

So the Convention refused to lay the order on the table.

The question again recurred upon the adoption of the order.

Mr. BOWIE moved to amend said order by striking out "nine" and inserting in lieu thereof "ten."

Which amendment Mr. MICHAEL NEWCOMER accepted.

The PRESIDENT announced that the hour had arrived for taking up the order of the day.

Mr. STEPHENSON moved to postpone the order of the day.

Determined in the affirmative.

The question then recurred upon the adoption of the order as offered by Mr. MICHAEL NEWCOMER.

Mr. BOWIE moved to amend the said order by striking out "two," and inserting "three."

The question was taken and decided in the affirmative.

So the amendment was agreed to.

And the question again recurred on the adoption of the order.

Mr. SPENCER said, he did not rise to make a speech, but simply to assign his reasons for opposing the adoption of the order. He had made the motion in the first instance to lay the order on the table, because there was but a bare quorum present; and he had no doubt that when the Convention was full, the first thing would be that a motion to reconsider would be made, and another whole morning would be consumed in its discussion. He was opposed to the order because he believed that no time would be saved—not one moment. On the contrary, he believed that time would be lost. Gentlemen who desired to prepare propositions out of the Convention, would have no opportunity to consider them in their rooms, and to place them in a proper form for the action of this body.

In addition to these objections, the experience of every statesman in Maryland, told him that evening sessions resulted only in confusion. They produced bad feeling, dissention and animosity. For these reasons he should vote against the order.

Mr. DORSEY said, he had only to remark that he was willing to conform to the will of the Convention, so far as he could. But it was physically impossible for him to attend such meetings.

Mr. PHELPS enquired of the chair, whether if the order was adopted, the Convention would be adjourned without motion at the hour designated.

The CHAIR answered in the affirmative.

Mr. PHELPS said:

He was willing to come back here in the evening, if such should be the sense of the Convention. But he had had some experience in these matters. In the Legislature, afternoon sessions had been resorted to, for the purpose of transacting local bills, and it had been found almost im-

possible to act upon such bills understandingly. And on grave or constitutional questions, great inconvenience might result. It was on this ground alone that he felt inclined to vote against afternoon sessions, though individually speaking he was willing to assent to them.

Mr. BLAKISTONE, replying to the remarks of Mr. SPENCER, said, that he thought gentlemen had time enough for consideration and reflection out of the Convention, upon any proposition they might desire to submit. They had been here five months. To-morrow was the first of April. Let the Convention meet at ten, take a recess at three, and return again, after dinner, to vote. By this process the Convention would, in the course of a few days, decide at all events upon some plan in relation to representation. That question once settled, the Convention could go on and dispose of the business before it in a short time. He hoped that the order would be adopted. If any injurious consequences should result, it would be a very easy matter to repeal it.

Mr. DORSEY said, there was no member of this Convention more anxious to be relieved from his duties here, than he, [Mr. D.] But he did not agree with the gentleman who had preceded him that because the Convention had been in session five months, therefore gentlemen were prepared to act *instanter*, (not upon old propositions merely, but) on any new proposition which might be started upon them, and upon which nothing had ever been said. If it were intended that the Convention was to act, without deliberation or examination, and under the operation of the previous question, on any question which might come before them, he supposed he must submit.

Mr. SPENCER. If I had a faculty which does not belong to me, the reasoning of the gentleman from St. Mary's, (Mr. Blakistone,) would be to my mind satisfactory and conclusive. If I had the faculty of divining what were the views of every man on the different propositions he may intend to submit upon the various grave matters which are here to be decided—if I could know in advance every thing that is to be offered for our consideration—I should be prepared in the course of each day, to say what my action on each proposition would probably be. But even then, I should stand in need of an additional faculty—that is to say, I should require to know and understand in advance, all the reasons that would be urged in behalf of every distinct proposition—to weigh them, digest them, and make up my judgment upon them. I do not possess either of these faculties.

I cannot, therefore, know what propositions may be submitted—and it is impossible for me to say how far I may approve or condemn them. We have yet to consider one of the most important questions which has agitated this State; and upon which, the beauty and the symmetry of our government, will in no small degree depend. I allude to the judiciary system. I have scarcely heard the views of any gentleman except the members of the judiciary committee.—There are some general outlines of views which I have heard.