

to maintain the status quo. That has not been your way throughout this convention. I ask you now to depart somewhat radically in Amendment No. 5.

In case all other methods of calling a constitutional convention fail, I suggest that we mandate in the constitution that a specified period of time be indicated at which a constitutional convention shall meet. Although I know any such period will necessarily be arbitrary, I think fifty years under all the circumstances is reasonable.

It is obvious that we are going to experience a very rapid growth in the complexity of our society and the concomitant increasing involvement and changing pattern of the relationship of government to society and it is ever more obvious that there needs to be a revision of our basic structure of government to keep pace with that increasingly complex society which will grow by geometric proportions, surely disproportionately with the past.

Therefore, our constitution probably will not and should not last anything near a hundred years. As I said, it is and should be a living document reflecting current feelings and attitudes. It will not necessarily reflect those attitudes fifty years from now.

The calling of a convention at that period in our history will not require an overhauling of our constitution but will permit an outstanding deliberative body such as this to consider the basic structure of our government in toto with the ability to do something about it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Boyer.

DELEGATE BOYER: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee, I sincerely hope this Convention will not adopt any amendment merely to increase the batting average of an individual. I do not know who said it, I am sure it was not Thomas Jefferson or Justice Holmes or anybody, but over home we have a saying, even a blind hog can root out an acorn once in a while. I hope that acorn was Amendment No. 4.

Seriously I think this amendment is defeating the wishes of the people. We just passed an amendment saying that if by any other method the convention is not called every twenty years — not twenty-five, but every twenty years — it will be submitted to the wishes of the people at the next general election. To now say nevertheless notwithstanding whatever the

people may do at this next general election approving or rejecting constitutional convention, that there shall be automatically a new convention in fifty years, seems to me is putting a term ceiling on the life of what we are doing here today.

Delegate Needle in his presentation of the Minority Report did say the conditions and times fifty years from now will not be what they are today. Perhaps he is right. Perhaps his crystal ball is a little better than mine. You do not know what the conditions are going to be fifty years from now. It seems a shame for us to go to all this trouble and make a constitution that we hope will be equally as durable with all good luck and results as the one you are now enjoying; to say it will automatically die in fifty years seems like a waste of time and effort here now.

I seriously urge that the convention reject this amendment and say the constitution we are working on will live until it is changed by the wishes of the people and not make a ceiling, a lifetime term of merely fifty years. I vote against the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion? Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: State the inquiry.

DELEGATE CHABOT: In view of our votes on Amendment Nos. 1 and 3, should we merely ignore excess language in lines 5 and 6?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think it would be better that the amendment be corrected. Delegate Needle. Do you have any objection to striking the words "unless" or rather, the words "the governor" in line 5 and strike also the words "or the voters of the state" in line 6?

DELEGATE NEEDLE: I was going to suggest that, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to the modification? The Chair hears none. The amendment will be modified by striking from line 5 the words "the governor comma", striking from line 6 the words "or the voters of the state".

"S" to be added to call at the end of line 6.

The Chair was in error. In line 5 strike only the word "governor" and not the word "the" so that it would read now in lines 5, 6, 7 and 8 "unless the General Assembly