

quiries for information could be made, because if they could not, he should decline to vote. And sooner than he would vote blind-folded, he would suffer himself to be carried to prison and confined there. [Laughter.]

The **PRESIDENT**. All that the chair can do under the rule, is to respond to questions of order. It is not competent for the chair to answer other questions. The chair will respond with pleasure to questions touching the business of the Convention or matters of order. That is as far as the duty of the chair will permit him to go.

**Mr HICKS**. Will the rule allow members to call for the reading of the propositions, or to ask an explanation from the originators as to any particular portion of the project?

The **PRESIDENT**. The chair thinks that the simple question before the Convention is on the motion to re-consider. If the Convention should determine not to re-consider, there is an end of the question. If the vote should be re-considered, the previous question will then be exhausted.

**Mr. HICKS**. I think that I am misunderstood. The question is to re-consider the vote on a certain proposition. I do not know what that proposition is—we are tied down by the previous question.

The **PRESIDENT**. The chair thinks that the previous question having been seconded, it is not competent to make explanations as to the proposition which it is moved to re-consider.

**Mr JENIFER**. Then I have certainly voted under a misapprehension. I was under the impression that any member would be permitted to express his views upon the question within the limit of five minutes.

**Mr. SOLLERS** interposed to a point of order.

And a good deal of conversation followed, after which

The question was taken on the motion to re-consider, and was decided in the affirmative, as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs Howard, Buchanan, Bell, Welch, Chandler, Ridgely, Lloyd, Colston, Constable, Chambers, of Cecil, Miller, McLane, Spencer, Grason, George, Wright, Thomas, Shriver, Johnson, Gaither, Biser, Annan, McHenry, Magraw, Nelson, Thawley, Stewart, of Caroline, Harcastle, Gwinn, Stewart, of Baltimore city, Sherwood, of Baltimore city, Prestman, Ware, Fiery, John Newcomer, Harbne, Michael Newcomer, Brewer, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday Slicer, Fitzpatrick, Parke, Shower, Cockey and Brown—47.

*Negative*—Messrs. Chapman, President, Morgan, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Lee, Chambers, of Kent, Mitchell, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Randall, Kent, Sellman, Weems, Dalrymple, Bond, Sollers, Brent, of Charles, Merrick, Jenifer, John Dennis, James U. Dennis, Crisfield, Williams, Hicks, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Bowie, Tuck, Sprigg, McCubbin, Bowling, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Jacobs, Brent, of Baltimore city, Sappington, Stephenson, Kilgour, Waters and Smith—46.

So the vote on the said amendment was reconsidered.

The morning hour having expired,

The Convention proceeded to the consideration of the special order of the day, being the several reports heretofore made from the committee on representation.

Some conversation followed on a point of order.

The pending question was stated to be on the proposition offered by **Mr. JENIFER**, as a substitute for the amendment offered by **Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER**, as the second section of the report.

**Mr. JENIFER** said, that as the proposition of the gentleman from Washington, (**Mr. Fiery**), the vote upon which had been re-considered by the Convention, seemed to him to be in a great measure a test vote, he, (**Mr. J.**) would withdraw his proposition, so as to afford the Convention an opportunity of voting on that of the gentleman from Washington.

So the amendment of **Mr. JENIFER** was withdrawn.

**Mr. TUCK**. Then I hope that the other gentleman from Washington, (**Mr. John Newcomer**) will withdraw his proposition also, in order that the Convention may come right up to that of his colleague, (**Mr. Fiery**.)

**Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER** did not accept the suggestion, but said that in order to have a vote at once upon his proposition, (the gentleman from Charles, [**Mr. Jenifer**.] having withdrawn his substitute.) he, (**Mr. N.**) would move the previous question.

Some conversation followed as to the effect of the previous question, after which

The question was taken on the demand for the previous question.

And there was not a second.

The question recurred on the proposition of **Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER**.

**Mr. DENT** enquired whether it was in order to move an amendment.

The **PRESIDENT** assented.

**Mr. DENT** moved as a substitute for said amendment, the following:

“Each county and the city of Baltimore shall elect four members to the House of Delegates.”

**Mr. D.** then addressed the Convention as follows:

**Mr. PRESIDENT**:

In making the few remarks which I propose to submit, I can scarcely expect to offer any thing, either in the way of argument, or suggestion, which has not been previously said, by gentlemen who have preceded me in this discussion, and who entertain the same views with myself, on the question under consideration. I mean the question of representation, and not the proposition which I have just submitted. But sir, feeling as I do, that this is the great—the important—the vital question of the session of this Convention; and having witnessed, as I have, the vigorous and determined efforts that have been made to strip us of the power and influence, which we now have in the Legislature of the State, I should do violence to my feelings, if I