

Committee of 50 Hearing
State of Illinois Center - Chicago
March 31, 1988

SUMMARY

Seventeen individuals presented oral testimony to an audience that totalled 145 throughout the evening. A number of the individuals also provided written testimony and an 18th person sent her testimony by mail because of illness.

The Committee of 50 was represented by the following 17 members.

Lieutenant Governor George Ryan, Chair
Sister Candida Lund, Vice Chair

Sen. David Barkhausen
Jonathan Baum
Glen Bower
Judith Calder
Abner Ganet
Zale Glauberman
Gayle P. Keiser
Michael Kreloff

Judge George Lindberg
Sen. Dawn Clark Netsch
Michael Pollak
Lawrence Pusateri
Judge Gerald Sbarboro
Doug Whitley
David Zeglis

Staff in attendance: Kay Fred Schultz, John Lattimer, David Steelman

Following an opening statement by the Lieutenant Governor, the following individuals presented oral testimony:

1. Professor Ann Lousin of the John Marshall Law School

She had served as a researcher during the 1970 Con-Con; was Speaker Blair's Parliamentarian; was Present Witwer's assistant during the September 1987 reconvening of the 1970 delegates in Springfield; and is a renowned Illinois Constitutional Scholar, having written extensively.

Ms. Lousin did not take a position for or against calling a convention. She did indicate in her testimony that she would consider supporting a call if the General Assembly failed to address certain constitutional concerns. Chief among these were an appointment system for judges and the powers and duties of the Auditor General to audit all public funds of the state. Ms. Lousin also indicated that constitutional amendments might be necessary in the areas of the Governor's amendatory veto power, compelling candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor to run together, and the exhaustion of administrative remedies under the constitution's non-discrimination provisions. She also suggested that action could be taken by the General Assembly and by the judiciary to make our present constitution work better.

Written testimony was provided.

2. **Mary Ellen Barry of Naperville**
President of the League of Women Voters of Illinois

League President Barry testified that 96% of the leagues 6,000 members urged defeat of the referendum question, and indicated that the costs and the potential risks of losing gains made in 1970 helped support their position.

Written testimony was provided.

3. **David E. Baker, Executive Vice President of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce**

Mr. Baker, representing 5,000 companies across Illinois, testified that the chamber supported the current constitution and saw no compelling reason for a new constitutional convention. Mr. Baker cited economic development considerations, the initiative and referendum provisions, and the responsiveness of the 1970 constitution. He also stated that money for a convention could be better spent in other areas.

Written testimony was provided.

4. **Robert F. Jene of Chicago**
Secretary of the Henry George School of Social Science

Mr. Jene, representing himself, discussed the need for a new convention, citing several issues of concern, including merit selection and the initiative process.

No written testimony was provided.

5. **James Tobin of Berwyn**
National Taxpayers United of Illinois

Mr. Tobin testified regarding a new constitutional convention and made specific references to the initiative process as a method of achieving tax cuts and tax limits. Mr. Tobin stated his support for the "Liberty Amendment," and indicated that the members of NTU are not necessarily in favor of another state constitution.

Written testimony was provided.

6. **Joseph L. Bast of Chicago**
Executive Director of The Heartland Institute

Joseph Bast testified on behalf of the Heartland Institute, a public policy group. Mr. Bast discussed equal rights and social and economic justice as well as the need to limit the powers of government. Mr. Bast referred to the constitution as a "flawed document" and cited sections dealing with public education, the prohibition on specific legislation and taxpayer referenda.

Written testimony was provided.

7. **Harold D. Byers of Highland**
Former two-term Illinois House member.

Mr. Byers lobbied for a public hearing on the constitution in the Metro East area. He also made several comments concerning merit selection, with reference to the judiciary in Madison and St. Clair Counties.

Written testimony was provided.

8. **W. Phillips Berwick, Ph.D. of Elmhurst**
President of the Chicago Area Chapter
Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Mr. Berwick presented a commentary concerning certain differences with "the Catholic hierarchy in Illinois." He complained about providing school bus service to parochial schools with state funds and the school prayer issue.

Written testimony was provided.

9. **Professor Michael J. Polelle of Chicago**
John Marshall Law School

Professor Polelle made a brief statement as a proponent for a new constitutional convention. His comments included references to merit selection and the amendment process.

No written testimony was provided.

10. **David Boyle of Cicero**
Volunteer for the Can-Do Organization

Discussed at length, "the forces of corruption and hate" and "crooked politicians" in Cicero, ... which has a commission form of government, combining both township and village governments under one organizational chart. He called for a new constitutional convention to provide communities like Cicero the ability to recall local officials.

Written testimony was provided.

11. **Patrick J. Quinn, Citizens for Constitutional Reform**

Mr. Quinn's testimony covered a wide variety of issues...including taxation, ethics, merit selection, among others. He also disputed the now widely publicized cost for a new constitutional convention, complaining that assumptions made to arrive at the estimated \$31 million were arbitrary and flawed. Mayor Ganet challenged him to provide the Committee his calculations in arriving at a \$5 million figure to provide the Convention during the March primary, a 90-day limit imposed on the convention, minimal or no remuneration and a November ratification vote.

Quinn also discussed his basic philosophical positions on taxation and limitation and questioned certain privacy provisions of the 1970 Constitution.

Written testimony was filed.

12. Jeff Smith of Chicago
Was a recent candidate in the 9th Congressional District [Chicago's Rogers Park Area & Evanston].

Mr. Smith complained about the Solidarity Party situation [he lost in the primary]...and was a proponent for a new constitutional convention because of problems in education that will affect his children during the next 20-year period, indicating that something must be done now or his children will suffer.

13. Lt. Col. Charles Govern II [Air Force retired] of Batavia

Col. Govern complained, somewhat bitterly, about the judiciary and how the Governor failed to "investigate corruption in the judiciary."

No written testimony was provided.

14. Arnold S. [Steve] May of Chicago

Mr. May testified as a proponent of a new constitutional convention. He advocated an open primary, indicating his rights were being violated when he was requested to declare his party.

No written testimony was provided.

15. Diana Hennigan of Evergreen Park

Ms. Hennigan spoke on "behalf of Illinois' prisoners," complaining many were sentenced to prison terms for "minor" offenses...filling prisons with individuals with the state [people] footing the costs for their [board and room]. She indicated a new constitution convention would "correct" the sentencing situation. Also that "...having a constitutional convention gives people the feeling they have a forum."

No written testimony was provided.

16. Richard Shapiro of Evanston

Mr. Shapiro presented his views about "power" ...politicians, etc. He expressed concern about governmental corruption, but no specific indication was made regarding his stance on a convention.

17. Stephanie Matthews of Chicago

A DePaul University law student...one of Michael Kreloff's students.

Ms. Matthews expressed "disappointment with the way the hearing was conducted" ...complaining that some panel members "debated" with certain witnesses and treated them rudely.

Jeanette Mullen of Barrington, who was a delegate to the 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention, filed written testimony. She was unable to attend the hearing.

Committee of 50 Hearing
Hotel Pere Marquette - Peoria
April 19, 1988

SUMMARY

Governor Ryan opened the hearing at 7:12 p.m. During the next two hours and 23 minutes, 12 individuals presented oral testimony to an audience that totalled 52 throughout the evening.

The media was represented by:

Dean Olsen - Peoria Journal-Star ... and a photographer
William O'Connell - Political Editor for the Peoria Journal-Star
[and a Committee of 50 member]
Norma Cunningham - correspondent for the Bloomington Pantagraph
A reporter and a cameraman from WMBD-TV (31)
Camera coverage from WHOI-TV (19)
Ben Frisch - a reporter for WCBU-FM (Bradley University), public radio

The Committee of 50 was represented by the following 8 members:

Lieutenant Governor Ryan - Chair	David Leitch
Glen Bower	Judge Gerald Sbarboro
William O'Connell	David Zeglis
Gayle Keiser	

Staff in attendance: Kay Fred Schultz, David Steelman, Bonnie Ettinger

Following an opening statement by the Lieutenant Governor, the following individuals presented oral testimony:

1. David E. Connor of Peoria

Mr. Connor was a delegate to the 1970 Constitutional Convention and, by in large, defended the work of that group. He indicated that while the 20-year provision was placed in Article XIV of the Constitution, it was not placed there to recommend a new Constitutional Convention be called; but, rather, to provide a mechanism whereby the public can call for a convention should changes or alterations in the existing document be needed. He felt there was little in the present document that could not be changed by amendment, legislation or judicial interpretation.

Written testimony was provided.

2. John F. Stoll of Peoria

Mr. Stoll is a member of four nonprofit organizations and indicated that all were in favor of a new Constitutional Convention. He indicated that one of these -- Illinois Citizens of the Republic -- has "special expertise on the subject." Personally, he said he was "strongly in favor of replacing our 1970 State Constitution. He then listed 17 points that he outlined as his main concerns. Many of them resulted from his perceptions of local activities in and around Peoria.

Written testimony was provided.

3. Nancy A. Clemmer - President of the League of Women Voters of Peoria

Ms. Clemmer reiterated the League's state position against a new Constitutional Convention, and indicated during questioning that reduced cost estimates for a new convention would not affect their position.

Written testimony was presented.

4. Larry Hansen - Vice President of the Central Illinois Constitutional Caucus

Mr. Hansen presented a long list of points, strongly in favor of a new Constitutional Convention.

Among his points: women are subject to the draft ... Home Rule powers are being abused in Peoria, with liberal interpretations by the courts ... families forced from their homes ... "thousands" of homes were randomly destroyed -- "private property for the common good is called "Communism" ... taxes ... favors Liberty Amendment and no pay raises for officials ... too much aid to private schools ... policemen use warrants, other enforcement officers don't ... trials are not speedy ... victims rights ... most recent legislative redistricting was political gerrymandering.

Written testimony was provided.

NOTE: Mr. Hansen is from Bartonville [a suburb south of Peoria].

5. Phillip Lenzini of Peoria

An attorney ... speaking as a private citizen.

Did not specifically call for a new Constitutional Convention ... but discussed the following:

Home Rule for school districts ... citizen initiative power on the local level ... and summed up his feelings by saying: A footnote ... a common theme to those seeking a Constitutional Convention ... is that the General Assembly is unable or unwilling to address the needs of their constituencies."

No written testimony was provided.

6. Jane Brayton of Peoria Heights - Coalition for Political Honesty

Ms. Brayton complained that over the past 12 years some 3 million petition signatures have been presented to allow for citizen initiatives to provide for re-call and binding referenda. She indicated that a convention was needed for an ethics amendment to handle "double-dipping" by public officials and the wrong-doings of local officials, and for property tax reform ... She also complained of "illegal junkets by politicians," and said "they could send video tapes instead."

7. Art Palmer of Bartonville - Secretary for Committee for Citizen's Government [Taxpayers United of Illinois).

Mr. Palmer reiterated many of the points made in Chicago on March 31st by Thomas Bast of the Heartland Institute and James Tobin of the National Taxpayers United of Illinois. His other points were: fundamental workings of a free economy are undermined by removing incentives and the personal responsibility for one's own decisions and efforts ... our government mandates for social and economic justice are opposite of the nation's original intent. He stated that the Illinois Constitution doesn't limit power of government.

Written testimony was provided.

8. Mark K. Rasmussen of Peoria

Mr. Rasmussen favors a new Constitutional Convention ... with education as the prime issue ... "to get funding out of the political arena and into a convention setting for a solution." He also favors an elected State Board of Education.

No written testimony was presented.

9. Robert M. Allenworth of Galesburg

Mr. Allenworth was in favor of "cumulative voting for judges," and other somewhat disjointed issues.

Written testimony was provided.

10. Mike Boland of East Moline - President of CATT (Consumers & Taxpayers Together).

Mr. Boland identified himself as a teacher of government and history and former school board official. He stated that he favors a new Constitutional Convention for the following reasons:

Senior exemptions ... educational funding of 51 percent (minimum) ... State Superintendent and Board of Education elected by people ... lack of recall powers in Illinois ... initiative - power to voters "a mix is needed now; but make it a difficult process ... to use as a safety valve" ... selection process for judges - local option ... members of Illinois Commerce Commission should be elected.

No written testimony was presented.

11. Tom McQuire of Peoria

Asked to be heard to say he is in favor of a new Constitutional Convention. He thought that changes were needed for the people.

12. John H. Salch of Peoria

Stood to make his presentation stating that he thought the voters would vote in favor of a convention because of a feeling of "powerlessness." Mr. Salch took no stand on the convention himself.

Committee of 50 Hearing
University of Illinois/Urbana
April 26, 1988

SUMMARY

The Committee of 50 conducted its third public hearing on the Illinois Constitution in Room 407 of the Levis Faculty Center on the University of Illinois at Urbana campus on Tuesday, April 26.

The hearing was opened at 7:08 p.m. During the next two hours and 17 minutes, 15 individuals presented oral testimony to an audience that totaled 58 throughout the evening.

The media was represented by:

Steve Bauer - Champaign News-Gazette, and a photographer
2 Reporters from the Daily Illini
Reporter from WILL Radio, Urbana
Reporter from WDWS Radio, Champaign
Reporter from WPXN-FM, Paxton
Free lance photographer

The Committee of 50 was represented by the following 9 members:

Lieutenant Governor Ryan - Chair	Michael Pollak
Glen Bower	Judge Gerald Sbarboro
Judith Calder	Doug Whitley
Present Stanley Ikenberry	David Zeglis
Gayle Keiser	

Professor Sam Gove, Committee staff resource person, and Present Ikenberry were the hosts for this hearing. Staff in attendance included Kay Fred Schultz, Dave Steelman, and Bonnie Ettinger.

Following an opening statement by the Lieutenant Governor, the following individuals presented oral testimony:

1. Janet Cornelius of Penfield, Illinois

Chair of the Liberal Arts Division, Danville Community College Author of the book, "Constitution Making in Illinois is Good Enough."

As a historian, she would personally like to see another convention for academic reasons. But, she stated, "the Constitution has not yet been fully implemented." "It is too new, and needs further interpretation, evolution and more seasoning."

Written Testimony was provided.

NOTE: The Lieutenant Governor introduced Helen Levin, former President of the League of Women Voters of Illinois from Champaign, who was in the audience.

2. **J. Fred Giertz of Champaign**
Professor of Economics, Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois/Urbana, author of a Committee of 50 paper on the Public Finance Article of the Constitution.

Professor Giertz highlighted public finance, and addressed items in and not in the current Constitution.

Items in the Constitution included balanced, annual budget; constraint on income tax: no graduated tax, a mandated ratio; large counties allowed to classify property. Items not in the Constitution included how to handle State Mandates; expenditure limitations [i.e., school funding].

Professor Giertz is fearful of the initiative process, and said that it would create too much lobbying throughout the state for each item.

3. **Jeffrey T. Markland - Mayor of the City of Urbana**

Mayor Markland, also representing the Illinois Municipal League, indicated opposition to a new Constitutional Convention. He said that the 1970 document "gave us real gains, such as Home Rule, and indicated that he didn't want to risk losing that.

No written testimony was presented.

4. **Joan Severns of Champaign**
Former Mayor of the City of Champaign and Council member; currently a "professional volunteer."

Ms. Severns indicated that she felt there was apathy about the Constitution. She stated that "as a Republican, I am thankful for Mayor Daley, who gambled Home Rule vs. Merit Selection. There is no need for a new Convention."

No written testimony was presented.

5. **Vic J. Stenger of Arcola, a "business broker"**

An opponent of a new Constitutional Convention, Mr. Stenger had complaints about taxes. He stated that he "loves representative government, and that the cut-back ruined quality reasoning in the General Assembly." His first priority is education, and he was anti-Pat Quinn "about his lack of respect." "We need respect for the General Assembly, we don't need a new Young Joe McCarthy running around the state." He complained about the 1,400 miles of railroad track torn up throughout the state and EPA hassles that "disrupt the tax base."

No written testimony was presented.

6. **Deborah C. Rugg of Urbana**
President of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Ms. Rugg repeated the statewide stance of the League against a new Constitutional Convention.

Written testimony was provided.

7. **Jim Rich of San Jose**
Superintendent of San Jose Public Schools (on Logan-Mason County Line)

A proponent for a new Constitutional Convention which concentrates on public education, including state funding and the state Superintendent of Schools.

Discussed Mason County where farm land is the basis of taxation, and cited "a great disparity." He discussed short-falls in funding, especially in retirement programs, and called for a change in the superintendent selection.

When asked how ConCon could address the financial issue [Whitley] he suggested the Farm Bureau approach, saying the current mechanisms were not adequate. Also the question of "what is political and statutory vs. Constitutional" was posed.

Written testimony was presented.

NOTE: Mr. Rich was the FIRST school representative to appear before the Committee, and the first from a rural district, dealing with current problems.

8. **Jackson Williams of Chicago.**
A graduate student at the University of Illinois under Professor Gove.

Mr. Williams wrote a term paper on the Illinois Constitution. His study of the "Annotated Notes for Legislators," hints that the Constitution may have some flaws, and cited some case studies for various sections. He is a proponent for a new Constitutional Convention.

No written testimony was presented.

9. **Mathias Delort - Attorney from Chicago**

Mr. Delort practices election and constitutional law. He worked on the Cook County Elections board, and for Speaker Madigan.

He said "the Constitution is broken and needs to be fixed," and discussed various election problems, such as vacancies.

No written testimony was presented.

10. **Brian A. Hamer - Attorney from Chicago**

Indicated serious concerns about salary procedures, notably that the Compensation Review Board violates certain procedures. He stated that they were setting a precedent that violates the process of law-making and is undemocratic. A proponent for a new Constitutional Convention.

No written testimony was presented.

11. **Bernard Puglisi of Champaign**

Mr. Puglisi addressed a litany of pet peeves about state government, and urged a referendum amendment. He says the process is a "creaky ox cart," and complained about the Compensation Review Board ["who are they", don't know the names of various board members, etc.].

Mr. Puglisi is a member of the Citizens Utility Board.

No written testimony was presented.

12. Monica Flerlage of Mt. Vernon
Student of Professor Gove.

Ms. Flerlage urged a new Constitutional Convention that concentrates on higher education, which "needs more academic freedom and internal freedom in hiring and firing." She cited her studies of comparisons between the Illinois and Michigan Constitutions. Michigan's includes higher education.

No written testimony was presented.

13. Chris Williamson of Champaign
Graduate student of Professor Gove. [Had run for the Champaign City Council and was active in the Gore Presidential campaign.]

Mr. Williamson favors a "yes" vote on a new Constitutional Convention, stating that he "would like input on the Constitution under which he lives, and that he had no say 20 years ago." He indicated that he would run for a delegate's spot and that he favors initiative referendum and re-call.

No written testimony was presented.

14. Jane Wojt of Danville, representing the Vermilion County Taxpayers

Ms. Wojt expressed fear of appointive boards. [Talked to the panel standing; felt more comfortable.], and is a proponent of a new Constitutional Convention.

No written testimony was presented.

15. Kina Schwirian of Champaign.
An underclass [Junior] student of Professor Gove.

Ms. Schwirian wrote a paper on initiative referendum, and compared Illinois and California. She is not in favor of a new Constitutional Convention, stating that the Constitution could become cluttered.

No written testimony was presented.

Richard L. Thies of Urbana, former Chairman of the Illinois State Bar Association, filed to testify, but left before he was called.

The hearing was concluded at 9:25 p.m. by the Lieutenant Governor. The next hearing was announced for Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, May 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Committee of 50 Hearing
Southern Illinois University/Carbondale
May 5, 1988

SUMMARY

The Committee of 50 conducted its fourth public hearing on the Illinois Constitution in the Student Center at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale on May 5, 1988.

The hearing opened at 7:10 p.m. During the next two hours, seven individuals presented oral testimony to an audience that totaled 24 throughout the evening.

The media was represented by:

Melissa Hahn - WSIU Carbondale/WEUQ Harrisburg
LeAnn Grace - WSIL Harrisburg
Christopher Miller - Carbondale Channel 6
Gary Gibula - WCIL AM/FM Carbondale
Lisa Worns - Daily Egyptian - Student Paper

The Committee of 50 was represented by:

Judge Gerald Sbarboro, Chair	Senator Ralph Dunn
Glen Bower	H.C. Hendren
Jerry Costello	Dwight Friedrich

Dean John Jackson and Vice President Ben Shepard of SIU were the hosts for this hearing.

Following a brief opening statement by Judge Sbarboro, the following individuals presented testimony:

1. David Kenney - Visiting Professor, SIU-Carbondale

Mr. Kenney offered a "yes and no" position on a convention, indicated that we have a good constitution, but there is some need for change. He stated that a meaningful amendment to the judicial article was needed, and that dealing with that question would be a crucial test for the General Assembly. He also suggested that the current system for legislative redistricting created too much internal tension, and that changes might be useful. In addition, he said that a broader popular initiative system (such as those in other states), if used responsibly, could benefit the state.

2. Frankie Eggemeyer - Republican write-in candidate, 116th District

Ms. Eggemeyer, using a baseball analogy, stated that there may be a need for a change in "the rules of the game," and that the voters in the 116th district were very concerned about property tax costs. Ms. Eggemeyer indicated that she was both pro and con in terms of a convention.

3. David Vaught - Attorney, Fairview Heights

Mr. Vaught's chief concern was education. He discussed cutbacks in education funding and the need to assure state funding of education in the state as well as property tax concerns related to education. He stated that a convention could allow the various general interests to develop a consensus on these issues. He also mentioned the need for a hearing in the Metro-East area.

Note: Jerry Costello and Senator Vince Demuzio are attempting to work out details for a hearing in the Metro-East area.

4. Linda Helstern - League of Women Voters, Jackson County

Ms. Helstern basically reiterated the state League's position, stating that there were three primary reasons for not holding a convention;

1. few significant changes are needed in the document;
2. a convention would open the entire document up to change; and
3. the costs of a convention could be better spent elsewhere.

5. Steven Groll - Student from Pana

Mr. Groll stated that he favored a convention, and that he wouldn't have another opportunity to participate for 20 years. He suggested that the merit selection issue needs to be addressed to help prevent corruption in the judicial system.

6. Mike Krerowicz - Student from Zion

A proponent of a convention, Mr. Krerowicz was primarily concerned with judicial selection. He stated that a uniform system was needed across the state.

7. Dan Garner - Student from Decatur

Mr. Garner discussed recall and merit selection to help prevent corruption in government. He favored a convention.

Two individuals submitted witness slips for a record of appearance only (no oral testimony). Bonnie Heidinger, a teacher from Alto Pass, opposed a convention. Mary Ann Barnes of West Frankfort was in favor of a convention.

The hearing was concluded at 9:05 p.m. by Judge Sbarboro. The next hearing is scheduled for May 12 at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Committee of 50 Hearing
University of Illinois/Chicago
May 12, 1988

SUMMARY

The Committee of 50 conducted its fifth public hearing on the Illinois Constitution in Room 605 of Chicago Circle Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago on Thursday, May 12.

The hearing was opened at 7:07 p.m. by Abner Ganet to begin the proceedings. Vice Chair Sister Candida Lund joined the panel at 7:14 p.m.

During the next 2 hours and 15 minutes, 17 individuals presented oral testimony to an audience that totalled 68 throughout the evening. Another three individuals submitted witness slips for a record of appearance.

The media was represented by the UI-C student paper and a neighborhood newspaper reporter, covering for the City News Bureau.

The Committee of 50 was represented by the following 8 members:

Sister Candida Lund-Vice Chair	Sheriff James O'Grady
Jonathan Baum	Judge Gerald Sbarboro
Abner Ganet	Timothy Wright
Senator Dawn Clark Netsch	Judith Calder

Following an opening statement by Mayor Ganet, the following individuals presented oral testimony.

1. Jack W. Roadman of Chicago
Vice President of the Illinois Manufacturers Association

Mr. Roadman indicated his organization felt there is no compelling reason to hold a new Constitutional Convention. "Conditions today are very different than 20 years ago when the last Constitutional Convention was held. Then, there was an outdated 100-year-old Constitution in effect."

While there are some problems to be addressed, they are not of the "magnitude" of those that required a sweeping re-examination. He cited a convention would be too costly, that it's working reasonably well, can be changed by amendment and that there is no need for a broadened initiative and referendum process.

Written testimony was provided.

2. Frederick J. Sperling of Chicago
President of the Chicago Council of Lawyers

Mr. Sperling urged a new Constitutional Convention to allow the citizens to vote on the issue of merit selection of judges, saying "the public has lost faith that our courts are fair and impartial." He also cited Operation Greylord.

He said that there is no longer a truly independent judiciary when judges must solicit campaign contributions to run for office as political candidates, and because the legislative has refused to pass a constitutional amendment on the issue for the people to vote, a new Constitutional Convention "is the only resource available to the voters of Illinois."

Upon questioning, he indicated that he was in favor of local option in the method of judicial selection.

Written testimony was submitted.

3. **Gregory Lewandowski of Chicago Heights**
Communications Director for Congressman Jack Davis (4th District)

Mr. Lewandowski read a statement from the Congressman which urged a new Constitutional Convention because of "perceived shortcomings of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 by the media and members of the General Assembly. [Mr. Davis was a member of the General Assembly for 10 years.]

He cited the following areas that should be addressed: Merit selection ... education funding levels ... property tax overhaul ... return to State School Superintendent direct election ... tax limitation language related to personal income or some other standard index ... return to cumulative voting and multiple member House Districts ["the 'cut-back' amendment was a mistake"] ... recall provisions ... direct legislative initiatives ... and reapportionment provisions "should be revisited."

Written testimony was submitted.

4. **Jushua K. Pang of Broadview**
President of Uju Industries, Inc.

Presented lengthy testimony as a proponent of a new Constitutional Convention, stating that such a convention could "provide an opportunity to save \$4 billion or more and a chance to cut overall taxes and bring more jobs." He discussed his bitterness with lawyers and problems of having served as a school board member and "undesirable practices of some school lawyers." He further discussed "unscrupulous lawyers and judges."

He indicated that he would detail his suggestions for his \$4 billion or more savings in a later "proposition."

Written testimony was provided.

5. **Mayor Anthony Vacco of Evergreen Park; and**
6. **Barry L. Moss of Highland Park ... a municipal attorney**

The pair appeared as representatives of the Illinois Municipal League to oppose a new Constitutional Convention. Mayor Vacco read the League's Resolution on their position and Mr. Moss presented a lengthy statement [which he paraphrased] as to the League's various points of view.

They indicated that the present Constitution "has proven to be beneficial to local government" and that it "contains provisions which have not yet been fully implemented by the Illinois General Assembly."

The Constitution has allowed cities and villages to "assume a much more dynamic, pro-active role in economic development" etc. He discussed Home Rule as a "new era" ... saying fears about Home Rule are about "what might happen." He also suggested changes in Illinois Municipal Law to strengthen government, Home Rule powers to more cities and villages, strengthen the Mandates Act, a comprehensive review of the provisions of the 1970 Constitution, restrict pre-emption of Home Rule powers, clarify and modernize municipal fiscal authority and to slow the erosion of the local property tax base.

Written testimony was provided.

7. **Edna Pardo of Chicago**
President-elect of the League of Women Voters of Chicago

Reiterated the League's position in opposition to a new Constitutional Convention, citing a fear that such a convention "would open the entire constitution to revision with the risk of losing many of the important gains achieved in 1970."

For changes such as merit selection, she suggested that "changes in representation in the legislature could be made with the same effort, without subjecting a good Constitution to the vagaries of a whole new examination and upheaval."

She felt that statute and amendment could take care of problems with the Constitution and that such documents "are not intended to be treated lightly."

Written testimony was provided.

8. **Nadine Boyle of Cicero**
A representative of the Can-Do Organization in Cicero

She is the wife of David Boyle, who testified at the SOIC hearing in Chicago on March 31, and reiterated the problems they perceive in Cicero in a very emotional, personal presentation.

A proponent for a new Constitutional Convention, she spoke for recall of local officials and binding referendum, citing unresponsive "corrupt" local politicians who ignore overwhelming referendum votes and petitions on local issues.

Hand-written testimony was provided.

9. **Joseph Wawrzyk of Chicago**
Director of the 5th Congressional District of the Citizens Utility Board

A proponent of a new Constitutional Convention, citing that people need more direct access into the system. He discussed taxation, especially property taxes ... ethics ... education and utilities. "Give the people a chance once in each generation" to have a Constitutional Convention. He says he finds "a feeling of helplessness in citizens as to not having any power to change things."

Hand-written testimony was presented.

10. **Martin A. Juricek of Chicago**
Vice President of a Southwest Chicago Business Association in the 18th Ward.

A proponent of a new Constitutional Convention, citing "regressive taxation" in the city of Chicago. He would like to run as a delegate to a convention, if called, and said that the head tax was regressive and that he had a "sense that Home Rule should be strengthened."

No written testimony was presented.

11. Robert Tucek of Bensenville

Mr. Tucek appeared as a proponent of a new Constitutional Convention, discussing the judiciary as his main concern. He would like to have the U.S. Constitution repeated as Illinois'. "Honor, truth and justice has been replaced by greed. Good judges allow evil to prevail."

No written testimony was presented.

12. Thomas J. McLoughlin of Chicago

Mr. McLoughlin suggested that a new Constitutional Convention, which he favors, could be financed by having every citizen charged \$3 a person.

He talked about taxation creating "empty stores" and said that high taxes is "bad for young people and property owners" that taxation and "all taxes are an imposition" and the we "need a tax set-up that encourages businesses, an equitable system."

No written testimony was provided.

13. Sheila McCone of Chicago

Chairman of Irish American Unity ... Coalition for Political Honesty ... Northwest Citizens for Governmental Reform.

A proponent of a new Constitutional Convention, she cited ethics in government, board of education reform and judicial reform.

No written testimony was provided.

14. Frank Piatek of Chicago

President of Act Now Civic Group, representing 2,500 families in the Riverview Park West area.

A proponent of a new Constitutional Convention, he cited real estate taxes ["seniors who can't afford" to live in their homes] and unqualified judges.

No written testimony was provided.

15. Thomas B. Quinn of River Forest

Represented the Coalition for Political Honesty and identified himself as Patrick Quinn's brother.

Mr. Quinn discussed the statewide concern for ethics and referendum initiative. He talked about 635,000 signatures that were collected to petition changes to guard against "double-dipping" ... paying legislators in advance ... and conflict of interest voting of members of the General Assembly.

He said, "In the last 12 years, nothing has been done. These are fundamental practices that affect the conduct of legislators. Double-dipping is a waste of dollars."

The referendum initiative "serves as a safety valve when legislators are out of step with the public."

Indicated he would file a written summary of his testimony.

16. Dwayne Wojtowicz of Berkeley

A student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, who has been involved in the political process and studied the election process for University of Illinois Trustees. A proponent for a new Constitutional Convention.

Questioned the method of voting for trustees -- "people for people rather than Democrats or Republicans" and the allocation of funds for University Centers within the system." He wants the office brought to the attention of the public.

No written testimony was presented.

17. Robert Kandelman of Chicago

Mr. Kandelman's "pet peeve" is the prohibition of car sales on Sundays. He asked "why single out dealers, and said it was an unfair restriction of trade, that free trade should be allowed and we should prohibit any law that stops free trade."

He also said that Jewish divorce law needs change.

No written testimony was presented.

Three individuals presented witness slips for record of appearances only and did not wish to present oral testimony. All three were proponents of a new Constitutional Convention. They were:

Joan Fletcher of Chicago
LaVerne Hickey of Chicago
Joan A. Sullivan of Oak Park

The hearing was concluded at 9:22 p.m. by Sister Lund. The next hearing was announced for the Stratton Building in Springfield, May 19, at 7:00 p.m.

Committee of 50 Hearing
DuPage Center Auditorium/Wheaton
May 12, 1988

SUMMARY

The Committee of 50 conducted its seventh public hearing on the Illinois Constitution at the DuPage Center Auditorium in Wheaton on Tuesday, May 24.

The hearing was opened at 8:12 p.m. by Lieutenant Governor Ryan. During the next hour and 20 minutes, 13 individuals presented oral testimony to an audience that totalled 72 throughout the evening.

The Committee of 50 was represented by the following 11 members:

Lieutenant Governor Ryan, Chair	Bonnie Heraty
Glen Bower	Jack Knuepfer
Judith Calder	Michael Kreloff
John Cockrell	Michael Pollak
Abner Ganet	Judge Gerald Sbarboro
Zale Glauberman	Timothy Wright

After an opening statement by the Lieutenant Governor, the following individuals presented oral testimony:

1. Donna Schiller of Barrington
Executive Director of Project Merit Selection (Chicago)

A proponent for a new Constitutional Convention, she described her lobbyist role the past 10 years for merit selection of judges. She felt that in 1988 the General Assembly would approve such a concept on the heels of the Greylord indictments and convictions, the Governor's Task Force on Merit Selection, the Solovy Commission report and strong media support.

Because it appears that the citizens will never be allowed to vote on a constitutional amendment providing for an appointive judiciary, "the only answer is a Constitutional Convention." She concluded by saying, "one-third of our government has seriously malfunctioned but fortunately there is a remedy."

Written testimony was provided.

2. Craig J. Steichen of Hanover Park

Mr. Steichen spoke on behalf of "fathers of those believing in freedom of speech." He took no position on the constitutional question and discussed being a divorced father and the problems therein.

No written testimony was provided.

3. Daniel J. Kairis of South Elgin

Mr. Kairis, a small businessman (owner of Video Impressions Plus), was a proponent for a new Constitutional Convention. He discussed his environmental concerns and working to prevent a waste dump in the vicinity of his home ... protecting "the rights of 200,000 people." He did not feel individuals were getting enough protection from the Illinois EPA.

Mr. Kairis also discussed petition and referendum and suggested an increase from the present limitation of 3 constitutional amendments on any one ballot.

No written testimony was provided.

4. Janice Kay of Wheaton

Representing the League of Women Voters, she reiterated the original testimony of the state League President, Mary Ellen Barry, in opposition to a new Constitutional Convention.

Written testimony was provided.

5. William S. Niemiec of Westchester

A proponent of a new Constitutional Convention, he discussed the "over-burden on taxpayers" ... and spoke in favor of petition and initiative.

No written testimony was provided.

**6. Patrick J. Leston of Glen Ellyn
President of the DuPage County Bar Association**

Mr. Leston indicated that his organization had no stated position on the Constitutional Convention ... but will take a vote on the matter in June.

However, he discussed the judicial selection process, and stated that merit selection "would better serve the public" as it would apply to circuit and associate judges.

No written testimony was provided. (The committee would be provided such testimony following the June vote.)

7. Ange Mahnke of Glen Ellyn

A member of the League of Women Voters of DuPage County, who agreed with the position of the State League in opposition to a new Constitutional Convention.

No written testimony was provided.

8. **Betty Cheever of Downers Grove**
President of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference.

Ms. Cheever presented a resolution from that group in opposition to a new Constitutional Convention.

She pointed out that the legislature needs to implement those local government areas of the Constitution yet to be addressed.

The written resolution was presented.

9. **Jim Player of West Chicago**

Said he was not fully a proponent for a new Constitutional Convention, but discussed referendum issues and stated that people need to be more informed. He also indicated that township government gives citizens more right to have input in their matters.

10. **Saint Grant Leverenz of rural Eola**

Mr. Leverenz seems to have a "grudge" against "lawyers and lawyer judges." His testimony was brief and somewhat confused.

It seems that a DuPage County Forest Preserve District took his home and property, and he has refused to accept their check. It is alleged he lives in his car. He was accompanied by a "friend," carrying a long bag. It was searched by one of the Lieutenant Governor's Troopers. It contained a camera tripod.

No written testimony was provided.

11. **Andrea Raila of Chicago**

Ms. Raila spoke as a private citizen. She indicated she was employed for four years as an appeals analyst for the Cook County Board of Tax Appeals under Patrick Quinn during his term.

A proponent of a new Constitutional Convention, she spoke about the "lack of uniformity in the assessment of real estate property" and proposed six changes:

1. Because there is non-conformity in assessment practices, constitutional language should allow for specific remedies.
2. There should be expressly written "rights" for individuals to be able to examine their personal real estate tax records file.
3. Enact "sunset" laws giving special taxing units 10-year lives.
4. Enact fairness amendment ... fully fund mandates ... fully fund schools.
5. Enact levy limits ... standard would ensure no increase over 10 percent ... approval needed from taxpayers for any levy increase over 10 percent ... "Truth in Taxation."
6. Reasonable cap on property tax rates ... i.e., 2 percent of the market value of homes.

[She noted that DuPage has the highest per capita taxes in the State.]

She concluded by asking the state to "end its addiction to property tax."

No written testimony was provided. However, she indicated that the notes she read would be transcribed and filed with the Committee.

12. Richard J. Haas of Chicago

A CPA and consultant, specializing in local government auditing.

He presented a lengthy document which took no position on the Constitutional Convention question.

His testimony suggested clarification of the State's Revised Statutes covering budgeting, financial reporting and auditing practices ... pointing to Article VIII, Section 4 of the 1970 Constitution. He said that legislation covering this section "sufficient to satisfy the intent of the framers has never been passed."

His document spells out the areas of clarification needed in order to gain public confidence in the various practices. He offered to provide the committee and any other interested parties "with a more detailed analysis of the issues."

His document was filed with the committee.

13. Jack T. Knuepfer of Elmhurst

DuPage County Board Chairman and member of the Committee of 50. He also served in the General Assembly as a member of both the House and Senate between 1965 and 1973.

His testimony details what he described as the 1970 Constitution's failure "to deal effectively with a number of important problems."

JUDICIAL ARTICLE - "was to have dealt with the problem of the courts being able to cleanse themselves ... to deal with corruption within their own body politic. That has been a distinct and complete failure." "A less significant problem is the dispute between the judiciary and the two other bodies of government as to the issue of auditing judicial account."

PROLIFERATION OF GOVERNMENTS - "That issue is so interwoven with the very fabric of government that only a Constitutional Convention would ever be able to deal effectively with it."

HOME RULE - suggested the expansion of these powers "to other units of general purpose government."

AMENDATORY VETO - "...ought to be dealt with in a constitution context rather than allowing the judiciary to spell out details. It ought not to allow the executive branch to write statutes, but ought only to allow a limited number of relatively minor changes."

He concluded by saying:

One of the immense advantages of a Constitutional Convention is that it takes people who would be classified as citizens rather than working politicians and allows them to look at government structures. Sometimes those of us who spend all of our time in the political world have too many constraints to see the kind of system which might be set up."

Written testimony was provided.

The hearing was concluded by Lieutenant Governor Ryan at 8:32 p.m.

Committee of 50 Hearing
Capital Development Board Room/Springfield
May 19, 1988

SUMMARY

The Committee of 50 conducted its sixth public hearing on the Illinois Constitution in the Capital Development Board Room of the Stratton Building in Springfield on Thursday, May 19.

The hearing was opened at 7:15 p.m. by Lieutenant Governor Ryan. During the next 2 hours and 10 minutes, 9 individuals presented oral testimony to an audience that totalled 57 throughout the evening. One individual filed a slip as a record of appearance; another filed written testimony.

The Committee of 50 was represented by the following 14 members:

Lieutenant Governor Ryan, Chair	Michael Kreloff
Glen Bower	Sen. Virginia Macdonald
Jerry Costello	Sen. Dawn Clark Netsch
Sen. Ralph Dunn	William O'Connell
Zale Glauberman	Michael Pollak
H.C. Hendren, Jr.	Sen. Harlan Rigney
Gayle L. Keiser	David Zeglis

After an opening statement by the Lieutenant Governor, the following individuals presented oral testimony:

1. **Joe Wilkins of Springfield**
Associate Professor of Management, Sangamon State University

An opponent of a new Constitutional Convention ... "no major overhaul of our State's chief legal document is necessary just two decades after it was ratified." Suggested that the "20-year" requirement should produce widespread and informed debate about the subject.

Because "Illinois' government is founded upon the principle of representative democracy," the people have the opportunity every two years to elect individuals "to help design our future." If the public is dissatisfied, legislators can be replaced.

Mr. Wilkins felt the reasons cited for having a new convention "can be effectively pursued by our elected officials without resorting to a Constitutional Convention." He also felt that the cut-back amendment was bad for the State.

He said that, "Our 1970 Constitution is a unique document. It is a sturdy piece of legal language which enjoys the flexibility of review every two decades. In effect, it enjoys the best of both worlds. I suggest that we should not allow its razing and reconstruction by those who may have been frustrated in their efforts to effect change through the legislative process."

He argued against a convention for certain narrow interest groups "who have been unable to accomplish their own parochial goals."

Written testimony was provided.

2. Ruth A. Wilber of Oreana

Ms. Wilber represents a group called Illinois Citizens of the Republic, which consists of more than 100 members around the state.

She presented a printed pamphlet entitled, "The Truth About the 1970 Illinois State Constitution -- 18 Years Later."

A proponent of a new Constitutional Convention, she presented a lengthy list of concerns that covered: police state, gun control, confiscatory taxation, unlimited spending, and metropolitan/regional government.

She contended that the 1970 Constitution "violates both the sovereignty of the people and the sovereignty of the state," and objected to provisions that "make sure government has the power," implemented by legislation. Pointed out the exemptions provided the City of Chicago and County of Cook as too much power.

Home Rule allows communities to adopt various taxes without referendum. And ... the state debt has grown from \$750,000 in 1970 to \$8.105 billion in 1987 ... with the state budget growing from \$2.4 billion to \$22 billion in the same period.

She stated that, "Education has lost its purpose. It has become a pawn in the grasp for power and subversion."

She concluded that, "In view of the changes brought about by the 1970 Constitution and the restrictive legislation which has followed, we believe the opportunity should be provided for the PEOPLE to make some corrections."

Written testimony was submitted through the published pamphlet.

3. Donald H. Defoe of Springfield

State Manager, Governmental Affairs - Caterpillar, Inc. of Peoria

An opponent of a new Constitutional Convention, he stated, "While a regular review of the constitution is desirable, change for change's sake isn't.

He listed several areas that could become major issues in a new convention, but ones which he argued were already safeguarded:

1. Fiscal and tax issues
2. Initiative and referendum
3. Cost

He concluded by saying, "The call for a full Constitutional Convention should depend upon the actual need for basic, structural changes to resolve current and future problems. That need hasn't been demonstrated."

Written testimony was provided.

4. Alice Lanich of Springfield
Local Government Chair, League of Women Voters of the Springfield Area

Ms. Lanich reiterated the League's statewide position in opposition to a new Constitutional Convention.

Written testimony was provided.

5. Don Hughes of Springfield
Legislative Manager, Illinois State Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Hughes reiterated the State Chamber's position in opposition to a new Constitutional Convention. [Same testimony as presented by David E. Baker, Executive Vice President of the State Chamber, in Chicago on March 31.]

6. Mary Lee Leahy of Athens

A delegate to the 1970 Constitutional Convention from the old 13th State Senatorial District (Cook County's largest) on the Southeast side of Chicago.

She has lived in three different areas of the state since that convention and practiced law in the same areas, saying "I have watched the implementation of the 1970 Constitution very closely and believe that it is serving the people of the state very well."

She discussed various areas she was closely associated with during the convention and how they have been working and/or implemented.

"It is my observation that those in favor of calling a new Constitutional Convention are doing so primarily on issues that should not be included in a Constitution, but rather should be left for legislative enactment. If those issues are that important and have significant public support, then that public support ought to be brought to bear upon the members of the General Assembly."

(NOTE: She answered Mrs. Wilber's contention that, "The boundaries of the State of Illinois as outlined in all previous State Constitutions are deleted in the 1970 State Constitution." The deletion was because boundaries are "based on Federal documents. Those contained in the 1870 Constitution were based on erroneous information.")

Written testimony was provided.

7. Thomas Kelty of Springfield
Chief Counsel, Illinois Municipal League

Presented a more detailed and complete (with attachments) written testimony from similar testimony presented by Municipal League representatives on May 12.

He said that he "fears erosion of local control."

Thomas Kelty continued

He indicated that needed changes could be made legislatively, including the Mandates ACT, and a comprehensive review of its provisions and working towards consolidation of units of government where there are duplications of tax districts. Provided a "stirring" defense of Home Rule ... and, responding to a question, favored reducing the population limit for Home Rule communities to 10,000.

Committee staff now has complete package of testimony.

9. Sam Cahnman of Springfield

An attorney who is a proponent of a new Constitutional Convention. He indicated he is now a Citizen's Utility Board representative, a former employee of the General Assembly and a lobbyist. Also ... he was a page at the 1970 ConCon.

He calls for a convention because of "the nature, structure of the institution of the General Assembly ... amendments (to the Constitution) cannot get through. Not a criticism, but a fact of life.

He favored the initiative process and mandate for joint nomination of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and refuted alarmist contentions of what might happen with the new Constitutional Convention.

He indicated that he "may" file a summation of his testimony; nothing written.

**9. Patrick Quinn of Oak Park
Citizens for Constitutional Amendment**

Mr. Quinn appeared to answer questions of him at the March 31 hearing.

Cost: Proposed "an economical, no-frills" budget of \$4,968,068.

He suggested that such a convention "can provide a good model for the General Assembly on how to economize in its own operations during the 1990s." He cited the property tax system ... the economic costs of political scandals ... education and educational finance reforms ... Constitutionally mandated ethics laws ... corruption in Illinois government.

He wants to "fine-tune the Constitution for the 21st Century, and contends that delegate selection could take place during regular election dates ... "You'd save a considerable amount ..." only \$1 million.

Length: No need for 9 months ... a "review of the Constitution" could be done in 3 months. "General Assembly has power of purse for a ConCon."

In response to questions:

1. Require state government to pay half the cost of education.
2. Require fully funded mandates.
3. Place a cap on property tax on residential property ... suggestion 2 percent of market value.
4. Need a revolution in public financing ... "we have an unstable, regressive tax."

Written testimony was provided.

Joyce B. Krueger of Belleville, President of the Illinois PTA, sent written testimony in opposition to a new Constitutional Convention.

Consensus of 947 delegates sitting in Convention in April 1988:

1970 Constitution is working well and does not need basic revision at this time ... a convention would open entire document and jeopardize important gains made in 1970 ... high cost ... satisfaction with the amendment process.

Brian Hopkins of Springfield, a legislative intern and Student Member of the Board of Regents representing the Illinois Student Association filed a slip as a record of appearance only.

The hearing was concluded by the Lieutenant Governor at 9:25 p.m.

Committee of 50 Hearing
City Hall Council Chambers/Rockford
May 26, 1988

SUMMARY

The Committee of 50 conducted its eighth public hearing on the Illinois Constitution in the Rockford City Hall Council Chambers on Thursday, May 26.

The hearing was opened at 7:14 p.m. by acting chairman Zale Glauberman. During the next one hour and 51 minutes, 6 individuals presented oral testimony to an audience that totalled 46 throughout the evening.

The Committee of 50 was represented by the following six members:

Zale Glauberman, Acting Chair	Gayle Keiser
Jonathon Baum	Michael Kreloff
Judith Calder	Judge Gerald Sbarboro

After an opening statement by Mr. Glauberman, the following individuals presented oral testimony:

1. Ron Schultz of Rockford

Representing Mayor John McNamara, who had to leave the city because of his father's critical illness.

Brief testimony supporting a new Constitutional Convention was read into the record.

"I believe extraordinary societal changes which have occurred over the past 20 years mandate that we examine our constitution with respect to our government's ability to develop visionary plans for the next generation and beyond."

Written testimony was provided.

2. Jeffrey A. Parness of DeKalb

Associate Professor of Law, Northern Illinois University College of Law

Presented lengthy theoretical testimony concerning "the allocation of responsibility for making laws governing the operation of courts and practice of law."

He indicated that his remarks "constitute an insufficient reason to convene a Constitutional Convention, but nevertheless is very important to the government and to the people of Illinois."

He suggested discussion, debate and change in the Illinois procedural lawmaking. Prim in his theory is that established guidelines for the operation of courts and the practice of law is now shared by the General Assembly and the Supreme Court -- "divided between the primary lawmaker, who initiates procedural law changes, and a secondary lawmaker, who possessed far less initial responsibility but who maintains some final power of review."

(Jeffrey Parness continued)

He traced various developments through the years and historical references in his testimony.

A detailed, expanded version of his testimony was filed, along with a written copy of his oral testimony.

3. Robert R. Canfield of Rockford

Mr. Canfield was a delegate to the 1970 Constitutional Convention. He also served in the Illinois Senate between 1957 and 1964 and the Illinois House between 1975 and 1976. He was the Winnebago County State's Attorney for eight years prior to his election to the General Assembly.

He presented his reflection on the 1970 process and reiterated the conclusions taken at the close of the Reconvening of the 1970 ConCon Delegates.

He said that "ultimately the courts will make rulings ... and that at this time there is no need for a complete convention."

4. Patrick Quinn of Oak Park Citizens for Constitutional amendment

Mr. Quinn made the observation that "asking the delegates to the 1970 Constitutional Convention to admire their work is akin to asking student to grade their own test papers."

He brought up a number of points:

- o The 1970 ConCon gave legislature powers to amend more simply and allowed limited initiative for citizens.
- o Hazardous waste wasn't an issue in 1970 ... people have the right to know about toxics and the Constitution should become specific.

(Note: the panel pointed out Article 11. Environment, Section 1. Public Policy -- Legislative Responsibility:

"The public policy of the state and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the implementation and enforcement of this public policy.")

He then listed a number of ConCon issues ... "for the record." ConCon is a forum ... once-in-a-lifetime for a new generation" who could not vote in 1970" ... with the following:

- o Sunset law for taxing districts ... have each one stand for election every 10 years.
- o The Governor and Lieutenant Governor run as a "team" starting in the primary election.
- o Local government referendum ... the "Rule of Three" should not apply to citizen-initiated referenda.
- o Size of County Boards.
- o How to fill a vacancy of an elected position.
- o Illinois Commerce Commission should be elected rather and politically appointed.

(Patrick Quinn continued)

- o Consumer rights are neglected ... economic rights in all variety of areas ... right to access to public mailings for consumer groups ... regulating and protecting insurance consumers.
- o Registering voters ... laws are obstacles to vote ... suggested registration by the mails ... when you register to drive a car should make you automatically registered to vote.
- o Ballot pamphlets are needed for ALL offices, providing information about candidates ... an aid to non-incumbants and those without the economic resources to speel out their views.
- o Power of recall for state and local officials ... keeps elected officials "on their toes."
- o Power in Constitution giving:
 - Legal standing to taxpayers to sue corrupt officials for damages.
 - "Treble damages are in order here."
 - To recover economic damages of corruptions in addition to criminal charges.

What do we have to fear from the voters is we elected two delegates from each Senatorial District. They'll make things better."

No written testimony was filed during his 44-minute testimony ... his third session in the eight hearings.

5. John Gustafson of Rockford
He is the 9th Ward Alderman and a teacher in District 205.

Mr. Gustafson testified as a proponent of a new Constitutional Convention.

Speaking as a teacher, he suggested that Article 10 [Education] add language to Section 1 [Free Schools] ... underlined:

A fundamental goal of the People of the State is the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capacities in an educational environment conducive to that development."

In the area concerning "primary responsibility" for financial, he suggested that include "local district mandates."

In the Environment Article's section on energy, he suggested that the State [to be added] "will design a State energy policy" with five-year projections of needs.

Concerning landfills, he would like to see included a "non-political body as the final decision-maker in settling on a location."

Speaking as an Alderman, he suggested changes in a municipality's ability to raise revenue ... modernize local government ... easing consolidations.

No written testimony was provided.

6. Michael V. Rotello of Rockford
Winnebago County Auditor and former Rockford Alderman

Discussed the confusion between the Constitution, law and statutes concerning the election of a County Chief Executive Officer as provided in Article 7 [Local Government], Section 4 [County Officers].

(Michael Rotello continued)

He suggested that a Constitutional Convention could clarify the issue of whether, by referendum, voters could opt for a Chief Executive with Home Rule status. Called it a "crucial area of structural government."

He also discussed property tax reform, particularly as it impacts on education, and ... urban counties vs. rural counties and the inherent problems. He suggested that the 25,000 threshold for Home Rule is "perhaps too low."

No written testimony was provided.

The hearing was concluded by Mr. Glauberman at 9:05 p.m.

Committee of 50 Hearing
State of Illinois Regional Office Complex
June 3, 1988

SUMMARY

The Committee of 50 conducted its ninth and final public hearing on the Illinois Constitution in the Conference Room of the State of Illinois Regional Office Complex in Collinsville on Friday, June 3.

The hearing was opened at 7:12 p.m. by Lieutenant Governor Ryan. During the next one hour and 20 minutes, 5 individuals presented oral testimony to an audience that totalled 25 throughout the evening.

The Committee of 50 was represented by the following five members:

Lieutenant Governor Ryan - Chair	Michael Kreloff
Jerry Costello	H.C. Hendren, Jr.
Dwight Friedrich	

After an opening statement by the Lieutenant Governor, the following individuals presented oral testimony:

1. **Harold D. Byers of Highland**
Former two-term Illinois House member

Mr. Byers lobbied for a Metro-East hearing at the March 31 Chicago hearing, in Carbondale on May 5 and in the area newspapers and radio.

Mr. Byers presented a number of items in support of a new Constitutional Convention:

Education -- "should be top priority of the Legislature ... not the White Sox" ... suggesting a change in the 8:5 tax ratio ... graduated income tax ... more corporate tax.

Advocated merit selection, stating support for local option ... Downstate and Chicago treatments.

Initiative option for citizens to participate.

Others: Length of Governor's terms (total number of years) ... election of Superintendent of Education ... amendatory veto.

No written testimony was presented.

2. **Bessie J. Kuhn of Collinsville**
Ms. Kuhn represented the Collinsville League of Women Voters, and reiterated the League's statewide stance.

No written testimony was presented.

3. **Martha Hull of Belleville**
President of the St. Clair County League of Women Voters. She reiterated the League's statewide stance, and indicated that members in St. Clair County were unanimous.

No written testimony was presented.

4. David H. Vaught of Fairview Heights

A proponent of a new Constitutional Convention, who previously testified at the Carbondale hearing.

Mr. Vaught expanded upon his previous testimony to answer questions posed at that hearing, particularly the issue of cost. He urged the Committee to bring out the fact that cost is a debatable item, ranging from \$5 to \$31 million dollars, and questioned the fairness of presenting this issue and a supposed bias of the Committee.

He listed his areas of concern, (Educational funding and how a new convention could correct that issue) presenting a five-point plan:

- A. Giving the State Board of Education specific spending authority.
- B. Require the Governor to report to the legislature the specific amount of money needed to achieve 50 percent funding each fiscal year.
- C. The Governor's veto power would be specifically limited to educational funding.
- D. In the event of failure to appropriate at least the minimum 50 percent educational funding level, specific authority for granting special sessions to remedy this situation.
- E. In the event the special session fails, the Supreme Court can be petitioned to re-allocate any budget that fails to achieve the "required" 50 percent funding.

He suggests a transition schedule to move into the 50 percent situation.

Written testimony was presented.

5. Paul Nixon of O'Fallon Township Supervisor of O'Fallon Township

Mr. Nixon also serves as Vice President of the Illinois Township Supervisors Association. He said the Constitution is a sound document, although not perfect. He also stated that a convention is not necessary to solve problems ... and the amendment process works.

"There is no clear or convincing evidence of the need for a complete overhaul of the Constitution when all it needs is a minor tune-up."

No written testimony was presented.

Pam Winslow of Fairview Heights sent the Committee written testimony in favor of a new constitutional convention ... indicating the state needs a "Fairness Amendment."

She commended the state for mandating high standards for education and supports a quality educational system, but decries the under-funding of education by the General Assembly. Citing property tax as too high, she urged the state to bear the burden of at least 50 percent of the financial burden and "all the cost of state mandates."

The Lieutenant Governor closed the hearing at 8:32 p.m.