

Mr. PUGH. I thought that applied only to the report on the legislative article?

Mr. EDELEN. I think the chair will remember that when a proposition of this kind was made by the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sykes,) he ruled that it would require a motion to reconsider.

Mr. HEBB. This is not a rule, but a mere order of the house. Of course it is competent for the convention to pass another order.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. The object can be reached by reconsideration.

Mr. HEBB. We do not wish to reconsider the former order limiting the time to thirty minutes. We wish to pass another order relating to this particular question of representation. And if it interferes with the former order, it will take its place to that extent. These are not standing rules.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The former order may be found on page 216 of the journal, [July 7.]

"Ordered, That the time allowed each member for debate on any question before the convention, be limited to fifteen minutes; that no extension of time be granted except by a vote of two-thirds of the members present."

On the next page it will be seen that the order was amended by striking out "fifteen" and inserting "thirty." It was divided and adopted in that amended form.

Mr. CUSHING. If we change the hour of meeting from 10 o'clock to 9 o'clock, should we have to reconsider?

The PRESIDENT. No, sir.

Mr. CUSHING. Then why should we be obliged to reconsider to change the time for speaking?

Mr. SANBIS. I move to strike out "ten" and insert "fifteen." I think we have consumed more time than was necessary in the discussion of many matters. I think if ever a minority in any legislative body in the world, had little cause to complain, those gentlemen who constitute the minority here are that minority. So far as I have witnessed the action of the majority, it has invariably been courteous, liberal and kind. We shall earnestly endeavor to continue so. I am one of those who declared originally for full, free, and unrestricted debate. I do not any more think that full, free, and unrestricted debate consists in a two hours' speech than I believe free speech is slander. The time which may be fixed for the discussion of the matter before the body, is that period of time within which there may be full, and free, and fair discussion. Does not the gentleman see that any rule which is adopted here binds me as well as it binds him? I ask nothing at all for myself more than I am willing to accord to any gentleman. I would be a party to the requirement of nothing more for the majority than I would be perfectly willing to grant to the minority. All that I

ask is that minority and majority, as to rights and privileges, shall occupy an equal position.

As to gentlemen feeling that they are stifled, and feeling compelled under that stifling process, as they call it, to withdraw from these halls, that is a question wholly and solely for them. I have nothing to do with it. The responsibility will not be upon me, but upon them. That consideration therefore will not govern me in my vote upon this question.

I only wish to say to them that I believe the interest of their constituents as well as my constituents requires that this body should come to a close of its labors as soon as possible, in order to get to that common close. They cannot say at all, in any event, that we put any shackles upon them which we do not at the same time impose upon ourselves. We acted under, and shall continue, if left alone, to act under precisely the rule that those gentlemen would act under by this resolution. And I should not fear the verdict of that great jury, the people, upon such an indictment as that.

I only wished to say these two things, that I considered it my duty for one to get to the end of the business of this convention as soon as possible; and that in order to do so I would impose on no gentleman what I do not impose upon myself; and that these considerations will govern me entirely in my vote upon the question without regard to anything else.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I cannot see that there is a courtesy due from those who are speaking to the listener. I always heard the reverse; that it was the duty in all regulated bodies for the members of the body, unless some imperative necessity required them to leave the body, to remain and give an attentive listening to the party who might be occupying the attention of the house at the time. The gentleman speaks of our having been here three months. Does the gentleman recollect that nearly three weeks of that time there was a recess had upon vote of this house? Does he remember that for another week the president and myself with other members were here to attend to the duties of this convention, when the gentlemen had all skedaddled?

Mr. PUGH. I call the gentleman's attention to the fact that I was here at least one day of that week when the gentleman was not here—Monday.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I started from home but could not get here. I started about daybreak and tried to get to Washington Monday morning, but did not succeed; and then on Tuesday morning I started at 2 o'clock so as to be here Tuesday morning at the meeting of the convention. I reached here and found the president and a few members, I think eight—nine—eleven. We were