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Constitutional Convention Committee on Ordinances and Transition December 8, 1955

R. J. McNealy, Esq. Chairman of the Committee on Ordinances and Transition

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The latitude given to the Constitution was well expressed in Kamper v. Hawkins 1 Virginia, Cas. 20.

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"In support of this view, counsel for petitioner relies upon Section 1470 of the Penal Code, which provides that, 'if appeal is dismissed or the judgment affirmed, a copy of the order of dismissal or judgment of affirmance must be remitted to the Court below, which may proceed to enforce its sentence!

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"It would be a misfortune if such were the case. The guilt of the defendant was determined by the verdict of a jury in the City Criminal Court, and the judgment rendered upon such verdict has been sustained by the Appellate Court; yet it is claimed that the machinery of the courts is left insufficient, under the operation of the new Constitution, to enforce the judgment. The Court will endeavor to find an escape from such a conclusion, and in this case there is no real difficulty in doing so.

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"On the 1st day of January, 1880, the County Court of the City and County of San Francisco went out of existence,

the Superior Court succeeding to its powers and jurisdictions. The case now under consideration was then properly before the Superior Court, and that Court had the same power and jurisdiction over it as it would have had if the case had been in the first instance 'commenced, filed, or lodged therein'."

The importance (when framing the ordinances, schedules or for that matter the fundamental articles incorporated in the constitution proper) and following the principle of stare decisis particularly in adopting wording of other constitutions was borne out in the case of Stine v. Morrison 9 Idaho Reports 26 where the Court held as follows:

"Where any constitutional provision or wording is borrowed or adopted from another state the courts of which have placed a construction on its language it will be presumed that it was taken in view of such judicial interpretation and with the purpose of adopting the language as the same had been interpreted by the courts of the state from which it was taken.

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The court quoting Section 18, Article 6 and Section 13, Article 10 of the Constitution relating to the general elections to be had under the new constitution stated as follows: (Page 1014)

"that the relator having been elected for a term of two years, to commence in January, 1895, at the regular election held in 1895, regular elections for police magistrate in the district comprising the city of Omaha should be held every two years thereafter; that the office and the district still existed in 1901; that the above-quoted provisions of the Constitution are so far self-enforcing that an election held to fill such office, participated in generally by the people of Omaha at the general election in 1901, was a valid election for that purpose."

I have analyzed and made a list of a great deal of cumulative material enunciating some of the doctrines held by the courts on various subjects. A great deal of the material is purely cumulative and I wish to solicit an expression of an opinion from your Committee as to whether you desire such additional material and also any other questions not covered in the submitted memorands.

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