

Has every delegate voted?

Does any delegate desire to change his vote?

*(There was no response.)*

The Clerk will record the vote.

There being 113 votes in the affirmative and 9 in the negative, the motion is carried and the schedule of legislation is adopted on third and final reading.

The Chair would like to confer with the two Vice Presidents at the rostrum.

*(The Convention suspended for a few minutes.)*

THE PRESIDENT: This is the final vote. The question now arises on the adoption on third reading and final passage of the entire document consisting of the preamble, each of the ten articles, the schedule of transitional provisions, and the schedule of legislation.

This is the final vote on the entire document, preamble, all ten articles and the schedule of transitional provisions and the schedule of legislation.

Is there any discussion?

Delegate Dorsey.

DELEGATE DORSEY: Mr. President, I realize that the dance is almost over and far be it from me on this wintry night to delay the sweet refrain of "Home Sweet Home."

I realize that this Convention has put a draft in this document. I realize the great work that you have done, Mr. President, but yet I feel that it represents a new move in government in Maryland.

I know it may be heresy to say a kind word for the old Constitution, yet I feel that it is a document which embodies the wisdom and the experience of good government in this State for the past century. What we are doing is casting aside that document in its entirety for a new document which takes new paths.

You say we have a stronger executive, a stronger legislative body, a strong judiciary. That is all true, but you are creating bodies further removed from the people than they were under the old Constitution, and in this day, when the burden of taxation rests so heavily on all state governments throughout the nation, the cost of this new draft has never even been estimated.

Mr. President, as much as I dislike to, I shall cast my vote against the new constitution. I do not want to close without paying my regards to you. When I came here I knew that you were one of Maryland's great lawyers. Tonight I can truthfully say that you are the the greatest Marylander I have ever had the privilege to know.

*(Constitution Convention rose and applauded.)*

DELEGATE DORSEY: Mr. President, let me add that the 142 members who comprise this body are the most conscientious and dedicated group that I have ever known to gather in this historic building. As I say it, sir, it is with reluctance that I vote against this document realizing the great effort that has been put into it, but the final vote rests with the people of Maryland and whether it is adopted or not. I feel that the work here and the work that was done by the commission prior to the meeting of this Convention will not be lost because I feel that it will be a reference work in the reform of government in this State for the next century.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any further discussion?

*(Call for the question.)*

Are you ready for the question?

The question arises on the adoption on third and final reading of the entire constitution and accompanying schedules including the preamble, article 1 to 10 inclusive, the schedule of transitional provisions, and the schedule of legislation.

A vote Aye is a vote in favor of the entire document. A vote No is a vote against the entire document.

Cast your vote.

*(Whereupon, a roll call vote was taken.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Has every delegate voted?

Does any delegate desire to change his vote?

*(There was no response.)*

The Clerk will record the vote.

*(The Convention arose and applauded amidst a flurry of confetti made by the pages from surplus copies of delegate proposals, committee memoranda, et cetera.)*

THE PRESIDENT: The Convention will please come to order.