

and responsibility to establish its size, and on the basis of such, should have the ability to do good as well as bad—yet these individuals are the same ones that are urging, or some of the same ones that are urging support of the present amendment. First they say we should free the legislature, now they say, oh, no, we have to tie the hands of the legislature.

It seems to me that the Committee in this instance has marked a reasonable balance. They have increased the number of signatures that have to be acquired for a suspension of the laws, but they have not put such a suspension out of reach of the people. Any good constitution, I take it, not only gives the delegation of powers so that a body of government can act responsibly, but also has restrictions on that power so that if that body does act irresponsibly it can be checked.

I would hope that this amendment would be defeated.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone wish to speak against?

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Mr. Chairman, I respectfully submit that that was against.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to recognize Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Mr. President, members of the house: while we have been considering this amendment, I have worked out a few figures. With the Committee proposal of five percent of the registered voters with 60 days to obtain them, it would be about 45,988 signatures, and that would mean that we have to come up with 776 signatures per day.

Now, if we took five percent of the registered voters, for a total of 45,988 and with 90 days to acquire the signatures, it equals 510 signatures per day.

If we took three percent of the registered voters, we come up with approximately 42,000, and with 90 days for the signatures we would have to average 455 signatures per day.

If we came up with four percent of the voters for governor we come up with 36,790 signatures, and with 90 days to acquire them, come up with approximately 408 signatures per day.

If we came up with five percent of the registered voters, at 70,000, and with 90 days, we come up with 777 signatures per day.

Under our present law we have three percent of the voters, which is 27,593, and with only 60 days to acquire them, they have to average 459 signatures a day.

So it seems as though all of these other plans are far more restrictive than our present constitutional provisions of three percent of the total number of votes cast for governor. It seems as though most all of the states follow the number of votes cast for governor, because it is conceded generally and most obviously that the votes cast for governor are the largest number of votes.

If we leave in our constitution that the people have a right to the referendum and then make the figure so high that we make it restrictive and prohibitive, we are not leaving our people this right. We are just giving them false hope.

I have been through these referendum campaigns, Mr. President. I assure you that to obtain 27,000 signatures on a petition in 60 days is no small job.

I want to remind the members, too, that in our state law is a statute passed only a few years ago which even restricts it more, to the extent that you cannot pay for obtaining signatures. You have to get them on an entirely voluntary basis.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Weidemeyer has used up his time.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Mr. President, in closing I want to say this: I hope we defeat this amendment. I hope we revert back to the old provisions where a constitution really gives the people a right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone want to speak for? Does anyone wish to speak for the amendment?

DELEGATE D. MURRAY: We speak of involving the people, and I believe this report seeks to involve the people. If we use the figure of five percent of the registered voters, the people who did not vote in the gubernatorial election would have a chance then to become involved.

Secondly, our report also seeks to make suspension more difficult. If the intentions of the people are really sincere and well thought out, then this report seeks to make them prove this.

May I digress one minute and say to Delegate Gleason, I do not know whether you know how I voted or not. My intention is not now or never has been to tie the hands of our legislators, nor in this report