

George's, not in Montgomery. Those who favor constitutional time limits do not oppose between-session meetings of committees for legislative councils. The major problem, as I see it, is focusing public attention on laws passed by the legislature. I think unlimited time would have a bad effect on the work of organizations, lobbying organizations, such as the League and other special interest lobbying organizations to focus public attention on what is being done at the legislature. I also think there might be some trouble with the press coverage of the legislature. We have metropolitan press that has to cover the District of Columbia and Virginia, as well as Maryland problems. There might be some difficulty in having a full-time man in Annapolis; the press is also a consideration of the smaller counties. I would favor a constitutional time limit on the legislature.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment? Delegate Hardwicke.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee of the Whole, I think the arguments that have been presented in favor of the specified time are very persuasive. However, it seems to me that having a legislature that meets in given months during a year is not the kind of timeless concept which will survive for a period of one hundred years or the generations for whom we are hoping that this Constitution can be written.

The present scheme is predicated upon actually a full-time legislature, insofar as the Legislative Council meets like a unicameral body throughout the year when the legislature is not sitting, and the Legislative Council is not based upon the committee structure. It is in the legislature. For example, when I was in the legislature I sat on the Prisons Committee. Now, I use that term euphemistically, because the Prisons Committee never sat. That particular committee of the legislature never had a meeting, but there was a Prisons Committee of the Legislative Council that met during the summer and during the fall that actually engineered and steered prison problems before the legislature.

I suggest to you, ladies and gentlemen, that we are trying to nudge the legislature along toward reform. This concept of flexible sessions will do more to nudge them toward reform than anything we can do because of the fact that the committee setup will be more permanent, the legislature will be more all-pervasive among the

members as to its functions, and it seems to me that over the years and years ahead, the legislature that meets or can meet throughout the year will serve the needs of this State far more effectively than one which is limited to two or three months of the winter. Consequently, if we want reform, if we want a vital legislature, this is the way to get it. This will do more toward accomplishing it than anything else that we do.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Della to speak in opposition to the amendment.

DELEGATE DELLA: Mr. Chairman and members of this Convention, there were several items that we considered in the Committee, and one was the businessman, the business world, which wants time to survey what legislation of interest to them was passed during the legislative session of 90 days, or 70 days.

The other item that you are not taking into consideration is the possibility of a need for two lieutenant governors, because if you are going to continue with a legislative session for an entire year, you might kill two of your executive departments. I knew of one governor who sighed with relief when that 90 days was up and the legislature went home because he did not know what the program was that was going to be sponsored by those members in the General Assembly. We have one delegate here, I think, who will vouch for what I have said, that he was relieved when the General Assembly adjourned sine die.

You have got to give to the General Assembly the right to have progressive procedure in their methods of legislating, and we have testimony that there will be joint committees after the adjournment sine die who are going to consider the budget as joint committees of both the Senate and the House, who will evaluate the proposals and the requests in the budget. They then will be in a position to tell the General Assembly what is in the budget.

Dr. Cooper, who is the fiscal agent of the State, stated that it took 65 days to pass the budget for the last three sessions. Now we have extended that 70 days to 90 days. We have extended that 90, 30 more days and then 30 more days after that.

Ladies and gentlemen, certainly the General Assembly can consider their proposals in 90 days, and the only reason you have 70 days now is to amend the law which gave to the General Assembly a 90-day and 30-day session.