

one more vote anyhow; your motion would make it imperative that there be at least two. Delegate Grumbacher's would make it imperative that there be at least three.

Before you decide what you desire to do, I have to ask whether there are any other amendments to be offered to this section because this may affect your decision.

The only other amendment that the Chair has is one by Delegate Hostetter. Would you still intend to offer your amendment, Delegate Hostetter?

DELEGATE HOSTETTER: I would not, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Are there any other amendments at all to section 1.17?

*(There was no response.)*

That being the situation, without the motion to reconsider, the question would arise on the adoption of section 1.17. If it were adopted on second reading, no further motion to reconsider would be in order pursuant to Rule 54. If the motion to reconsider is made now, you would have that vote and then vote on section 1.17. What is your pleasure?

Delegate Jett?

DELEGATE JETT: I would like to avoid any more votes than are absolutely necessary and with that in mind I think we should move on to the vote on section 1.17.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, sir.

The question arises on the adoption of section 1.17 as amended. The only amendment — and I ask the Clerk to correct me if I am in error about this — the only amendment adopted is Amendment No. 13. Is that correct, that is, in addition to the amendments recommended by the Committee on Style?

Very well, the question arises on the adoption on second reading of section 1.17 as amended and the "as amended" means as amended by the amendments submitted by the Committee on Style and by Amendment No. 13.

A vote Aye is a vote in favor of the adoption of the section. A vote No is a vote against. I do not want there to be any misunderstanding. I hope there is no necessity for changing the record so let us be abundantly clear, this is the reverse of the situation when you were voting on Amendment No. 5. As it is now, a vote Aye is a vote in favor of section 1.17 as amended. A vote No is a vote against 1.17 as amended.

For what purpose does Delegate Hardwicke rise?

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Is it in order, Mr. President, to make a statement with regard to the matter before us?

THE PRESIDENT: The section is under consideration and debate is in order. If you desire to be recognized, you may proceed.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Thank you. As many delegates may have observed in the early votes on this matter, I voted regularly as a matter of my personal beliefs in favor of the labor position. However, in recent days and hours, if you will, there has developed a very serious split in the State and among our people back home with regard to this particular issue.

Now, I think that we can weigh our own conscience with regard to various things on the one hand, versus whether or not we want to go out on a limb in risking the ratification of this constitution by the people on the other. In other words, I think if we feel very, very strongly as a matter of principle and truth and morality on something, then I say yes, let us put it in the constitution and if the constitution gets rejected because we stuck our neck out in favor of the truth and principle, then it gets rejected, because there is nothing worse than having a bad constitution adopted.

But I suggest to you today that this is not that kind of grave issue. However we feel about the subject of a labor bill of rights or a labor principle in the constitution, I suggest that it is not that crucial, it is not basic, it is not that fundamental to our structure of government that it has got to go in.

Now, we have compromised a great many things in this Convention; some of them to my regret were questions with regard to separation of church and state, questions with regard to the comptroller and attorney general, etc. If we had had our druthers in many cases I think some of us would have fought to the last ditch against the compromise, and yet I think the conviction of many of us was that the compromise favored getting this constitution passed in the State of Maryland.

I submit to you this afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, that the issue before us is not that crucial. I suggest that we ought not risk this Constitution for this principle. It may be an important principle, but it should be extremely important in your own mind before you would risk the con-