

he should not attend. But what in the world is the use of undoing what we have done, when the nights are getting longer and cooler. For my part, I think the night session is the most pleasant time to do business. There are enough of us to attend who have not been excused and are willing to attend. Why should we deliberately revoke an order which we have passed four or five times deliberately, merely because some few gentlemen are not able to attend? Some really incapacitated from attending the convention are excused. There are others, like the gentleman from Allegany (Mr. Wickard,) whose indisposition is more mental than physical. I think such ought not to be excused; but ought to sit here and go through with our business. I find that we run through business just about as fast at night as in the day. Gentlemen can adjourn at ten o'clock, and come here and be at their places. I do not think that will fatigue any gentleman any more than to be lounging about the house here or elsewhere. They may as well be interested in something profitable in the business of the session properly before us. There are a great many gentlemen who board here; who stay here and do not go to Baltimore, who do not board there. Those gentlemen are here with nothing to do, about each other's rooms or about the State house; and I do not believe it fatigues them any more to sit here and attend to business than to lounge about doing nothing. I think we would better work straight forward and get through. The nights are longer and more favorable to business, and I hope what we have done will not be undone.

Mr. SANDS. Of course it is the universal wish of the house to complete its labors and go home. The question is, how best to attain that end. We have been in the habit of meeting at 10 o'clock, and adjourning at half past one, an hour and a half before 3 o'clock. We then come back here at night, and work perhaps, an hour and a half; the interval of the recess, of course making a breach in the work of the convention, which it will take some time to repair. Suppose the convention should agree to meet regularly and punctually at 10 o'clock, and stay until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, five hours. Should we not actually get through more business than we are now doing per day? I am willing to work as hard as our people make their plantation hands work; but I want to have holiday when sundown comes. As for the facts of my friend from Baltimore (Mr. Daniel,) that the nights are longer and cooler, he has the calendar on his side in the one case, but where he finds his evidence that the nights are cooler, I do not know. I certainly did not perceive any such state of facts last night or the night before.

Mr. ECKER. Last night the thermometer

was 82°, and this morning it is at the same point.

Mr. DELLINGER. I ask leave to withdraw the motion to reconsider.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's, objected.

Mr. SANDS. I have no doubt that gentlemen will be willing to change the thirty minute rule to fifteen minutes, in order to get rid of night sessions. In that way we should be able to do a great deal of work in the session of the day.

The question being taken upon granting leave to withdraw the motion to reconsider,

Leave was granted, and the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. HOFFMAN. I ask for leave of absence for one evening, on account of the sickness of my father. I promised to be there. I would be glad to remain here all the time, but I cannot.

Leave of absence was accordingly granted.

Mr. SCHLEY. It is with great reluctance that I rise to ask the house for leave to be absent for two or three days. It is with great reluctance, because I have seen that the protracted term of this convention required of many gentlemen to go home to attend to their private affairs, and that there has at times been a difficulty in keeping a quorum from that circumstance. On account of that difficulty, I have remained at great inconvenience, and to the great personal neglect of my private affairs and public duties in another department, in order to keep up a quorum for the last week. It is now absolutely necessary for me to return to my home for a day or two, to make out official reports, and to look after moneys that are deposited without any proper vouchers. I therefore ask leave of absence for a few days.

Mr. WICKARD. I would willingly vote for leave of absence for the gentleman, provided that when he comes back he will not endeavor to impose extra duty upon those who remain here during his absence. I have found it invariably the case, that those who remain away for a time from the business of the convention, when they come back here are the first to impose additional duties upon those who have been here from day to day.

Mr. SCHLEY. I do not know with what grace or propriety the gentleman can visit such a reproach upon me. I am surely undeserving of it. I do not think anything in my career has shown an endeavor to enforce upon any gentleman burdensome or improper duties. I beg the gentleman to recall his very unjust reproof, but whether he does or not, I can offer no promise as to my action upon my return.

Mr. HARWOOD asked and obtained leave of absence from the adjournment this afternoon, until Friday morning.

The PRESIDENT. Are there any more gentlemen who wish for leave of absence?