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Time Limits:

At the Executive Meeting of 17 February 1976 a motion was put forward by Nancy Wiggs that the Executive recommend to the membership that time limits of 3 minutes be put on each speaker and that someone be asked to volunteer to keep time since the Chair would be hard pressed to do this and to chair the meeting. The question was discussed at length and the Executive was divided on the matter. They therefore decided that the pros and cons of the argument would be placed before the membership for them to decide.

Pros:

1. Would prevent people from speaking for too long and therefore would allow more people to speak.
2. Would force people to collect their thoughts before they rise to speak, providing for more to the point and interesting presentations.

Cons:

1. A time limit is not going to solve the problems of membership meetings--the problem is not that some people speak for long periods, but rather that either no one speaks at all, or there is not enough time for speakers because of badly organized meetings, lack of order at meetings, or lack of preparation by people giving presentations or motivating motions.
2. Time limits are not necessary because very few people speak for longer than 3 minutes.
3. They would perhaps become unnecessary if the changes in agenda preparation and reporting instituted by the Executive on 17 February are successful because they might mean much less time wasted at membership meetings, allowing much more time for speakers.