

me say this: I favor a smaller time. I thought that 90 days, plus an additional 30 days, was enough time, and I also suggested that the 30 days come by just a majority vote, but Delegate Bamberger did not prevail. I think the vote was very close. Then Delegate Bamberger came along with the 90, plus 30 by majority vote, plus an additional 30 by a $\frac{3}{5}$ ths margin.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Malkus, your time is up.

DELEGATE MALKUS: In closing, Mr. President, I would like to say this, that I think the time is enough for us in the legislature to do the job, as proposed by the Committee Report.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bard. You have six minutes left to allocate.

DELEGATE BARD: Mr. Chairman, may I make it known that those who have made it clear that they would like to speak during the so-called controlled time will have the opportunity to do so on their own?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think it would be preferable if you did make that clear, if you would just announce who you want to speak on the controlled time.

DELEGATE BARD: All right. Then I should like Delegate Harold Clagett to speak.

THE CHAIRMAN: How many minutes?

DELEGATE BARD: Two minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Clagett, you have two minutes.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Mr. Chairman, several days ago we voted down the unicameral body and created two bodies. Then we proceeded to operate on those two bodies and to eliminate some of their members. Now, I would like to see us pay our attention to the recuperation of that body, and let it grow strong, get well and go forward.

It seems to me that it is the height of the ridiculous to think in terms of a strong judiciary and give it 365 days to take care of its responsibilities, a strong executive and give him 365 days to run and yet take the General Assembly and march it out of the arena at the end of 90 days, and only bring it back under some special conditions.

If we are really going to have checks and balances between the branches of government, we have to find ways of keeping the legislative branch strong and in the arena

where it can properly take care of its responsibility of public policy and the making of good government.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have a little less than half minute.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: I would yield that half minute to someone else.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair applauds that action.

Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, I yield two and one-half minutes to Mr. Gilchrist.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the issue which is before the house at this point created perhaps the most bitter debate which occurred in the Committee on the Legislative Branch. It pointed out the sharp division in that group between those who believed in a professional, full-time legislature and those who believed in the citizen legislature.

I might say that the word "flexible", which has been used here today to describe the minority proposal is a euphemism for a continuous session that was adopted by its proponents after about five days of discovering that continuous was not really acceptable to most people.

Of the witnesses who appeared before our Committee, and I have a slightly larger number than Senator Malkus, my count is 50, five testified for a continuing session, two testified for fixing it by the legislature, and 43 testified that there should be a constitutional limit. The longest specified by any of those people was 120 days.

I might add that one of the witnesses who testified, contrary to what has been said here earlier, a 90-day session would be an acceptable compromise.

I should like to point out that in the last twenty years there have been eight states which have adopted no constitutional limit on legislative sessions, prior to which they had limitations in order to avoid a perpetual legislature. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Wisconsin today have legislatures which sit a few days a week, go home and come back the next. I point out to you the effect that this had on the Constitutional Convention in Rhode Island—

THE CHAIRMAN: You have a little less than half a minute.