

LIMITATION OF DEBATE.

Mr. PURNELL moved to reconsider the order, found on page 748 of the journal of debates, adopted on the seventh of July, in relation to the limitation of debate.

The order read as follows:

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

The motion to reconsider was agreed to.

The question recurred upon adopting the order.

Mr. PURNELL moved to amend the order by striking out all after the word "that," in the first line, and inserting the words "the time allowed each member for debate on any question before the convention be limited to ten minutes; that no extension of time be granted except by a unanimous vote of the members present."

Mr. CUSHING. I move to amend the amendment by striking out the word "ten" and inserting the word "five."

Mr. PURNELL accepted the amendment.

Mr. BRISCOE. I move to strike out all that part of the order which relates to the unanimous consent of the convention for the time to be extended. It may be possible we may want some information some time, which cannot be given in five minutes.

Mr. DANIEL. I move to strike out the words "unanimous vote," and insert "the vote of two-thirds."

Mr. DENT. I move to insert "twenty" instead of "five." Five minutes is certainly too short a time to allow for any intelligent expression of views upon any subject of importance that may be presented to the consideration of this body. It would amount to a perfect stifling of debate. It seems to me we better adopt some order preventing all debate, rather than adopt the order which is proposed, and which would be a mere mockery. I do not suppose there are many subjects which would lead gentlemen to make extended speeches during the short period which we will remain in session. I was at least in hopes that we might be prepared to go on under the rule under which we have been acting for the last week or two. Very few persons have occupied so much time as has been allowed under the rule. There has not been much time consumed in debate. I think there is a general disposition to get away from here as soon as it can be done with credit to the body. I hope the debate will not be restricted to five minutes, but that at least twenty minutes will be allowed, which is a very short time.

Mr. DANIEL. I will move ten minutes, if that is voted down.

Mr. MILLER. I think that the twenty-min-

ute rule ought to be adopted. The gentleman who moved to insert five minutes instead of ten, is, I believe, the only gentleman who has occupied the full time since the adoption of the thirty-minute rule.

Mr. THRUSTON moved the previous question, which was seconded.

The question was upon ordering the main question to be put.

Mr. CHAMBERS called for the yeas and nays upon this question, which were ordered.

The question was then taken, by yeas and nays, and resulted—yeas 34, nays 32—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audouin, Carter, Cunningham, Cushing, Dellinger, Farrow, Galloway, Hatch, Hebb, Hopkins, Hopper, Jones, of Cecil, Keefer, Kennard, Mayhugh, McComas, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Robinette, Russell, Schley, Smith, of Worcester, Sneary, Stirling, Thruston, Wooden—34.

Nays—Messrs. Belt, Billingsley, Blackiston, Bond, Briscoe, Brown, Chambers, Daniel, Dent, Ecker, Edelen, Gale, Hodson, Hoffman, Hollyday, Horsey, Johnson, Larsh, Lee, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan, Parran, Ridgely, Smith, of Carroll, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Thomas, Turner, Valliant, Wickard—32.

The main question was accordingly ordered.

Mr. SMITH, of Carroll, when his name was called, said: I do not think that five minutes is sufficient time for gentlemen to express their views upon the vital and important subjects which have been brought to the attention of this convention. We have occupied an immense deal of time in talking about inconsiderable matters in comparison with those before us, and there has been no objection to it. I think if gentlemen will confine their remarks to the subjects under discussion, and quit when they are done, we will get along much better. I think the order ought to be modified, and fifteen minutes ought to be inserted. And with a view to further amend the proposition which has been offered, I vote "no."

The question was upon the motion of Mr. DENT to insert "twenty minutes," as the limit of time for debate.

Upon this question Mr. MILLER called for the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

The question was then taken, by yeas and nays, and resulted—yeas 40, nays 27—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Audouin, Belt, Billingsley, Blackiston, Bond, Briscoe, Brown, Carter, Chambers, Daniel, Dellinger, Dent, Duvall, Ecker, Edelen, Gale, Hodson, Hoffman, Hollyday, Hopkins, Horsey, Johnson, Larsh, Lee, Mayhugh, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan, Negley, Parker, Parran, Ridgely, Smith, of Carroll, Sneary, Swope, Sykes, Thomas, Turner, Valliant—40.