

I urge you to reject the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, since Mr. Case does not have any time left, I will just ask the question. He need not bother to reply.

Was he quoting from God when he said "Thank God for it," or was he quoting from Mr. Case? I have a hard time following when remarks go into the paragraph.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Case, you have the floor again since nobody else desires to speak in opposition.

DELEGATE CASE: I had to cut my quote short, Delegate Gallagher, because time was running out, and I appreciate very much your giving me this opportunity to expand it.

The Eagleton Report says as follows: "A number of members of the General Assembly when asked whether they favored the present constitutional system under which the legislature had no power to increase the executive budget replied the system works well now. Another —" meaning another legislator — "who was asked the same question, answered 'Thank God for it.'"

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor?

Delegate Storm.

DELEGATE STORM: This is in favor of the original amendment, or the amendment to the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is in favor of Amendment No. 2, the Hanson amendment, as modified.

DELEGATE STORM: It was modified, I guess. I am still in favor of it, although not as much. (*Laughter.*)

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Storm, the Chair is advised by the parliamentarian that his ruling before was in error in that you did have the right to object because the amendment was not printed. It is now printed and I have had it distributed. I think perhaps we had better follow the procedure of treating it as an amendment to the amendment.

Therefore, will you please, everyone, mark the amendment H as Amendment 2 to Amendment No. 2?

We will, therefore, vote separately on the question of whether the amendment should be made, and following that, on Amendment No. 2. I would hope in the absence of any objection that we could continue the debate as applying both to the amendment and to the amendment to the amendment so as not to waste time.

You may proceed.

DELEGATE STORM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Frankly, I would prefer this Amendment No. 2 to have come before us a long time ago. I have been asking myself how far the sponsors of this amendment would go in their efforts to increase the powers of an already strong executive.

Now I see that they do make sense and they are consistent, and I now join them. Since we did go a little bit too far with the executive, I think it is only logical that we should really give the power that is envisioned here to the legislature, because frequently in the debate I have been confused when people kept saying that the attorney general and comptroller were responsible for not letting the governor go ahead. I kept telling them it is not those officers, it is the legislature.

Now they are giving the legislature a chance to assert itself. I think now their position and mine go together. I am sorry we could not have left the status quo more or less with the strong governor, with the budget power and all that, and not all these other frills; but since we have gone that far, certainly I agree we should give the legislature what I feel is a very necessary balancing power against this new and very strong-fisted governor we have created.

I hope you will defeat the amendment to the amendment and adopt the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Beatrice Miller, do you desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

DELEGATE B. MILLER: No, sir. I wish to speak in favor of the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hodge Smith, do you desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

DELEGATE J. H. SMITH: Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee: I, like Delegate Clagett, do not understand much about this high finance and budget, but his ancestors have been whispering back here to me, and I am in much better position to hear them than he is.