

pass all the general laws for our State. Now if these Commissioners in the different counties in Alabama are to be called together and organized into a legislative body, without limitation of time, as it appears from this ordinance, who can tell what the cost will be to the people of Alabama, though it comes out of the different counties of the State?

MR. O'NEAL--Will the gentleman allow me to interrupt him?

MR. BULGER--Certainly.

MR. O'NEAL--The substitute does limit their sessions. It limits their sessions to not over thirty days in two years; and to three days called meetings on each special subject; and not over three days when called especially to consider one or more subjects of local legislation.

MR. BULGER--You multiply the number of counties in this State by the thirty days limit, and you will have more dollars to pay the Commissioners in Alabama than you have for the Alabama Legislature to do the same work. It makes no difference with the tax-payer whether he pays his taxes to support a county institution or whether he pays it to support a State institution. It is a burden on him and it makes no difference into what treasury his mite may go. I submit that the cost of this legislation is not less than it will be under our present plan. I believe this Convention has already adopted an ordinance here by which they go too far in restricting the Alabama Legislature in enacting local laws; and I believe that we have committed a great mistake when we provided that the Legislature should enact a law and the Legislature should not be the judge of whether it was a local or general law, but that the courts should be the judge. I can see where many a hardship will come to parties who have vested rights under existing laws and afterwards those laws are declared unconstitutional by the courts of the country. I think one of the wisest decisions in Alabama is when the Supreme Court said that the Alabama Legislature was the judge as to whether its law was a local law or a general law.

MR. ROGERS (Sumter)--I rise to advocate the adoption of the substitute offered by the Chairman of the Committee on Local Legislation. It seems to me that this Convention in suppressing local laws have made a mistake that we are trying to do away with local legislation. If so, that is an error. The local laws of the State of Alabama are of far more importance to the citizens of Alabama than the general laws, upon the same principle that we are more interested in our Probate Judges than we are in the President of the United States. These large provisions, which every man recognizes, don't bear so directly upon the citizens. It has been asserted by the gentleman from Tallapoosa that it is