

DELEGATE CHABOT: All right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate L. Taylor.

DELEGATE L. TAYLOR: Dr. Bard, you make a historical reference to the fact that right after the Civil War the 90-day session was instituted because of the fear of some people that the state legislature would pass certain laws that would really work against the welfare of a certain group within the state.

I would like to ask this question: wasn't it this particular 90-day session, short session, geared to a period when the need for certain laws did not require a great length of time for legislative debate, and also legislative attention?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bard.

DELEGATE BARD: Delegate Taylor, your point about having come into being in 1867 when our rural economy did not require solutions to complex problems is a good one. However, the overriding issue is true, namely, there was fear of the strong legislature. If we study not only this matter of number of days, but restrictions on legislative possibilities, you will note there was overriding fear that the legislative body might do harm to the government as such. There was not confidence in the body that we have today. That lack of confidence grew out of some of the divisiveness of the Civil War in Maryland.

We do have confidence in our legislature, though we are certainly not showing it by some of the symbolic treatment in our constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Delegate Koss?

DELEGATE KOSS: I am at a slight disadvantage because I do not think I have the language of Delegate Bard's proposed amendment.

I have great sympathy for the situation cited in regard to education and aid to junior colleges. My question is when would the legislature decide on how long it would meet? Would this be just by the simple process of a motion to adjourn or would there be a predetermined time for adjournment? If so, when would that be established? I wondered whether this would.

DELEGATE BARD: In the 17 states where it operates, this decision comes at various points. First, it may come at the point where you feel you reach consensus.

Some years ago I took a course with Charles Beard on the History of Ideas. You know when you are reaching consensus. As a matter of fact, those who are a member of the Society of Friends never vote on consensus. They know when consensus is coming into being.

When the body recognizes consensus has come into being, it moves toward an adjournment date.

At another time there is the recognition that there would not be very much point to continue to debate over issues that have already been stated with clarity. You say we shall give this six more weeks. Therefore, a time is stated in the middle of the session, the time, however, can be stated early in the session. It could easily enough be determined if you find that the issues before you are not of great moment.

In other words, it is stated at differing times in terms of the requirements of that particular year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mitchell?

DELEGATE MITCHELL: Mr. President, we would like to acknowledge the presence in the front balcony of 80 students from the Douglass Senior High School in Baltimore, Maryland, with their teachers, and in the rear balcony a delegation from the Charles County Branch of the NAACP led by Mr. Monk, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Queen and Mr. Evans,

*(Applause.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: We are delighted to have them. If there are no further questions, Delegate Bard will return to his seat and will present the amendment.

While he is doing that, the Chair would like to take the occasion to announce that Honorable R. Samuel Dillon, former member of the House of Delegates from Washington County is also in the gallery and we are delighted to have him here.

*(Applause)*

May I take this moment to answer an inquiry I had from a number of delegates, and I intended to the first thing this morning.

All of you, I am sure, have noticed the absence all this week of Delegate E. T. Miller. As I think all of you know from his previous announcements, he is undergoing treatment which has required him to be in the hospital for several days at a time. Heretofore these treatments have taken