

*(There was no response.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

*(Call for the question.)*

The question arises on the adoption of Amendment No. 1. A vote Aye is a vote in favor of the amendment. A vote no is a vote against. Cast your vote.

Has every delegate voted? Does any delegate desire to change his vote?

*(There was no response.)*

The Clerk will record the vote.

There being 14 votes in the affirmative and 96 in the negative, the motion is lost and the amendment is rejected.

The Chair will recognize Delegate Weidemeyer to offer as Amendment No. 2, an amendment just offered as Amendment No. 1 except to strike out everything in line 9 after the word "exemptions" and all of lines 10, 11, and 12 and all of line 13 except the period. Is that your amendment, Delegate Weidemeyer?

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Each of you will mark your copies and the Clerk will mark a new copy. Is there a second to this amendment too?

*(The amendment was duly seconded.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Mr. Chairman, this amendment moves that objection on the part of the Committee which was that it might be difficult to compute how much they could go up when the federal government reduced, this fixes a ceiling and I do not think it presents any difficulty with the words "excluding deductions and exemptions" because that is what we now have. We pay tax on the taxable income and the taxable income is that income which excludes the deductions and exemptions. I do not see how the people of Maryland are going to be able to exist if we continually raise the income tax rates. The Chairman has said there is a possibility of an income tax rise. We have failed to go into the taxing areas in other areas where we could get revenue for the State so we are relegated to taxing real estate, sales taxes, and income taxes. I do not know how much higher we can go on sales tax, but I do know that with the federal burden and the state burden our people are getting to

the point where they are being crushed by the taxation load, and I do think there ought to be in our constitution a limitation. Last year or this year while running as a delegate for the constitutional convention people all over my area were thoroughly worked up about the increased income tax and I promised them at that time that I would do something so that this could not continue indefinitely, and they would know that there would be a limit somewhere along the lines beyond which the legislature could not go. Mr. President and members of the Convention, that is the simple story, and I move and ask for the adoption of this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Case?

DELEGATE CASE: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen of the Committee, much of what I said before is applicable in this instance except the second point. Namely, the complexity of the formula has now been removed. I think in reasoning together about this subject, we all must admit that it would be extremely unfortunate to put a limit on any tax in the Constitution. There are very few, if any, basic documents which contain a limit on a tax, and I think it would be very poor to straight-jacket future legislatures, viewing problems we know nothing of, with a particular limit on any tax. I suggest to Delegate Weidemeyer that if under the greatest stretch of imagination you were to limit a tax, he has selected the wrong tax to limit, because it is generally conceded among tax people that the income tax is the most progressive of all kinds of taxes. That is to say, if you limit the income tax to nine per cent, the result inevitably will be, if additional revenues are necessary, that the sales tax will have to be increased, that the real estate tax will have to be increased, and that other taxes of this kind which bear most heavily on the people less able to pay will be the result of this action so I say to you in the greatest of sincerity that this is not in my judgment a good amendment, and it should be defeated.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any discussion?

*(There was no response.)*

Are you ready for the question?

*(Call for the question.)*

The Clerk will ring the quorum bell.

The question arises on the adoption of Amendment No. 2. A vote Aye is a vote in favor of the amendment. A vote No is a