

We are not living in an era in which you can have the clock fit the accommodations and requirements of human relations problems, of environmental problems, the problems I mentioned. They just will not fit our lives. It would be very nice if we could say this afternoon at twelve o'clock we will end this debate, or tomorrow at noon I shall play golf. Life is no longer regulated by the clock as we would like to have had it in a more leisurely era.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Singer.

DELEGATE SINGER: Delegate Bard, I think you also advocate a mandatory date by which the budget must be passed.

DELEGATE BARD: Under this amendment, the legislature could determine at the very beginning that the budget should be discussed and deliberated on, and passage completed during the first 60 days, if they so desired.

You will note under the Majority Report, up until this time, at any rate, there is no discussion of this point. This point is important, Mr. Singer, and if anything, the flexible schedule permits you to vary the time you are going to deal with the budget according to the requirements of the budget. But it does not keep you from setting a target date on the budget. The point is excellent, and I agree with you, there can be a target date set.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Groh has the floor.

DELEGATE GROH: Dr. Bard, did you intend to eliminate the possibility of the governor convening special sessions by these words?

DELEGATE BARD: No. It is a good point. We did not, at all. We believe there will come a time, as is true in all of the seventeen states—an excellent point; it is the second part of our amendment, and you will see it—there will come a time when the legislature will want to adjourn sine die. That is necessary and important.

All we are saying is that the time when it adjourns sine die should not be determined in the constitution, that this should be flexible.

Some of the seventeen states have adjourned sine die in April, some in May, and you still need a special session.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Burgess.

DELEGATE BURGESS: Dr. Bard, in some of the preliminary matters we con-

sidered prior to meeting here I was given to understand that a great deal of local legislation presently passes through the General Assembly. I believe between 50 and 75 percent of the bills passing the General Assembly would be local legislation.

However, I understand that we have a strong indication here by the Local Government Committee that strong home rule for the counties will eliminate the bulk, if not all of this local legislation. I am wondering if your witnesses and/or your Committee considered this in considering this question of the local legislation. If so, what determination was made?

DELEGATE BARD: We gave a good deal of thought to that. The Legislative Branch Committee has been impressed during all its sessions with the fact that after you splinter off all the local legislation which will be handled by the county governments, you will still have a calendar, and practically every last one who appeared before us stated that you will still have a calendar that is very heavy in regard to general legislation. Indeed, the compromise position between the Committee on Local Government and the Legislative Branch Committee is such that there will be a movement back and forth, and integration of the general laws and local laws. And within this integration—you have a very good point—within this integration, if county government wants to do something, is it going to wait until the legislature comes back a year later or 90 days later, under this necessary integration which you need to check on general law and home rule law? No.

It may be necessary to have a one-day session to clear this up so Anne Arundel, or Prince George's, or Montgomery County can get moving.

I would say to you the existence of more home rule by counties necessitates even more greatly than ever the requirement of a flexible situation, so that this very intricate dovetailed integration can take place. We did consider it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Sherbow.

DELEGATE SHERBOW: A point of information. I think we want to state that the subject of budget and time requirements is covered by recommendations and reports of the Committee on State Finance and Taxation.

DELEGATE BARD: I know under the flexible schedule we can move within that spirit without difficulty.