

vided by law. All governmental proceedings and meetings shall be open to the public."

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Storm, I think it is going to be awfully difficult for us to carry that in mind. It is not written out?

DELEGATE STORM: Just in my handwriting.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is an entire substitution for the section?

DELEGATE STORM: This combines the good elements of 24 —

THE CHAIRMAN: The language you intended is a substitution for the entire Amendment No. 24?

DELEGATE STORM: Yes, sir, and I am using practically the same words as in 24, but just a little change.

I will repeat it so that it is very clear. I think this is important, and I think this will be very clear to you:

"All public records shall be open for inspection unless otherwise provided by law, and to the extent and in the manner provided by law, all governmental proceedings and meetings shall be open to the public."

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair suggests it is very difficult to carry it in mind.

Is there an objection to considering the amendment?

DELEGATE JAMES: I object.

DELEGATE BAMBERGER: I object.

THE CHAIRMAN: There are objections, Delegate Storm.

The question now rises on adoption of Amendment No. 24. The Clerk will ring the quorum bell.

The question arises on the adoption of Amendment No. 24 to Committee Recommendation R&P-2.

A vote Aye is a vote in favor of Amendment No. 24. A vote No is a vote against.

For what purpose does Delegate Gullett rise?

DELEGATE GULLETT: A point of parliamentary inquiry.

THE CHAIRMAN: State your inquiry.

DELEGATE GULLETT: We did have debate in controlled debate, and then we had a substitution. At no time has the Chair

recognized those who might want to speak on Amendment No. 24 itself.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair did recognize the delegates to speak at the time of the debate scheduled for uncontrolled debate, in the practice heretofore followed of considering these two things together. Do you desire to speak on Amendment No. 24?

DELEGATE GULLETT: In favor of it, very briefly.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well. The Chair will permit you to proceed.

DELEGATE GULLETT: I think the time has come when we should seriously reorient our thinking about the conduct of public meetings and about allowing the record to be made available for those who need to know.

All the records of public meetings are open here. It is very refreshing. I can think of no reason why there should be a closed meeting except as to salary or discharging an employee. There have been many instances in the State of Maryland regarding this problem, and the way the meetings are conducted in public. I think writing this in the constitution will serve as a clarion call to those public officials who know that now is the time to stop secrecy in public meetings.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

Delegate Johnson, for what purpose do you rise?

DELEGATE JOHNSON: A parliamentary inquiry.

THE CHAIRMAN: State your inquiry.

DELEGATE JOHNSON: If Amendment No. 24 is adopted, would I be correct in assuming that it would be open to amendment until such time as the Committee of the Whole reports to the convention with respect to its final action on R&P-1 and R&P-2?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee of the Whole has already reported to the Convention with respect to Committee Recommendation R&P-1. The Chair would intend that the Committee of the Whole report to the Convention with respect to R&P-2 as soon as we conclude consideration.

Subject to those comments, your statement is correct. The section would then be open to further amendment, assuming, of course, that the amendment was proper.

I do not know what you have in mind as to the amendment. If you are talking about