

provision should be settled once and for all and we therefore included it in this GP-8.

This recommendation involves substantially the same things as the Alaska Constitution, and it permits, the way we have presented it to you for your consideration, the immediate legislative reaction to emergency situations.

There is one change in it we made that was contrary to the Commission draft recommendation. That was that we change the term for calling the convention from twenty years to twenty-five years. I can see there is nothing magical about either twenty-five or twenty. There were some recommendations in the committee, numbers again, changing it from forty back to ten, we finally decided on twenty-five years.

Number one, we found there was a similar provision contained in eleven state constitutions including three more recently adopted. That would be Alaska, Hawaii and Michigan. We felt there were arguments for the twenty-five year mandatory submission.

First, that there would be greater trust placed in the properly apportioned and more responsible legislature.

Second, we felt that the elimination of the objectionable peculiarity from the constitution would render the constitution more stable and decrease the need for revision. One prime example of that, of course, is the United States Constitution.

Third, we felt that pressure may be exerted upon the legislature to call for the convention.

Fourth, we felt the constitution should not be fundamentally revised to reflect changes in political power over a shorter period of time.

Fifth, we felt the proper implementation of the constitution does require several years preparation and enactment.

Sixth, we felt that the liberal amendment policy we just adopted further decreases the need for an over-all revision on an earlier time basis.

Seventh, we felt that the requirement that only a majority voting on the question may effect the amendment or require a Constitutional Convention, avoids frustration in obtaining the convention which Maryland has suffered in the past starting in 1931.

Lastly, we felt that the argument for twenty-five year mandatory submission would add to the necessity of requiring the convention within one year from the mandate of the voters and it avoids the possibility of frustration through legislative delay or refusal to implement the people's mandate.

Mr. Chairman, we give to the Committee of the Whole for their consideration Recommendation GP-8.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions of the Committee Chairman?

Delegate Ritter.

DELEGATE RITTER: Mr. Chairman, I think the sheets we have in our book are not complete.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am trying to find out. Some of the copies are printed on two sheets, some are printed on the front sheet and the reverse side. If you have a sheet which has no printing on the reverse side, you have an incomplete recommendation. There should be a page two. Look and see if you have a separate page two.

DELEGATE RITTER: Nobody back here has page two. You will have additional copies right away.

DELEGATE BOYER: I have two or three different copies on blue paper, one of which says that this recommendation covers Delegate Proposal No. 9 and 390. I would appreciate your consent to delete or rub out No. 9 and in place substitute No. 11.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions of the Committee Chairman while we are waiting for the corrected copies? Delegate Mentzer.

DELEGATE MENTZER: Delegate Boyer, in line 22 and 23, I notice you have the legislature shall provide for the filling of vacancies in the position of delegate. Is this a change over what we are operating under now? Is that true? If so, was there a particular reason for it?

DELEGATE BOYER: The enabling legislation that created the Convention under which we are operating allowed the governor, if there had been a vacancy prior to the convening of the Convention September 12, to fill that vacancy. After the convention convenes and becomes an organic body, the convention itself would have the right to fill that vacancy.

What we have recommended here was taken from several other state constitu-