

February 17, 1976

SENATOR SYAS: The good of the order. Just to make a statement. Last week I was criticized, justly so, for distributing, just to the Douglas County Senators, stuff that I hadn't signed. Now again we have.... This morning we introduced a bill without intent and purpose on our desks. All I'm saying is, if you're going to jump on me why then let's be consistent.

PRESIDENT: You don't care to make a motion though? Do you have anything further on your desk? We move to Select File. LR 106.

CLERK: Mr. President, there are no E & R amendments to LR 106. There's an amendment offered by Senator Cavanaugh to strike Section 3 of the resolve.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Section 3 of Senator Murphy's amendment is the one that calls for the Constitutional Convention. I recall a story done by Mr. Kramer of the Associated Press last week in which he had contacted a gentleman from Maryland Legislature whose involved in this national resolution motion movement. He indicates that he feels that 25 states will have adopted a similar resolution by the end of this year. I think that it is entirely possible, plausible and probable that a Constitutional Convention may be required to be called. I think there's going to be a great number of embarrassed members of this Legislature when that eventuality comes to pass and you are responding to your constituents. I'm sure they will not be pleased to have the Constitution vulnerable and rewritten on our 200th birthday. You're going to be saying "I didn't understand that that resolution would have required a Constitutional Convention. I didn't know that that's what that meant. We sure didn't intend to have a Constitutional Convention. We certainly don't want to rewrite the Constitution." That's what LR 106 provides and that's probably what's going to happen if this Legislature and a bunch of other legislatures sit here in some kind of bewildered embarrassment over a substantial issue and simply push your buttons in a mindless fashion when you're tampering with the Constitution of the United States. This resolution would require that after 2/3 of the states enact such a resolution and file it with the Congress that they must call a Convention. Now you better be strongly, firmly committed to a Constitutional Convention and the implications of a Constitutional Convention before you keep passing this section of the resolution on to Final Reading and put your vote on it. You're going to be held accountable for it, you're going to be held accountable in the same way that you were for the equal rights amendment where you had to come back here, a good many of you ... the majority of you, and say we didn't read it, we didn't understand it, we didn't know what it meant. The consequences of this action will be even more catastrophic and embarrassing than that one. I can see that you're not even again listening this morning. Fortunately, we tape these proceedings. Hopefully, the public and the news media,