

Under the flexible session the pocket veto is less likely to be used, as has been shown in those states that have the flexible session, if used at all.

Legislatively determined sessions also will give the General Assembly more time to consider the governor's budget. Virtually every member of the present General Assembly who testified before the Committee on the Legislative Branch stated that insufficient time was available under the constitutionally limited session to adequately deal with the budget. With the governor's budget, now above \$1 billion, growing larger every year, there is no question that the legislature should be permitted to set its own schedule as time requires so that full consideration might be given to it.

It should also be kept in mind that, historically speaking, legislative time limits were first instituted—and I shall come back to that in a few minutes—because it was hoped this would keep the legislature from doing too much. Certainly this is a preposterous device to remedy political ills. No business organization would be so foolish as to try to improve an inefficient directorate by compelling directors' meetings to adjourn at the end of two hours, or restricting such meetings to 90 days; or if you would argue the cure for a faulty court system would be to have the judges sit from New Year's Day to Easter. The same logic is applied to the legislature, however, under the present rule.

The time has come to trust the legislature to know how long it should meet and under what rules and regulations.

Legislatively determined sessions are advocated by the Model State Constitution of the National Municipal League, which says legislative problems should be faced when they arise. Committees should have time to plan work, schedule necessary hearings, and have time for research. This is also true of the Committee on the Legislative Branch of the Maryland Constitutional Convention Commission, which came out strongly for a legislatively determined session. It is also true of the Committee on Economic Development, their Task Force on Modernizing State Government. They recommended that for States the size of Maryland it is important that there be a flexible session—and I might add these were not political scientists alone, as is true of those on the Model State Constitution Committee of the National Municipal League, but were businessmen as well.

Maryland's two United States Senators, Senator Brewster and Senator Tydings,

both of whom were former members of the General Assembly, argued for legislatively determined sessions when testifying before the Committee on the Legislative Branch. Every last member of the legislature who testified before our Committee said that under the present time limit there was not enough time to complete the required job.

When we asked them how much time they needed, they hesitated in answering. "I don't know for sure," many said. Some of them said ten days, others said fifteen, yet others said twenty.

The point is there was no consensus which would permit a fixed number of days.

It is interesting to note that all the legislators who testified indicated that they worked on legislative matters all year round. Many of them said they worked 50 or more percent of their time after the session is over. Some said, "I work longer hours on legislative matters after the session than during the session, for then I am home where citizens can reach me."

Nearly all of the legislators, this is highly important, wanted the legislative committees to work all year 'round. If these committees do work all year around there will certainly be many occasions when the questions at hand require intercommittee relationships to solve the problems before the individual committees can go on with their own tasks.

Let me give you illustrations of this. We know here at this Convention that on many occasions we have had intercommittee meetings which have kept us from having an impasse, and had we not had these intercommittee meetings, we would not have been able to develop along the line which we did.

As a matter of fact, only when committees are meeting with some formality can we depend on scheduling these joint sessions. The legislatively determined session encourages such joint sessions.

It does not require that the plenary session take place on all occasions. There are some who said, "does this mean you have the General Sessions always?" The answer is no. Those 17 states that use it do not always meet in general sessions or plenary sessions.

In this connection it is important to note that the state is now planning greater use of administrative staffs, analysts, and researchers. I say why employ such a full time staff of analysts and researchers un-