

kins, Hopper, Horsey, Jones of Cecil, Jones of Somerset, Keeler, Kennard, King, Lansdale, Larsh, Lee, Marbury, Markey, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Parran, Pugh, Robine te, Russell, Sands, Schley, Schlosser, Scott, Smith of Carroll, Smith of Worcester, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Thomas, Thruston, Todd, Turner, Valliant, Wickard, Wilner, Wooden—78.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. BILLINGSLEY,

It was ordered to be entered on the Journal that the continued absence of John F. Dent, member elect from St. Mary's county, has been caused by the illness of his family and other domestic causes.

Mr. SCHLEY asked and obtained permission to absent himself from the sessions of the Convention for a few days, having been summoned by the military authorities to attend a tribunal elsewhere.

LIMITATION OF SPEECHES.

Mr. Scott submitted the following order:

Ordered, That the members of the Convention be limited to speeches of one hour in duration.

Mr. SCOTT. I am rather reluctant to offer that order; but however edifying and gratifying it may be for me to listen to speeches of greater length, I beg gentlemen to remember that there are ninety-six members of this body who have a right to speak. I do not know that I should occupy more than an hour or so much as an hour, myself; but if I should feel like putting in my hour, I shall claim an equal right with others; and at that rate, it would take a month to consider this section. I hope the order will be passed.

Mr. ABBOTT moved to amend by substituting the following:

Ordered, That no member be allowed more than thirty minutes to speak on any one subject; and those desiring to speak must alternate.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman cannot offer his order in that shape. It covers the entire matter of the original order; and he must leave part of it, in order that his motion shall be to amend it. There is no such thing known in parliamentary law as a substitute.

Mr. ABBOTT moved to amend by substituting "thirty minutes" for "an hour," and adding "and of those desiring to speak, the majority and minority must alternate."

Mr. ABBOTT said: In offering this, and asking that it be passed, I intend no discourtesy to any member of this Convention; but on the contrary I desire to show the utmost courtesy and lenity to every member here who shall address the House in a gentlemanly and kind manner, as has been done in every instance thus far. But we have been sent here by the people to accomplish a certain

work. We have not been sent here to listen to old and exploded theories and doctrines. We have not been sent here to listen three hours to such a speech as we had yesterday, although I say it with perfect respect for the member who delivered it. But, sir, some of us remember hearing that same doctrine delivered by his predecessor, John C. Calhoun, on the floor of Congress.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I suggest to the gentleman, that my colleague (Mr. Clarke) is not in his seat, and that any reference to his speech in his absence is out of order.

Mr. ABBOTT. I did not intend any discourtesy at all to him. I merely spoke of the propriety of members of this Convention sitting here and listening hour after hour to those exploded doctrines, when the people have sent us here for the purpose of writing for them a Constitution that shall put those doctrines forever in the shade. I think that every member here can say all that is necessary to say on any subject in thirty minutes. That is as long a time as I feel willing to sit here and listen, particularly to old and exploded doctrines.

Mr. MARBURY. I hope the gentleman will not insist upon that amendment. I think it will be doing great injustice to many members of this Convention, after we have started the discussion of this question and allowed some members any length of time that they chose, to then cut off debate so far as other members are concerned. I have no personal interest in this matter. I do not know that I shall speak on the subject at all; certainly not over the time that the gentleman would prescribe. There may be some members here who have fully and elaborately prepared themselves upon this subject, and I think they ought to have full opportunity to express their own views and the views of their constituents.

I disagree with the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Abbott) that we came here merely to put down old doctrines and start anew. I think there is a great deal in the past that is very good, sound, wholesome doctrine; and our constituents want us to reiterate those doctrines here for all time. I hope the gentleman will not press the subject now at any rate. After the subject now before the Convention is disposed of, they may adopt some rule restricting debate with a great deal more propriety.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. After the debate shall have concluded on this article of the Declaration of Rights, I shall have no objection at all to voting for the proposition of the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Scott.) I have no doubt that very few of us will occupy over an hour on any proposition which may be before the Convention for their consideration. But now that we have commenced it without abridging the right of gentlemen to