

**SENATOR
SAM ERVIN
SAYS**



The Senate has passed by a unanimous vote the Federal Constitutional Convention Procedures bill (S. 1272), a measure which I introduced and have fought for continuously since 1967. A similar measure was approved by the Senate in the 92nd Congress, but died in the House with the adjournment of Congress.

I believe this bill ranks in importance with any other piece of legislation that will come before this Congress. It is surprising to me that we have not long ago closed the dangerous gap that has existed in our laws that would permit a constitutional convention to be called by two-thirds of the States with absolutely no rules to serve as guidelines for the procedures of such a convention.

The bill is designed to implement Article V of the Constitution, which provides, among other things, that Congress shall "on application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states call a convention for proposing amendments." From the foundation of the Republic to the present time, the States have submitted several hundred applications for a constitutional convention, but no precedent exists to serve as a guide to the States and the Congress in carrying out this method of amending the Constitution.

What the proposed Act, which has again been passed by the Senate, does is this. It requires (1) that the State use the same procedure for adopting convention applications as they use for the passage of statutes, but without the necessity of approval by the Governor; (2) that an application by a State for the call of a convention be announced in the Congress and in other State legislatures; (3) that such applications remain in effect for seven years, subject to rescission by the State Legislature unless two-thirds of the State legislatures have already submitted applications on the same subject or subjects, when such applications shall then remain in effect; (4) that when the requisite number of applications are filed with the Congress that Congress shall then pass a concurrent resolution calling for a convention.

The Act would require that the Convention be convened within one year after adopting by Congress of the concurrent resolution for its call, and provides that each congressional district have one delegate, and that two additional delegates shall be chosen at large from each state.

Each delegate would have one vote at the convention, and a vote of two-thirds of the delegates would be needed to submit an amendment to the states.

I hope that this time, the bill will receive speedy and favorable action in the House, and that it will be enacted into law before a constitutional crisis confronts the nation.

Saunas

In Finland, saunas are often built as separate cabins made of wood, sometimes roofed with sod, and preferably next to one of the nation's 70,000 lakes. In southern California they may be built in colonial Spanish style complete with curved roof tiles and plaster outside walls.

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