



Shortly after Fabius had laid down his Dictatorship, Gaius Terentius Varro, was elected Consul.

He rallied the people, through the Roman assemblies, and won their support for his plan to abandon Fabius' strategy, and engage Hannibal directly.

The rashness of Varro did not surprise Fabius, but when Fabius learned of the size of the army (eighty-eight thousand soldiers) that Varro had raised, he became quite concerned.

Unlike the losses that had been suffered at the hands of Minucius, a major loss by Varro had the potential to kill so many soldiers that Rome might have had no further resources with which to continue the war.