

hilltops may oppose it. I have great confidence in the people. In fact, I have so much confidence in them that I am never afraid to do right, because I believe they will always approve of that which is right. The Chief Executive of the State is the chief officer of the State. By him the people of the State are judged. By him the laws of the State are enforced because it becomes his duty to see that the laws are executed. Great questions of policy, great economic questions are presented which must be decided by him. He stands above every other office in the State in dignity, in power, and in authority. Then we should select him with more care and with more caution than we should any other officer, the selection of whom devolves upon us, and if the Chief Executive fills this high station, and must meet these requirements, is it not important that he who might succeed the Chief Executive should at least fill the requirements and meet the demands that we would expect of the Chief Executive himself?

It is now understood by this Convention, this very article itself proposes, that the term of this officer shall be extended to four years. By that very act we double the chances of the death or disqualification of the Chief Executive. He must live through four years and be able during that time to discharge the duties of his office. Heretofore his term was only two years. Aside from this whether we select the best man or not, we know we have selected him and we are satisfied. Then there is it seems to me this great difficulty, not yet presented, except merely suggested in the outline given by the Chairman of the Committee. The Governor and the Senators who are to select his successor, if it is to be left to the Senate, are selected at the same time. Suppose for any reason, the Governor should not be capacitated to enter upon the discharge of his duties or suppose he should die before he became qualified, what is the result? At once a wrangle begins in the Senate, with the term of the Governor then expiring, a wrangle over the selection of their presiding officer. His qualifications as presiding officer are laid aside and forgotten. The ambitions of men and the intrigues of men enter into that question and into that controversy. How long may that deadlock last? Who can tell when they will decide who shall be their presiding officer during that long time—who will discharge the duties of that office. I say to you, Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Convention, there is nothing so momentous, so full of danger to the people as a threatened dual government. It seems to me that there are strong, yes, are potent reasons along this line why this question should be settled, and settled at once. Then, again, I believe that the who people of Alabama, taken as a State, can make a wiser and more conservative selection than any number of the gentlemen who have been selected to represent their respective districts in the Senate.