

In the past decade, the budget of Maryland has moved from \$146 million to \$1 billion, a seven-fold increase. This can be managed under the 90-day session, yes, but there are so many other things involved in the governing of a state whose budget is growing at this rate that over a period of the next few years, we will be forced to extend continuously the period of time in which the legislature should meet.

We cannot say now that this is the right time, that 90 days plus 30 plus 30 is the right time, or five years from now. We cannot say any particular time is. I think this is something which is best left to the legislature.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: May I ask a question and not make a speech?

THE CHAIRMAN: Not if you are going to ask a question of someone in favor. I will give you an opportunity to do that later.

DELEGATE PULLEN: This is a very serious and direct question, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: To whom is the question addressed?

DELEGATE PULLEN: To you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Parliamentary inquiry?

DELEGATE PULLEN: No, sir, a question of fact.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suppose the quickest thing is to ask you to state the question. Please state the question.

DELEGATE PULLEN: I think you will be satisfied with the question.

Is there any length upon a special session? If not, would not this resolution be accomplished through the use of special sessions?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher can answer that best.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, as the section is written, there is no limit upon the length of the special session.

THE CHAIRMAN: I take it your answer to the question is in the affirmative, then?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: You are correct, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in favor of the resolution?

I think Delegate Lloyd Taylor had the floor. Did you desire to speak in favor?

DELEGATE L. TAYLOR: Yes.

As pointed out by Dr. Bard, the public has held the state legislature in distrust for many years. This is an historical fact. As also pointed out by Harry Taylor, most legislators are held in distrust and this is true of sessions of many state legislatures.

It is believed that state legislatures make mistakes and the legislators are not too well qualified to do their work, so therefore the American people severely restrict the frequency of sessions.

This is primarily the problem of states, as Congress now meets in annual session, beginning in January and city councils meet mostly weekly. Many states have adhered to the belief that we can get along without fairly frequent and extended sessions of the policy-determining branch of government.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Gill?

DELEGATE GILL: In support of the Committee majority report, I would like to say that even though there is more restriction on special sessions, there is a great deal of money involved when you call one, whereas when you extend the time from 90 days to the 30 days by majority vote, and if that is not sufficient extend it for 30 more days by a three-fifths vote, there is no additional money involved.

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

Delegate Wheatley?

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak in favor of the amendment. In so doing, I find myself in a rather unique position, perhaps being more liberal than the liberal Legislative Committee.

I think the points taken could best be resolved in terms of how much power we want to give to the legislative branch of government. I believe that the legislature should be equally strong or stronger, if that be the case, than the other two branches of government mentioned, and I suggest that no greater power can be given than the ability to determine the session