

52/Constitutional Commission and Convention

At the request of the Constitutional Convention Commission, chairmen of convention committees introduced various parts of the commission's draft constitution in the form of delegate proposals, which were then formally referred on the president's order to the appropriate committee for consideration. Other delegate proposals were, of course, also introduced and referred to committees. The president also assigned the subject matter of the 1867 Constitution, article by article and section by section, among the several substantive committees for consideration and study.

All recommendations by any committee of the convention were referred to the Committee of the Whole and kept in a file called general orders of the day. When the convention reached consideration, it sat as the Committee of the Whole to consider orders of the day, usually in the order in which recommendations were referred from the committees that originated them. Once the rules of the convention were established, the president, assisted by the chairman of the committee on calendar and agenda, was responsible for moving business through the convention.

The leadership had hoped that the convention might finish its work by December 12, 1967, but debate became extended on certain issues. It was therefore necessary for the convention to avail itself of its authority to extend its life to January 12, 1968. Through diligent effort the work was completed by January 8. On January 10, 1968, the formal signing ceremony took place and on that date the 1967 Constitutional Convention of Maryland adjourned.

On May 14, 1968, a special election was held on the ratification of the Constitution of 1968. A majority of the electorate, believing that the constitution centralized too much power at the state level and would result in higher taxes, voted against ratification.