

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: — where a group of people tried to write a constitution on a part-time basis.

We believe that the Committee proposal is more than adequate for the business of this legislature, and we believe that every experienced member of the legislature who appeared before us agrees.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bard.

DELEGATE BARD: I would like to give two and a half minutes to Delegate Miller.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Miller, Beatrice Miller.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I believe it is time to reveal that in the Legislative Committee, in our most deliberative and serious moments, we considered a bifurcated dichotomous tricameral legislature, bifurcated because we had the idea of permitting the legislature to meet, receive and budget bill and then recess, while the committees of the legislature examined that budget bill and then come back into session and take action. I will not attempt here further to explain the other term.

I will only say that we found that under the restrictions of what we have presented in the Report, such a bifurcated session was not possible. The reason that we examined that possibility was that without exception the legislators' testimony testifying before our Committee was that they had not had enough time for proper budget consideration.

Now, let us look at the record. In the seventh and eighth weeks of the 66th session of the legislature, 91 bills were passed, and in the ninth and tenth weeks, 651 bills were passed. In the 67th Legislature, in the seventh and eighth weeks, 101 bills were considered and passed, and in the ninth and tenth week, 624 bills were passed.

I would say that judging from our experience in the few weeks that we have been here, that not much serious and full consideration was given to the 624 bills that were passed.

If I have more time—

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

DELEGATE B. MILLER: I would like to read now in refutation of one fact, the written testimony of Congressman Mathias. On the limit of sessions, he said, "To perpetuate a time limit on the length of

legislative sessions seems to me to be unwise. Such a deadline helps to define the timetable for action, discouraging indefinite delay, although these advantages are somewhat undermined if extension of the session is permissible. In either case, with or without extensions, a time limit produces the last-minute chaos which hardly permits deliberation and does not promote the public image of the legislature. While the absence of any limit may foster tardiness, it does provide more flexibility on the point."

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, I yield all the residue, rest and remainder of my controlled time to Senator James.

THE CHAIRMAN: Two and 3/8ths minutes.

DELEGATE JAMES: I would like to reiterate some of the arguments in favor of the delimits of the session.

I think it enables the legislature to concentrate on the work over a limited period of time, knowing that they must accomplish their work, and they must buckle down to a five-day week basis to accomplish their task. This has a salutary effect by not dividing the legislators' time between his personal business and official business, what he must concentrate on. Overlooked most frequently is the benefit of the legislature being out of session. A legislator's life is a somewhat abnormal life, I am sure you will agree. The rest period gives the legislator a chance to re-evaluate public problems, to organize his planning committees and to get ready for the next session. This study period which the interim provides is of enormous value. I will disagree with most people here. The legislature of Maryland is a vital force in programming and presenting to the governor constructive programs for future enactment. This differs from the Congress because the Congress has abandoned the function of creativity to the president so that I think this interim period of rest and programming is something that is of value, is something that we should keep. If not, there is a grave danger of the loss of this, and there will be passed to the governor the initiative in the formulation of the program.

THE CHAIRMAN: We now enter in the period of uncontrolled limited debate. Does any delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment? Delegate Sollins.