

ment No. 20 to Committee Recommendation LB-1. Just simply destroy the amendment that had been offered by Delegate Storm. It is withdrawn. It was not seconded, and is therefore not before us. It has no number.

The Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 20 to Committee Recommendation LB-1, by Delegate Gleason: On page 3 Section 3.12, Legislative Sessions, of Committee Recommendation LB-1, following the period in line 14 strike out the last sentence.

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is moved by Delegate Gleason. Is it seconded?

(Whereupon, the amendment was duly seconded.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Gleason to speak to the amendment.

Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates: Let me say at the outset that I do not intend to speak longer than two minutes in connection with this amendment.

On its face it would appear to put me in a contradictory position for having supported the minority report, which asks for increased flexibility in the legislative body to set the time of its own schedule, to be asking the delegates at this time to strike from the section the power that rests in two men to call into the special session the General Assembly.

This is a power that I personally am not willing to give to any two men who are, after all, just members of the General Assembly. We have been dealing here with a legislative power, and that power is the voice of the majority of the delegates of each house. Here for the first time in any state constitution we are giving to two men, men who are sitting in office and who may be changed at any time, the power to embarrass the governor, the power to call a group of all of the delegates back into session at any time after an election, before an election, and this is not a power that I think that we should give to any Assembly. I would hope that the delegates in this Convention would not permit this to go into the Constitution of Maryland.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate—
Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chair-

man, ladies and gentlemen: I should like to speak briefly against the amendment. We felt that although Maryland joined a number of other states in providing a legislature that could call itself back into special session if it so desired, that there was a certain cumbersome aspect to circulating petitions or uniform letters among three-fifths of the members. We felt further that there ought to be a third way of calling a special session, and that was to confer upon the presiding officers of each house, acting concurrently, that particular power.

We believed that there was sufficient sense of responsibility in these offices and in the men who held them to guarantee that they would not act frivolously in calling back the General Assembly, because of the expense that does go into getting the General Assembly ready for its special session, the gathering of the staff and all the other many imponderable but difficult tasks that are involved in the calling of a special session.

Further, it is my understanding that the Committee on the Executive Branch did not specifically include or will not specifically include a recommendation that there be a veto session of the General Assembly to consider bills vetoed by the governor, because it was aware of the fact that they were recommending that the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate, be allowed to convene a special session.

Certainly if the leadership of these bodies of the legislative branch of government believes that it is the will of the House and Senate that certain bills be overridden or that vetoes be overridden, they will call them back.

Consequently, in line with making the General Assembly and its leadership as fluid and flexible a body as possible, to provide it with the opportunity to continue to exercise strength in the legislative branch of government, we felt that this indeed was a significant and worthy power to invest upon both the presiding officers, and we feel that if we could get the concurrence of such two sensitive positions and holders of those positions, that the power would not be frivolously exercised.

Consequently, we believe that the addition is an important one. We believe it is one that will not only work for the benefit of the General Assembly, but for the people of Maryland generally, and I would urge you, therefore, not to strike from the majority recommendation this power invested in the presiding officers of both houses to