

evidence on the side of the majority, and the vote being taken before the minority Report was made, I have had no opportunity of giving an intelligent vote.

Mr. Dodson declined to vote for the following reasons:

In the absence of the evidence taken in the cases of the contested elections, and a report from but a portion of the Committee, it would be impossible for him to vote intelligently on a subject of such grave importance.

Mr. Rutledge declined to vote for the following reasons:

That no evidence in the case having been submitted to the House until to-night, and having had no opportunity to examine the same, and having heard only the reasons, arguments and deductions of the majority of the Committee on Elections on the same, and no report of the minority of said Committee having as yet been submitted to the House, believes that there is no data on which a fair and impartial opinion of the merits of the contested election in the First Legislative District of Baltimore can be formed.

Mr. Donaldson declined to vote, and gave the following reasons for his refusal, viz :

“None of the testimony in any of the cases reported upon by the Committee on Elections, has been laid before the House until to-day, and are not in such a form as to warrant an intelligent opinion upon the merits involved. On the fourteenth day of March, of this present Session, there was offered in this House, an order for the printing of the testimony in the cases of the contested seats in this body, of the Baltimore City delegation, but this order did not prevail.

“The only members of this House, who have had any opportunity to form an opinion from knowledge of the facts, are those upon the Election Committee itself. While, doubtless the conclusions reached by the Committee, are conscientious and may be correct, yet I cannot but remember that each individual member of this House, sits as a sworn judge to find himself a verdict on the law and the evidence, and can take without enquiry the decision of no other person or persons. But no judge can be called upon for his decision, until he has the facts before him.

“In the pending contests, each side has made out its case, but the cases made have not been submitted to the House in such time as to admit of an original judgment.

“Being then without material on which to base a judicial decision, (for the questions are to my mind purely judicial, entirely above and beyond all partisanship,) I can give my voice neither for nor against the several reports and resolutions of the Committee on Elections.”