

feel a lot more comfortable is because it means, essentially, even though we still will experience the process of having somebody frame for us in advance the constitutional amendments that will be proposed, and I am sure there will be some, at least we will have two opportunities to look at it. We will have an opportunity to look at any proposed constitutional amendments as well as the rest of their suggestions. At that point in time, after this conference when they come back here to approve the advance of the action plan to the national government, at that point in time, we can scrutinize what they've done with regard to constitutional amendments, and if we are not happy with what they've done, we have an opportunity to express our discomfort with what they've done. As I understand the process that is envisioned, if after this approval, and assuming that this Legislature does approve of the action plan, then that action plan, including whatever constitutional amendments that are in it, would go forward to the national government. If they arrogantly rejected everything, then I think the reasonable expectation is those very same constitutional amendments would come back to us again in the form of a proposed application of the states for a convention. At that point in time, then we would have a second opportunity to look critically at whatever constitutional amendment was proposed. So the advantage of this amendment that I am offering you today is to give you two chances, is to ensure that you will have two chances, one at a very fairly preliminary stage, to look at and comment on proposed constitutional amendments, and so that you will have one chance before that time comes when it is an all or nothing situation. Remember that when and if the application of the...the application to the Congress for a constitutional amendment is called for, what's going to happen is that all of the states will have agreed upon specific language, and you'd better be happy with that language, at that point in time, because there is going to be no changing it. It is going to be an up or down vote in the State Legislature on the proposed language. And so with my amendment what you gain is an opportunity before that to look at that same language and to respond to the other states and to the national government with what you think of that language at the time that the petition, the States' Petition is forwarded to the National Conference early on. So it ensures a two-step process, a two-step look at it. The fourth aspect of the amendment, 0830 directs itself to the bylaws and to the structure of the conference itself and to this process we're setting up, and I actually think we have the horse before the cart here a little