

The question arises on adoption of Amendment No. 1 to Committee Recommendation GP-7.

A vote Aye is a vote in favor of Amendment No. 1. A vote No is a vote against. Cast your votes.

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

*(There was no response.)*

The Clerk will record the vote.

There being 47 votes in the affirmative and 80 in the negative, the motion is lost. The amendment is rejected.

Are there any further amendments to Committee Recommendation GP-7?

Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might ask one question of the Chairman of the Committee with regard to the last sentence of the proposal.

THE CHAIRMAN: State the question.

DELEGATE CHABOT: I wonder if the "unless otherwise provided" clause on line 17 is intended to apply only to the effective date or whether it is intended to authorize the General Assembly also to change the required vote that is intended in order to ratify an amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you understand the question, Delegate Boyer?

DELEGATE BOYER: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Boyer.

DELEGATE BOYER: The intention was to apply only to the effective date.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: So it would be as if it had read "unless a later effective date is provided" and so forth.

THE CHAIRMAN: It could be an earlier effective date presumably.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Unless a different effective date.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the Chairman of the Committee on Style note the questions and answers with respect to the last question and answer of Committee Recommendation GP-7. Are you ready for the question?

*(Call for the question.)*

The Clerk will ring the quorum bell.

The question arises on the adoption of Committee Recommendation GP-7.

A vote Aye is a vote in favor of the recommendation. A vote No is a vote against. Cast your votes.

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

*(There was no response.)*

The Clerk will record the vote.

There being 128 votes in the affirmative and none in the negative, the motion carries. Committee Recommendation GP-7 is adopted.

The next item on the agenda is consideration of Committee Recommendation GP-8. The Chair recognizes Delegate Boyer, Chairman of the Committee.

DELEGATE BOYER: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee of the Whole, GP-8, next in our package of General Provisions Committee recommendations, is, as one delegate already said, more or less a companion bill, which would follow the natural sequence with GP-7 we just voted upon. GP-8 deals with the proper method of calling a new constitution convention the same way we have been organized here. I would direct your attention perhaps to the meat or thrust of the whole GP-8. It would be in the first sentence "The General Assembly may by law call a constitutional convention at any time or at any time submit to the voters of the State the question of calling a constitutional convention."

We felt there was a need of the first sentence giving the General Assembly the authority to call the convention. We learned the authority for calling the convention was probably inherent in the state legislature and there were several Court of Appeals cases in Maryland on this point. We found that thirty-eight state constitutions provide for the calling of a convention, and all except one of the remaining states have called conventions at one time or another.

However, we felt this principle had been the cause for great dispute requiring sometimes court adjudication. We felt we should spell out not just inherent power of the legislature to call the convention but spell it out in our present constitution, because the inherent power of the legislature to call the convention may be dependent upon other constitutional provisions such as the declaration that all government emanates from the people and may be changed by the people. We felt this specific