

stated the realities of the situation, that from the beginning the great handicap in preparing a budget for a constitutional convention is that you have very little with which to compare it. A constitutional convention is a rare animal. Even when you try to compare it with recent constitutional conventions in other states, the comparison is, if not meaningless, misleading. Michigan met for seven and a half months. They had long recesses. New York, the most recent convention, is a high salary, high income state. A lot of money was pumped into that convention. If we took the New York standards as a basis in estimating our budget, I think we would be very unrealistic.

The Rhode Island Convention is another thing. That has gone on for two or three years, but they only met a few days out of the month.

When you look at other recent constitutional conventions, there was very little you could get your teeth into by way of providing an experience factor on which you could estimate the budget items for this convention.

There was some help from the budget of the General Assembly, and the committee had the advantage of a comparison of that budget with our budget. This proposed budget, indicates that the salaries, for example, are not out of line at all. I do not know whether the General Assembly was distributed to the delegates, but our committee had the advantage of seeing that, for instance, in the last session of the General Assembly, the budget for staff was \$316,990. The Michigan Constitution was 329 thousand plus dollars. Our budget indicates roughly \$302,816 for staff. So these figures, while they are in the ball park, are still not too enlightening, because it is very hard to compare the duties done by the staff of the legislature with the duties carried out by the staff of the Convention.

A number of our people, for example, the parliamentarian, is a parliamentarian, but he also does research for a number of committees, including the Rules Committee. There are other people in the same position.

So there is no question we have suffered from the ability to compare the budget with something meaningful.

At the time of his appearance before the committee, the President went through all of the various items and he indicated very frankly that there are a number that are probably overestimated. Take, for instance,

the per diem compensation of the delegates. Every time a delegate does not attend a meeting, \$25, to put it one way, is saved by the State of Maryland. Or if the delegate does not attend, unexcused, another \$15 is saved. There are other items where the estimates are probably overstated. For instance, if you check the memorandum supplied by the Secretary with the estimated telephone expense, it begins to look as though that may have been overstated. While we took the General Assembly's experience for the estimated telephone budget, apparently this may be a little high. You do not communicate with home as often as our delegates do down here during the legislative session. But whatever the reason, it begins to appear that this item is probably somewhat overstated.

There is another item that probably is overstated, an arbitrary figure of \$5,000 was allotted for the extra expense of delegates that might have to go throughout the state or out of the state to attend meetings. Again, according to the Secretary's memorandum as of October 23, we only spent \$318.60. It is quite clear that item is probably overstated.

One point on the salaries of the staff. The President testified before us so far as he had personal knowledge, every single member of the professional staff was receiving less for his services here in three or four months, whatever it may be, than he was receiving in outside life. So we do not have the problem of a lot of high-priced jobs. I know for a fact, I think if you look at the list of the secretaries' salaries, it is perfectly clear that these girls are not being paid what the average secretary would realize in a similar job in private employment or even, I think, in the state government.

On the other hand, I suppose it must be conceded there are so items which in the end may turn out to be underestimated.

For example, \$2,400, under Xerox, which reproduces this plethora of material which inundates us each day or did recently, again we are just going on the daily cost basis of the amount of consumption. Whether this will decrease or increase, I do not think is known. Right now I think very frankly, if you look at the figures Mr. Martineau supplied us, it looks like this may have been somewhat underestimated.

Of course, the really critical and expensive item is printing, as for instance the final printed edition of the transcript of the proceedings in this Convention, no one