

by this House, and it cuts off debate and brings you to a direct vote upon pending amendments. Then if another amendment is offered it is perfectly competent to call the previous question upon it and stop debate. So that if you adopt the amendment of the gentleman from Calvert, you will have full power to stop debate when you desire. The only effect of his amendment is not to deprive the House, after voting upon any direct proposition to amend, of the power to make any further amendment it may desire. I would like the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Daniel) to answer the question I put to him.

Mr. DANIEL: All I have to say is, that while the majority of this House do not want power to be used improperly, they do not want to deprive themselves of the power to cut off improper debate and improper amendments.

Mr. KENNARD: While the minority do not seem willing to trust the majority, the majority are willing to trust themselves.

Mr. HEBB: I hope the amendment will not be adopted, as it will destroy the whole effect of the amendment submitted by myself, and which this Convention has adopted. I only rise, however, for the purpose of informing the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke,) that he will find on page 81 of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the same rule we have adopted here. He will also find on page 305 of the Journal of Proceedings of the Convention of 1851, of this State, the identical words of my amendment, which was then submitted to that Convention; and on page 313 he will find that the Convention adopted that rule. The practice in the House of Delegates and in the Senate, not to call the previous question upon amendments, is an exception to the general rule. I simply propose that we shall be governed by the same rule as the House of Representatives.

The question being taken upon the amendment submitted by Mr. Briscoe, it was not agreed to.

Rule 55 was then read, as follows:

"No standing rule or order shall be rescinded or changed without one day's notice being given of the motion therefor."

Mr. THOMAS moved to amend by adding the following:

"And a majority of the members present shall be sufficient to rescind, alter or change any standing rule or order."

Mr. STOOKBRIDGE: I would suggest to the gentleman that his amendment does not propose to change one particle the rule as it now stands.

Mr. THOMAS: It makes an addition to it.

Mr. BRISCOE: The rule already adopted relates only to the suspension of the rules; but the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore is simply to nullify the very work we have just done. To rescind is to destroy; to suspend a rule is merely to defer its operation so far as it relates to the pending propo-

sition. I think the amendment now submitted to the Convention is much more objectionable than the other, and I hope it will be withdrawn.

Mr. THOMAS withdrew his amendment.

No further amendment being offered to Rule 55—

Mr. CLARK said: I offer the following as an additional rule:

"Rule 56: It shall be a standing order of the day, throughout the session, for the Convention to resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on the condition of the State."

I desire simply to say that when we had under consideration the rule in reference to the Committee of the Whole, and an amendment was offered to the report as it came from the committee, requiring a majority of the members present, when any subject was under consideration, to take the Convention into Committee of the Whole upon any subject matter, the statement was made that that conformed to the rules of the House of Representatives. So far as it goes it does conform to those rules; but the point was taken at that time that there was also a rule of the House of Representatives which makes it a standing order of the day that the House should resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union. The majority here have intimated that they only desire to apply the same rules to this Convention that apply to the House of Representatives. I therefore offer this rule, as being precisely in accordance with the rules of the House of Representatives; and gentlemen will find that the adoption of this rule, with the report of the Committee on Rules, as amended by the Convention the other day, will give us the same rules that exist in the House of Representatives.

Mr. BRISCOE: I will simply state that I shall vote for this additional rule, because, although so far as the rules of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States are concerned, they do admit of the previous question being called upon amendments offered upon the second reading of a bill, yet the minority there has the privilege of going into Committee of the Whole at any time, and while in Committee of the Whole it is not competent to move the previous question. Therefore, so far as that rule applies to the House of Representatives, it is perfectly harmless; otherwise I have no doubt the rule of the House of Delegates would be applied to the House of Representatives.

Mr. DANIEL: I rise to a point of order. We have already adopted a rule that it shall require a vote of the majority of the members present to go into Committee of the Whole. It is therefore not in order now, before we get through, to offer an amendment establishing a standing rule that the Convention shall, each day, go into Committee of the Whole without any vote.