider the possibility that called for the enactment of a law which was to be effective immediately.

Consequently, although we are completely in sympathy with the objectives of this particular amendment, we did not feel that it had a place in the Constitution. We did feel that everything Mr. Grant wanted could be achieved through the General Assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

Delegate Clagett?

DELEGATE CLAGETT: I am well aware that too many words can do more damage than good. At this point, I would like to strongly endorse Delegate Grant's amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion?

Delegate Henderson.

DELEGATE HENDERSON: I would like to oppose the amendment. It seems to me as a practical matter, it presents insuperable difficulties. Compilation, I assume, would mean publication of something like a code. Even now it is some months before they put in the Code acts of the legislature. It may be a matter of a year or so. To delay the effective date of a bill would be extremely burdensome.

Also the compilation of the rules of court which now take in a separate section of the Code are never up to date. Rules are passed and there may be a half-dozen which have come out in between the publication. Some of them are emergencies and have important changes, and to say that you have to wait until the whole compilation has been published and brought up to date before a law can take effect would impose an insuperable barrier as a practical matter,

I am in sympathy with the objectives of this, but I think it is a matter which has to be left to the legislature.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Lord, do you desire to speak in favor or against it?

DELEGATE LORD: I wanted to speak against.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Macdonald, did you wish to speak in favor or against?

DELEGATE MACDONALD: Against.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Willoner?

DELEGATE WILLONER: I wanted to speak in favor.

*(Laughter.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: You may have the floor.

DELEGATE WILLONER: I think it is an excellent idea. I think it is interesting when I asked a question of Delegate Gallagher why they used July first. He said, that was the beginning of a fiscal year and that was as good a day as any. But with the extension of the legislature, it is going to be even longer before the laws are published, and it has always been a cardinal principle of the common law that when a person commits a crime that he ought to have some knowledge that it is in fact a crime. I know as a prosecutor we would not find until months later that it was a crime, that there was some new crime.

We had a conflict of interest by the way in Prince George's County that we did not even know was on the books until about three or four months after it was enacted when we finally got a copy of it. It was interesting that Mr. Gallagher said that he felt in the Committee's wisdom this should not be part of the constitution, but the wisdom did not seem as great to me as the wisdom in making part of the constitution a provision that was absolutely meaningless, his conflict of laws provision. It seems to me that this is an excellent provision. It means something. It will give people notice of the laws and I think it will be very helpful to all people in the enforcement of the laws.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Lord.

DELEGATE LORD: Mr. Chairman, the troublesome aspect of this amendment, as I see it, is the second sentence. I am very much in sympathy with the principle and agree with Delegate Willoner and Delegate Grant. As I read the second sentence, among the objections mentioned by Judge Henderson was the delay in compilation.