

I would answer it this way: if we don't adopt it, then our citizens will look upon this \$8,000 salary as pay for ninety days. Any way you look at it, I know they will, because their constitution is going to say 90 days. True, they may have thirty more, but that is not the way the people are going to look at it. It is a fractionalized legislature.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: Mr. Chairman of the Minority Report, you indicate that possibly you believe that the job in this legislature has reached a point of a full time job. I wonder, would you agree that we could make this a full time job with compensation possibly of \$15,000 a year?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bard.

DELEGATE BARD: The question before us at this time is not salary nor did the minority report recommend, as I made clear earlier, Delegate White, that there would not be the possibility of men who serve in our legislature not holding their regular positions. The seventeen states which have the legislatively determined session have within it men and women who hold career positions in other areas. This seems to work out on the basis of the schedule they set forth.

We are not necessarily saying that they should be limited to this as their only task.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: Do you feel the people would be hostile to the idea of making this a full time job?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bard.

DELEGATE BARD: It may well be once you get a legislatively determined session, you can then move in this other direction; but I for one do not believe that the two are necessarily wedded.

On the other hand, I would add, Delegate White, that the legislatively determined session as it has operated in the seventeen states does solve some of the problems, solutions of which are sought by those along the lines of looking upon this as your main position.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Delegate Bard, is it not true that under your amendment the Maryland legislature could meet 365 days a year, if it chose?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bard.

DELEGATE BARD: I would think if we

were in a serious war, in which the states had to play a highly important role, it would be possible for us to meet 365 days a year, and I would be mighty happy that that would hold true, that possibility. I would not be happy about the war.

In other words, all experience has indicated that you meet in terms of the requirements of the times. The 17 states that have this particular option have not met during this period.

As I have studied the General Assembly sessions, Delegate Gilchrist, which followed that of 1776, and which followed that of 1851 immediately after the Constitution, and which followed that of 1864, they did not meet 365 days. Nor did the legislators of the seventeen states. This is the shibboleth which is set forth against the legislatively determined session in order to place incredibility upon the legislature.

I have full faith in the legislature not doing anything of that sort.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Delegate Bard, is it not also true if the legislature wanted to do so under this amendment they could meet every Thursday and Friday, 52 weeks a year?

DELEGATE BARD: If the legislature desired to skip a month on particular occasions under this plan this would be true. But it would also be true that if there were a serious affair within the State they could extend their calendar.

I think the essential possibility is that when a serious problem arises, since we are in an era in which we cannot pinpoint the time that we need to spend, any more than you and I can pinpoint our days when we are down here, I would say this is for the good.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist, one more question.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Are there not several states in the United States in which there is a serious problem with the legislature because they meet two days a week and then go home?

DELEGATE BARD: To my knowledge there are far more problems, serious in nature, among those legislatures which do not meet their responsibilities because the closing day is so narrow that it becomes convenient to say, we cannot handle this problem. The legislators themselves will tell you this, and they have told us this, Delegate Gilchrist, that the most serious problem is that the time is so regulated.