

I think it was generally agreed by all the factions within the Committee that the present 70-day session of the General Assembly is too short. This was predicated in large measure on the testimony that we heard before the Committee covering the fact that the Ways and Means Committee and Finance Committee of the Senate could not with any degree of genuine judgment really consider the budget in the proper fashion in so short a period of time as 70 days; and certainly the suggestion in the draft constitution that the budget be automatically adopted if it were not acted upon within 50 days was one which met with uniform opposition of everyone. We will hear more on this particular subject matter when Delegate Sherbow's Committee reports.

I think in actuality—

DELEGATE SHERBOW: Will the gentleman yield?

THE CHAIRMAN: Will Delegate Gallagher yield to a question?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Yes.

DELEGATE SHERBOW: There will be no compulsory enactment of the budget. There will be, of course, time limits within which it must be enacted, but nothing that says automatically or ipso facto it goes into effect.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Thank you, Judge Sherbow. We assumed as much because you received the same kind of opposition to that proposal as we did.

I believe as Chairman of the Committee that the compromise which the Committee has struck upon—I hesitate to use the name of the delegate who came up with the compromise because he, from time to time, had differing views about his fatherhood of that matter—but I think the compromise in actuality is one which ought to allow for the handling of the problems not only in the foreseeable future, but in the not too foreseeable future.

The genuine objection to the proposal that a legislature set its own time limit was that the legislature is made up of human beings who like everybody else procrastinate. If you do not provide a specific date by which they are required to do something, there will be the human tendency to put off doing whatever would ordinarily have to be done by a certain date.

I suppose that we perhaps more than any other body which has ever met in the State

of Maryland in this Constitutional Convention feel the wings of time fleeting along because we are looking at January 12, 1968, with a realization that if we do not complete our job, indeed the labors will have been in vain.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher, the date is December 12, 1967.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Thank you.

*(Applause.)*

I wish the other committee chairmen every success in that endeavor, Mr. Chairman, I assure you.

Be that as it may, whatever this alleged doubt of finality may be, nevertheless the advantage of having a definite date on which one can expect to adjourn without return is important.

So in urging you to support the Committee finding and vote against the amendment, I am telling you I do believe that the Committee came up with a compromise which ought to take care of the particular problems over the long haul. I ask you to support the Committee majority and to oppose the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bard.

DELEGATE BARD: Mr. Chairman, first I would like to clear up a point that has been raised by a number of people, namely would the Minority Report recommendation apply to the present General Assembly? The answer is by all means, no. Nor would the Majority Report. The schedule would indicate that the next Assembly would be affected by it.

Now, may I call on the second speaker, or do we have—

THE CHAIRMAN: You may allocate your time to whomever you choose.

DELEGATE BARD: I would like to have Delegate Royce Hanson speak. I would like to delegate three minutes to Delegate Hanson, but I see Delegate Powers standing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Make your election. To whom do you allocate the time?

DELEGATE BARD: I allocate the time to Delegate Hanson, but if there is going to be, Mr. Chairman, a break in that—

THE CHAIRMAN: I will take care of it; if you will announce your election.

DELEGATE BARD: I am happy to know you are flexible.

*(Laughter.)*