

Mr. Pitcher: Mr. Chairman, may I move No. 77?

The Secretary: General Order No. 77, Int. No. 694, Pr. No. 837, by the Committee on Future Amendments. Proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article XIV of the Constitution, in relation to future amendments and future constitutional conventions.

The Chairman: If you will permit me, gentlemen, I have not the proposal here, but I can explain it. The only substantial change is that provision on lines 6 to 11 of the proposal, whereby it is provided that when a proposed amendment is submitted to the Legislature, it will immediately be forwarded to the Attorney-General for his report as to its effect upon other provisions of the Constitution; and upon this report coming back within 20 days, then the Legislature will proceed to act upon it as it sees fit. In other words, it was thought that it would be very helpful to the Legislature if the Attorney-General made a report as to the effect of the language of the proposal on other provisions of the Constitution.

The next change, you will note, on page 2, line 4, the old wording was that it was submitted to the Legislature after the next election of Senators. The proposal before this body as to Senators embodies a clause that a Senator will hold for four years, and we felt that would be altogether too long a lapse of time for the second Legislature to act. So we have changed the words from "election of Senators" to "election of Assemblymen," which you will note is every two years.

The next change is on line 19, and that provides for a vote as to whether or not the people wish to have a Constitutional Convention in the year 1956. Comptroller Tremaine had a proposal that the vote come in 1957. The reason the committee felt that it would be better to have it in 1956 was this, we felt that if the vote were had in 1956 the Convention probably would be held in 1957, on an off year, and we thought it more advantageous to have the Constitutional Convention in a year that we commonly denominate an off year. So we have left the vote as to whether or not you have a Constitutional Convention in the year 1956 instead of 1957. Is that clear?

Mr. Tremaine: That is all right. I proposed that amendment because I saw so many disturbed minds in 156 delegates; and about eight of them escaped.

The Chairman: That is right. I think the committee agreed with you. The rest of the report—

Mr. McGinnies: If you submit the question in 1956, you elect your delegates in 1957 and the Convention would be held in 1958.

The Chairman: I guess you are right. Of course, the time of holding the Convention is left to the Legislature. I know that the committee had in mind, if it could be worked, that it would be more advantageous to have the Convention in some year other than a presidential or gubernatorial election year.