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REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE/
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

STANDING RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

1:05 p.m.

Tampa Marriott Waterside
700 South Florida Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33602

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Folks, it's after 1:00. Let's
3 assemble. Grab something as a snack, grab something to
4 drink, and please take your seats. If there are
5 individuals out in the foyer, if you could have them
6 come on in. We need to get rolling, take a roll to see
7 if we have a quorum.

8 Committee members, if you could, take your
9 seats. We're informally counting noses and don't see
10 enough noses and butts in the seats to have a quorum.

11 I call this meeting to order. The first
12 order of business is I'd like to recognize Lilly Nunez,
13 the National Committeewoman for Colorado, to provide
14 the Invocation. Lilly?

15 MS. NUNEZ: Good afternoon. We thank you,
16 Lord, for giving us the strength to work to make our
17 country a stronger, safer, and more hopeful place. We
18 thank You for Your guidance and support, and are
19 grateful to You for showing how to leave our Nation a
20 better place for future generations to come.

21 As we gather here in Tampa, we are united by
22 one common theme. We believe in serving a cause
23 greater than ourselves. We believe that by working
24 together, we can serve Your calling to love our
25 neighbor and stand up for those in need.

1 Thank You for Your love, and thank You for
2 providing us the opportunity to stand here today to
3 make our Nation a more hopeful place. Amen.

4 [Chorus of amens.]

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you, Lilly. If I could
6 call upon Donna Lou Gosney, National Committeewoman
7 from West Virginia, to say the Pledge.

8 [Pledge of Allegiance.]

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: I'm going to try to talk a
10 little louder, but if we have an audio person available
11 to us that could maybe increase the volume, that would
12 be great.

13 I'd like to begin with some formalities to
14 introduce the head table. To my right is Enid
15 Mickelson, who's the Vice Chairman of the Standing
16 Committee on Rules and the National Committeeman for
17 Utah. Next to her is Susie Hudson, Recorder of the
18 Standing Committee on Rules, and National
19 Committeewoman from Vermont. And at the end of the
20 table is Sharon Giese, Parliamentarian and the National
21 Committeewoman for Arizona.

22 To my left physically, but not politically,
23 is Bill Crocker, RNC General Counsel and National
24 Committeeman from Texas. And John Phillippe, RNC Chief
25 Counsel.

1 At the counsel's table we have John Rakowski,
2 who has day-to-day charge of the committee, and the
3 rest of his able associates, who I thank you all for
4 the hard work that you all put into us being able to
5 run this committee.

6 At this time, I'd like to call upon Susie
7 Hudson, Recorder of the RNC Standing Committee on
8 Rules, and National Committeewoman for Vermont, to call
9 the roll.

10 MS. HUDSON: Thank you, Bruce. Alabama,
11 Bettye Fine Collins?

12 MS. COLLINS: Present.

13 MS. HUDSON: Alaska, Ralph Seekins?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Proxy.

15 MS. HUDSON: American Samoa, Amata Radewagen.

16 MS. RADEWAGEN: Present.

17 MS. HUDSON: Arizona, Bruce Ash.

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Present.

19 MS. HUDSON: Arkansas, Rita Hamilton.

20 MS. HAMILTON: Here.

21 MS. HUDSON: California, Linda Ackerman.

22 [No response.]

23 MS. HUDSON: Colorado, Lilly Nunez.

24 MS. NUNEZ: Here.

25 MS. HUDSON: Connecticut, John Frey.

1 [No response.]

2 MS. HUDSON: Delaware, Laird Stabler.

3 MR. STABLER: Here.

4 MS. HUDSON: District of Columbia, Robert

5 Kabel.

6 [No response.]

7 MS. HUDSON: Florida, Paul Senft.

8 [No response.]

9 MS. HUDSON: Georgia, Sue Everhart.

10 [No response.]

11 MS. HUDSON: Guam, Peter Ada.

12 [No response.]

13 MS. HUDSON: Hawaii, David Chang.

14 [No response.]

15 MS. HUDSON: Idaho, Cindy Moyle.

16 MS. MOYLE: Present.

17 MS. HUDSON: Illinois, Demetra DeMonte.

18 MS. DEMONTE: Present.

19 MS. HUDSON: Indiana, James Bopp.

20 MR. BOPP: Present.

21 MS. HUDSON: Iowa, Steve Scheffler.

22 MR. SCHEFFLER: Here.

23 MS. HUDSON: Kansas, Helen Van Etten.

24 MS. VAN ETTEN: Here.

25 MS. HUDSON: Kentucky, Gail Russell.

1 MS. RUSSELL: Here.

2 MS. HUDSON: Louisiana, Ross Little.

3 MR. LITTLE: Here.

4 MS. HUDSON: Maine, Jan Staples.

5 MS. STAPLES: Present.

6 MS. HUDSON: Maryland, Louis Pope.

7 MR. POPE: Here.

8 MS. HUDSON: Massachusetts, Ron Kaufman.

9 [No response.]

10 MS. HUDSON: Michigan, Sal Anuzis.

11 MR. ANUZIS: Here.

12 MS. HUDSON: Minnesota, Jeff Johnson.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Here.

14 MS. HUDSON: Mississippi, Jeanne Luckey.

15 [No response.]

16 MS. HUDSON: Missouri, Lance Beshore.

17 [No response.]

18 MS. HUDSON: Montana, Betti Hill.

19 [No response.]

20 MS. HUDSON: Nebraska, Mark Fahleson.

21 MR. FAHLESON: Present.

22 MS. HUDSON: Nevada, Heidi Smith.

23 [No response.]

24 MS. HUDSON: New Hampshire, Phyllis Woods.

25 MS. WOODS: Here.

1 MS. HUDSON: New Jersey, Virginia Haines.
2 [No response.]
3 MS. HUDSON: New Mexico, Pat Rogers.
4 MR. ROGERS: Here.
5 MS. HUDSON: New York, Jennifer Rich.
6 [No response.]
7 MS. HUDSON: North Carolina, David Lewis.
8 MR. LEWIS: Here.
9 MS. HUDSON: North Dakota, Curly Haugland.
10 MR. HAUGLAND: Here.
11 MS. HUDSON: Northern Marianas, Roman
12 Palacios.
13 [No response.]
14 MS. HUDSON: Ohio, Bob Bennett.
15 MR. BENNETT: Here.
16 MS. HUDSON: Oklahoma, James Dunn.
17 MR. DUNN: By proxy, Richard Engle here.
18 MS. HUDSON: Oregon Donna Cain.
19 [No response.]
20 MS. HUDSON: Pennsylvania, Robert Gleason.
21 MR. GLEASON: Here.
22 MS. HUDSON: Puerto Rico, Zori Fonalledas.
23 MS. FONNALLEDAS: Here.
24 MS. HUDSON: Rhode Island, Carol Mumford.
25 MS. MUMFORD: Here.

1 MS. HUDSON: South Carolina, Glenn McCall.
2 [No response.]
3 MS. HUDSON: South Dakota, Dana Randall.
4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Proxy.
5 MS. HUDSON: Tennessee, John Ryder.
6 MR. RYDER: Here.
7 MS. HUDSON: Texas, Bill Crocker.
8 MR. CROCKER: Here.
9 MS. HUDSON: Utah, Enid Mickelson.
10 MS. MICKELSON: Here.
11 MS. HUDSON: Virgin Islands, Liliana Belardo
12 De O'Neal.
13 MS. BELARDO DE O'NEAL: Present.
14 MS. HUDSON: Virginia, Morton Blackwell.
15 MR. BLACKWELL: Here.
16 MS. HUDSON: Washington, Jeff Kent.
17 [No response.]
18 MS. HUDSON: West Virginia, Donna Lou Gosney.
19 MS. GOSNEY: Here.
20 MS. HUDSON: Wisconsin, Brad Courtney.
21 MR. COURTNEY: Here.
22 MS. HUDSON: Wyoming, Greg Schaefer.
23 We have a proxy. Excuse me. I'll say this
24 again. We have a quorum, Mr. Chairman.
25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you, Susie. For the

1 purpose of the court reporter, any time anyone makes a
2 motion, proposes an amendment, or offers discussion on
3 any of the matters before us, please identify yourself
4 and your State so that the records can properly reflect
5 the action.

6 In front of you is the final agenda for this
7 Rules Committee meeting. Without objection, we'll
8 conduct the meeting according to that agenda.

9 [No response.]

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing no objection, let's
11 proceed.

12 The next item of business is the approval of
13 the minutes from the 2012 State Chairmen's meeting in
14 Scottsdale, Arizona. A copy of the minutes was mailed
15 to you, and a copy is before you today as well.

16 Is there any opposition to waiving the
17 reading of the minutes?

18 [No response.]

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: The Chair hears no objection,
20 and it's so ordered.

21 Is there a motion to approve the minutes?

22 MR. ANUZIS: So moved.

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Anuzis of Michigan. Is
24 there a second?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Actually Mr. Anuzis -- I'm
2 sorry. That's my bad. It's already been seconded.

3 Is there any discussion?

4 [No response.]

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, all those in
6 favor of approving the minutes from the 2012 State
7 Chairmen's meeting, signify by saying aye.

8 [Chorus of ayes.]

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: All opposed, signify by saying
10 nay.

11 [No response.]

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it, and the
13 motion passes.

14 Just for some opening remarks, as we begin
15 the review of rules, I want to remind all of you of the
16 charge that is given to this committee under Rule
17 10(a)(1). "There shall be a standing committee on the
18 rules of the Republican National Committee to review
19 and propose recommendations with respect to the rules
20 of the Republican Party."

21 This is the last meeting of our Standing
22 Committee on Rules, which means that we will review all
23 of the proposed rule amendments that this committee has
24 adopted over the past three years. We will then
25 present all of these rules and the amendments to the

1 full RNC at the general session tomorrow.

2 The rules amendments adopted tomorrow by the
3 full RNC -- is there anything we can do about the
4 reverb? The rule amendments adopted tomorrow by the
5 full RNC will be forwarded to the Convention Committee
6 on Rules for its discussion and review on Friday. It
7 will be the Convention Rules Committee report that is
8 ultimately presented to and voted upon by the full
9 delegation of the 2012 Republican National Convention
10 in order to adopt the new rules of the Republican Party
11 for the next four years.

12 This is a very important meeting, so I
13 appreciate your time and attention as we conduct our
14 business this afternoon.

15 Before proceeding to discussion on the rules,
16 I'd like to take a few minutes again to go over some
17 procedural matters so that this committee can function
18 efficiently and effectively throughout the meeting
19 today. We have quite a bit of business, and it is
20 crucial that we all adhere strictly to the proper
21 procedural rules so we can get through everything.

22 First, if you would like to bring a proposal
23 -- an amendment to the body, please rise, be
24 recognized, state your name, title, and State you
25 represent. Then present your amendment in the form of

1 a motion. In order for your motion to be discussed,
2 debated, and voted on, it must be first made and then
3 seconded. So please don't begin by speaking on your
4 motion until it has been properly seconded and the
5 Chair has recognized you to begin debate. At that
6 point, the discussion surrounding the amendment shall
7 take place.

8 When discussion has ended, I'll restate the
9 motion that is to be voted on, and a vote shall take
10 place as to whether or not the motion shall pass.
11 Votes will by default take place as voice votes. A
12 majority vote is needed to pass a motion adopting a
13 rule amendment. If a voice vote is too close to
14 determine and a member rises and declares division or
15 standing vote, then a standing vote will take place.
16 We will defer to a standing vote instead of a hand vote
17 because it's easier to count those standing.

18 If during the course of discussion on a
19 particular rule amendment a member would like to put
20 off taking a vote on the motion until later in the
21 meeting, then a motion must be made to postpone the
22 motion to a time later in the same meeting. The motion
23 to postpone must be then seconded and voted on. It is
24 debatable. If the motion passes, then the original
25 motion will be postponed, but if a motion fails to

1 pass, then discussion on the original motion will
2 continue.

3 Motions being brought may be amended. To
4 amend a motion, a member may rise, be recognized, and
5 offer an amendment to the motion. The amendment to the
6 motion must be seconded, and debate on the amended
7 language will ensue. Note that only the amended
8 language can be debated and discussed when an amendment
9 to the motion is properly made and seconded. The
10 amendment to the motion will be voted on just like the
11 other motions. Please note that a motion to postpone
12 may not be made to an amendment of an original motion.

13 If there comes a time in our meeting when
14 procedurally the meeting is becoming too complicated or
15 confusing, perhaps to the Chair, I will interrupt the
16 discussion and will try to clarify the situation. If a
17 member has questions as to whether a motion is properly
18 being considered or if any other rules are being
19 properly followed, that member may rise to make a point
20 of order. By making a point of order, the member calls
21 on the Chairman for a ruling or clarification of the
22 rules of order. A point of order takes precedence over
23 any pending question, and I will ask the member to
24 state his or her point of order, and then I will rule
25 on that point of order.

1 If at any time you're unsure of hat's being
2 debated or what will be the effect of a vote on a
3 motion, you can rise to a point of information. This
4 is for you to ask the question, not to give information
5 on it.

6 To end debate on a motion immediately, a
7 member must be recognized by the Chairman -- that's
8 myself -- and make a motion for the previous question.

9 This is non-debatable and requires a two-thirds vote
10 to pass. If it passes, this motion closes debate and
11 brings the committee to an immediate vote on the
12 pending motion.

13 Upon properly moved, seconded, and passed
14 motion for the previous question, the original motion
15 being debated will proceed directly to a vote.

16 Again, I'd like to emphasize the purpose of
17 going through these procedural rules is to make our
18 meeting today proceed as efficiently and effectively as
19 possible.

20 We'll now move on to new business.

21 The consideration of proposed rules
22 amendments in front of you today, you're going to find
23 a working copy of the rules. This is a line copy.
24 When referring to a certain passage, please refer to
25 the page and to the line number which will keep us all

1 on the same page and allow for an easier understanding
2 of the discussion and any amendments being proposed.

3 As you're all aware, I asked the committee to
4 submit proposed rule amendments to the RNC Counsel's
5 office in advance of this meeting, the idea being that
6 those amendments that were timely submitted would first
7 be considered as rule amendments to be discussed in
8 sequential order this afternoon. The Counsel's office
9 received a number of pre-submitted amendments -- rule
10 amendments, which have been made available to members
11 of this committee before today's meeting
12 electronically, and were placed at your seats today.

13 Please note that it is possible that not all
14 of the pre-submitted amendments will be offered today.

15 They were pre-submitted and then distributed to the
16 committee so that you would have them and have a chance
17 to review them and consider them before today's
18 meeting. But some members may decide not to offer the
19 amendment that they pre-submitted.

20 The pre-submitted rule amendments were
21 reviewed by the Counsel's office, and small grammatical
22 changes were made in a few cases. If for some reason
23 you recognize your amendment was changed in a
24 substantive manner, please make that known, and the
25 corrections will be made.

1 As I mentioned earlier, when you address the
2 committee, for the sake of the court reporter, please
3 state your name and your State as well as your
4 position. Please step up to the mic and allow your
5 comment to be fully recorded for the record. Also as
6 we proceed through today's meeting, please make sure
7 that you direct your discussion through myself,
8 Chairman of the committee, and not to the individual
9 members.

10 Unless there's any questions, we'll go ahead
11 and proceed to the pre-submitted amendments to the
12 rules. We'll first take rules 1 through 10. Are there
13 any amendments to be submitted? Mr. Bopp?

14 MR. BOPP: Thank you. Okay, thanks. Jim
15 Bopp, Indiana. The first four amendments that I have
16 all address the same subject, so let me explain.

17 When I first read the rules, I noticed a lot
18 of inconsistency --

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: We're getting off to a bad
20 start.

21 MR. BOPP: You're right. I'm sorry.

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: If we could state the first
23 amendment.

24 MR. BOPP: The first amendment -- thank you.
25 The first amendment is to amend Rule 10(a)(4) on page

1 18, line 7, to insert before the words "committee on
2 site," the word "standing," and then also to insert
3 after the word "site" the word "selection."

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: There's a second. Please
7 begin with your discussion.

8 MR. BOPP: Thank you. And I'm sorry about
9 that, Mr. Chairman. We've considered over 250
10 amendments in the last two days in the Platform, so I'm
11 on a roll.

12 [Laughter.]

13 MR. BOPP: When I first read the rules, the
14 terminology was confusing with respect to committees.
15 Frequently, committees established by Rule 10(a), which
16 are committees specified in the rules, such as the
17 Rules Committee, the Resolutions Committee, were
18 referred to as standing. Some of them, some of them
19 weren't.

20 With respect to the committees established by
21 Rule 40, which are committees made up of delegates to
22 the National Convention, some of those committees were
23 referred to as convention committees and others
24 weren't.

25 And then there's a third category of

1 committees established by Rule 10(c), which are
2 committees that are formed at the discretion of the
3 Chair. And those committees are referred to as
4 committees.

5 So I have brought amendments. The four
6 address the use of the word "standing" in order to
7 standardize the terminology so that all committees that
8 are created by Rule 10(a) would be referred to as a
9 standing committee. All committees established by Rule
10 40, which are made up of delegates to the convention,
11 would be referred to as convention committees. And
12 then all of the committees established by Chairman
13 appointment and at discretion pursuant to 10(c) would
14 be referred to simply as committees.

15 So the only other change -- so in the first
16 four amendments I have, it inserts the word "standing"
17 before "committees established by Rule 10(a)."

18 The only other change in the first amendment
19 is a slightly change in the terminology of the
20 committee called Committee on Site. If we would add
21 the word after site the word "selection."

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: But we just want to take the
23 one we can -- do we want to discuss all of them at this
24 one time?

25 MR. BOPP: Both of these are in the first one

1 that I'm just referring to.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay.

3 MR. BOPP: That is amending the section on
4 the Committee on Site. It has two changes. One is
5 putting "standing" before the word "committee," and
6 secondly, adding at the end of the name of the
7 committee "selection," so the name of the committee
8 would be "Committee on Site Selection," and you'd know
9 what it's about.

10 So that is my first amendment.

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there any other discussion
12 or debate?

13 [No response.]

14 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other further discussion?
15 Phyllis Woods?

16 MS. WOODS: Phyllis Woods, National
17 Committeewoman, New Hampshire. I wonder if I might ask
18 the committeeman for an, in his legal capacity, to give
19 us a definition of standing. My understanding in
20 reading the rules initially as they're written is that
21 standing committees refer to committees of the RNC, and
22 that there was a clear designation by not referring to
23 other committees that were expressly related to the
24 convention as convention committees as opposed to
25 standing committees. So could you clarify?

1 MR. BOPP; Yes, and that is the distinction,
2 Madam Committeewoman, that I am making here, that 10(a)
3 uses the word "standing" to refer to RNC committees,
4 all of whom -- all of which are established by Rule
5 10(a). And then we would use the word "convention" in
6 Rule 40 to refer to committees that are committees of
7 the national convention. So that is the terminology
8 I'm recommending.

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. The Chair
10 recognizes Morton Blackwell.

11 MR. BLACKWELL: Morton Blackwell, National
12 Committeeman of Virginia. I want to commend Mr. Bopp
13 for taking the time to do this. Our rules are long and
14 reasonably complex. And his proposals are, I believe,
15 welcomed and will add a clarity and internal coherence
16 to the rules. I support his proposal.

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: any other discussion or
18 debate?

19 [No response.]

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll move on to
21 a vote on the motion that is before us at this time.
22 Does everybody understand the motion?

23 [No response.]

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those in favor, signify by
25 saying aye.

1 [Chorus of ayes.]

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed, say nay.

3 [No response.]

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it, and the
5 motion passes unanimously.

6 Mr. Bopp.

7 MR. BOPP: Thank you. And of course since
8 I'm the only one that pre-submitted the first --

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: You don't have to introduce
10 yourself again. We'll just kind of do this on a --

11 MR. BOPP: I'm afraid I'm going to be up here
12 a little bit at the beginning of this meeting, and I'll
13 be happy to relinquish the microphone when that time
14 comes.

15 The second one in order is an amendment to
16 Rule 10(a)(6), which is the rule creating the Committee
17 on Call. And it's on page 20, line 3, which similarly
18 inserts the word "standing" before the words "committee
19 on call."

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second?

21 MS. VAN ETTEN: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: A second by Helen Van Etten.
23 Any discussion? Mr. Bopp?

24 MR. BOPP: I think I've explained the theory.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other discussion or

1 debate?

2 [No response.]

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll now move
4 to a vote on the motion before us.

5 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

6 [Chorus of ayes.]

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed, signify by
8 saying nay.

9 [No response.]

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it, and the
11 motion passes unanimously.

12 Mr. Bopp?

13 MR. BOPP: The next amendment is the next
14 amendment in order to Rule 10(a)(7) on page 20, line
15 16. This is the section that creates the Committee on
16 Arrangements. And we would be inserting the word
17 "standing" before the words "committee on
18 arrangements."

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Do I hear a second?

20 MS. RADEWAGEN: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: A second from Amata Radewagen.
22 Any discussion or debate?

23 [No response.]

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll move
25 directly to a vote.

1 All those in favor of the motion before us,
2 say aye.

3 [Chorus of ayes.]

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed, signify by
5 saying nay.

6 [No response.]

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it, and the
8 motion passes unanimously.

9 Mr. Bopp.

10 MR. BOPP: Thank you. The next in order is
11 to Rules 10(a)(7), also Rules 23 and 24. I specify the
12 numerous pages and lines. And this amendment is to
13 insert in every place I could find where the words
14 "committee on contest" was utilized, the word
15 "standing" so that it would read, "standing committee
16 on contest."

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second?

18 MR. ENGLE: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: I'm having a hard time seeing
20 you.

21 MR. ENGLE: Richard Engle of Oklahoma.

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Richard Engle, okay. Mr.
23 Bopp, do you care to proceed?

24 MR. BOPP: I think I've presented my point.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Any discussion or

1 debate?

2 [No response.]

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll move ahead
4 to a vote on the motion. All those in favor to approve
5 this amendment, say aye.

6 [Chorus of ayes.]

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed, signify by
8 saying nay.

9 [No response.]

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: The motion passes unanimously.
11 Mr. Bopp, the floor is yours.

12 MR. BOPP: And here, I hope we don't create
13 too much confusion. But I have three amendments in
14 order to place the word "convention" before the
15 "convention committees." The first one is a -- I think
16 it's the seventh one. It's to Rules number 21, 24, and
17 26 on various pages and lines, which would insert
18 "convention" before the words "committee on
19 credentials" in every place I could find where the use
20 of the word "committee on credentials" was found.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: And we're now in that set of
22 rules from 21 through 29.

23 MR. BOPP: Could we take that up now?

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Pardon me?

25 MR. BOPP: Could we take that up now?

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Could we dig what up?

2 MR. BOPP: Could we go ahead and take that
3 up?

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Oh, no, sure.

5 MR. BOPP: Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: We'll come to that. Is there
7 a second to Mr. Bopp's motion?

8 MS. VAN ETTEN: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Second by Helen Van Etten.
10 Mr. Bopp?

11 MR. BOPP: I think I've explained my
12 rationale.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Any discussion or
14 debate?

15 [No response.]

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those in favor of the
17 motion, please signify by saying aye.

18 [Chorus of ayes.]

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposition, say nay.

20 [No response.]

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, the motion
22 passes unanimously.

23 MR. BOPP: All right. The next one is an
24 amendment to Rules 26, 32, 33, and 40, to place the
25 word "convention" before the phrase "convention on

1 resolutions." That's the -- oh, wait, wait. I'm
2 confused. Yes, I'm sorry. Strike all that.

3 It is the correct resolution -- the correct
4 motion to amend. That is numbers 26, 32, 33, and 40.
5 Here I'll fix the convention phraseology in a minute.
6 Here I'm moving to change the name of the Committee on
7 Resolutions to the Convention Committee on the
8 Platform. I have found since I started coming to --
9 I'm sorry, that's my motion.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Is there a second to
11 the motion?

12 MS. COLLINS: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: A second by Bettye Fine
14 Collins. Mr. Bopp, please proceed.

15 MR. BOPP: Thank you. What I have found
16 since I began coming to Platform Committee meetings in
17 1980 is that everybody refers to the committee as the
18 Committee on Platform. And what you find out is
19 actually there is no such committee. It's actually the
20 Committee on Resolutions.

21 That may have been appropriate term in 1850
22 or something when we didn't have a platform, but we had
23 resolutions. But it's perfectly plain now that we have
24 a platform. And I think having an antiquated name is
25 simply confusing because even in our agenda, it says

1 "Committee on Resolutions, Platform," because we need
2 that reminder.

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to Mr.
4 Bopp's motion?

5 MR. FREY: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: A second by Mr. Frey. Mr.
7 Engle.

8 MR. ENGLE: What is the proper means by which
9 a question can be asked?

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: If you could introduce
11 yourself.

12 MR. ENGLE: Okay. Richard Engle, Oklahoma.
13 What is the proper means by which a question could be
14 asked of the maker?

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: You make a -- ask for a point
16 of information and ask your question.

17 MR. ENGLE: Okay, a point of information. Is
18 there any situation in which this committee deals with
19 anything, any type of resolutions that are not the
20 platform?

21 MR. BOPP: There is one provision of the
22 Convention Committee rules -- that is, the temporary
23 rules, Rules 25 through 41 -- that says that if any
24 resolution is presented to the convention, that that
25 resolution is referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

1 Now I would change that to say the Committee on the
2 Platform. So that is the only place I have seen any
3 reference to a resolution. And that is how it is
4 disposed of by that rule.

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: And if I could, Mr. Engle, do
6 you concur, Mr. Phillippe and Mr. Crocker, with what
7 Mr. Bopp just stated?

8 MR. PHILLIPPE: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. So I think we have some
10 consensus.

11 MR. ENGLE: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Does that answer your
13 question?

14 MR. ENGLE: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other questions? Any
16 other debate or discussion?

17 [No response.]

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll go ahead
19 and proceed with the vote.

20 All those in favor of this amendment as Mr.
21 Bopp has stated it, please say aye.

22 [Chorus of ayes.]

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed, signify by
24 saying nay.

25 [No response.]

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it, and the
2 motion passes unanimously.

3 Mr. Bopp, please continue.

4 MR. BOPP: Okay. Now this is to Rule Number
5 33 and 40(d) is the next one I'd like to take up. This
6 one inserts in front of the phrase "committee on rules"
7 the phrase "convention" when we are referring to the
8 Rules Committee that is made up of delegates to the
9 national convention, as opposed to this Rules Committee
10 on Rules.

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to Mr.
12 Bopp's motion?

13 MR. FREY: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Frey. Any further
15 discussion that you wish to have on this, Mr. Bopp?

16 MR. BOPP: No.

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Any other comments?

18 [No response.]

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll go ahead
20 and directly proceed to a vote.

21 All those in favor of Mr. Bopp's amendment,
22 please signify by saying aye.

23 [Chorus of ayes.]

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: All opposed, signify by saying
25 nay.

1 [No response.]

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing no opposition, the
3 motion passes unanimously.

4 MR. BOPP: The next one I'd like to take up
5 is to Rule 40 on page 60, line 14. And this where --
6 the use of the word "committee" is found lower case in
7 that rule when the reference is to convention
8 committees as opposed to committees appointed by the
9 Chairman under 10(c) or committees established under
10 10(a).

11 So we would insert before the word
12 "committees" -- I mean, yes, before the word
13 "committees" in the appropriate places in that section
14 the word "convention," so the reference would be clear.

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to the
16 motion?

17 MS. RANDALL: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: I'm not sure who --

19 MS. RANDALL: South Dakota.

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: South Dakota. Okay, thank
21 you. Mr. Bopp, please proceed.

22 MR. BOPP: I have no further statement on the
23 motion.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any debate or questions?

25 [No response.]

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll proceed
2 directly to a vote.

3 All those in favor of amending as Mr. Bopp
4 has suggested, please say aye.

5 [Chorus of ayes.]

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposition, say nay.

7 [No response.]

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing no opposition, the
9 motion passes unanimously.

10 Mr. Bopp?

11 MR. BOPP: Yes. I wanted to get in order
12 here. I'd like to take up the rule -- the amendment to
13 Rule 13(a)(5) on page 27, line 10. This refers to
14 Subsection 5. This rule involves determining the
15 number of national delegates that are going to be in
16 each State's delegation.

17 Section 5 has actually two parts that are
18 much different. The first part of Subsection 5 refers
19 to the increase in the number of delegates if your
20 State votes for the previous Republican nominee for
21 President. The second part of it refers to the
22 awarding of specific delegates if, for instance, a
23 majority of your congressional delegation is a
24 Republican, if, for instance, your State legislature is
25 Republican, if, for instance, your governor is a

1 Republican.

2 Since they are -- since this section combines
3 two concepts of awarding delegates, all I am doing is
4 separating them into separate sections, leaving in
5 Section 5 the awarding of delegates if your State was
6 carried by the preceding presidential nominee. And in
7 putting in Subsection 6, the awarding of specific
8 numbers of delegates for those other events, electing a
9 Republican governor, for instance.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second?

11 MS. MUMFORD: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Second by Carol Mumford. Mr.
13 Bopp, would you like to explain further?

14 MR. BOPP: I'm just trying to prevent
15 confusion that does not exist in the rest of this
16 section, but does exist in this subsection.

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other debate? Mr.
18 Blackwell?

19 MR. BLACKWELL: This particular -- Morton
20 Blackwell, Virginia. This particular section is kind
21 of sacred to me. It was adopted in 1972 at the
22 national convention where there was a major reform of
23 the allocation process.

24 And the reason it's fairly sacred to me is
25 that the -- and I just give you this for historical

1 interest. The principle speaker when this was
2 contested on the floor of the convention, the principle
3 speaker before the national convention advocating these
4 provisions was none other than the Governor of
5 California, Ronald Reagan. Thank you.

6 [Laughter.]

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there any other debate or
8 questions, discussion? Mr. Bopp?

9 MR. BOPP: I think we have suitably honored
10 his memory by keeping this confusion within the Rules
11 Committee up until now.

12 [Laughter.]

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: If there's no other debate or
14 discussion, we'll move ahead with the vote.

15 All those in favor of the amendment, please
16 say aye.

17 [Chorus of ayes.]

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposition, say nay.

19 [No response.]

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing no opposition, the
21 motion passes unanimously.

22 Mr. Bopp?

23 MR. BOPP: Yes. First, an amendment to Rule
24 25, page number 51, line 19, which would clarify the
25 responsibility of the Republican National Committee in

1 setting out the agenda for the convention.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second?

3 MR. MCCALL: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. --

5 MR. MCCALL: Glenn McCall, South Carolina.

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: -- Glenn McCall, South
7 Carolina. Mr. Bopp.

8 MR. BOPP: Thank you. In this section, the
9 Republican National Committee is authorized to
10 establish the order of business for the convention.
11 There are other aspects of the -- of setting out the
12 order of business that are incident to establishing the
13 order of business that is not explicitly provided for
14 in this rule. And it could be misinterpreted or
15 interpreted as only allowing a list of items.

16 This would explicitly permit there to be
17 established a time frame for the consideration of
18 particular items, the time and dates that they would be
19 considered, the procedural rules, if any, that would
20 specifically apply to the consideration of any
21 particular item such as when a report of the Platform
22 Committee is submitted. You might provide for how long
23 debate on any amendment would be allowed.

24 So it allows the Republican National
25 Committee to do what I think is all incident and

1 important agenda setting responsibility by establishing
2 the order of business.

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Do we -- I can't
4 remember. Do we have a second on this? I think it was
5 Mr. McCall. So we'll call upon Mr. Engle for his
6 point.

7 MR. ENGLE: Richard Engle, Oklahoma. Point
8 of information. Would this, if passed, amend the
9 authority of our Convention Committee on Rules or the
10 authority of the convention to adopt its own rules? In
11 other words, does it empower the Republican National
12 Committee to do things that currently the convention
13 does for itself through the Rules Committee?

14 CHAIRMAN ASH: One moment. Mr. Phillippe, do
15 you want to -- do you care to comment?

16 MR. PHILLIPPE: Can I take a minute?

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Just a half second, Mr. Engle.

18 MR. BOPP: I have an answer to that question
19 if you would like to hear it.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Let's hear from Counsel first,
22 and then if there's a further comment, I'd be happy
23 to --

24 Mr. Phillippe, do you want to -- care to
25 comment on the record?

1 MR. PHILLIPPE: Sure. As the language is
2 purely permissive and doesn't mandate anything, I think
3 it would be fine.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Bopp, do you concur?

5 MR. BOPP: I concur with that point. I also
6 would say that under Rule 31, it explicitly allows the
7 convention by majority vote to suspend any rules. So
8 if a majority was unhappy with the order of business,
9 times allowed, procedures that are specified, then a
10 majority of the convention has the power to fix those.

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Does that answer your
12 question, Mr. Engle?

13 MR. ENGLE: It would seem to me that
14 clarifying language that would specify that the
15 convention can adopt rules to the contrary would be
16 more clear. But I understand your point.

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: I call upon Bettye Fine
18 Collins.

19 MS. COLLINS: Bettye Fine Collins from
20 Alabama. I just wanted the Parliamentarian and Counsel
21 to give some -- have some input into this and the need
22 for it. We can, you know, put in enough things in this
23 to try to control every bit of it, but is it necessary?
24 And I would like them to respond.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Well, let's hear from the

1 Parliamentary first.

2 MS. GIESE: This has really nothing to do
3 with Robert's. It's basically a procedure thing that
4 you would be -- that the group would have to vote on up
5 or down. so it doesn't really concern parliamentary
6 things. I think more of a legal opinion would be more
7 proper at this time.

8 MS. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Crocker, Legal
9 Counsel, would it prohibit suspension of the rules if
10 the majority -- is that the purpose of the amendment?

11 MR. CROCKER: You know, we need to take into
12 account that when we are in convention, we are
13 operating not under Robert's Rules of Order --

14 MS. COLLINS: That's what I thought.

15 MR. CROCKER: -- but under the U.S. House
16 rules. And unless we have somebody who knows exactly
17 what those rules provide, we're not sure what the
18 effect of this might be.

19 It looks as though it's innocuous because it
20 says this -- this order of business that is prepared by
21 the RNC may contain these additional details. This may
22 be helpful in order to script the convention for prime
23 time, if you will. I don't know that it's absolutely
24 necessary, but I don't know that it's harmful either.
25 It looks innocuous to me.

1 MS. COLLINS: Well, if it isn't necessary,
2 then I see no need to address every little thing about
3 it. And this is one thing that I personally feel is
4 unnecessary. I don't see the need for it.

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Little?

6 MR. LITTLE: I'm in favor of this.

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: If you could just introduce
8 yourself for the reporter.

9 MR. LITTLE: Ross Little, Jr., National
10 Committeeman, Louisiana. I'm in favor of this. We're
11 proceeding first according to Rule 25. I didn't hear
12 the answer on the point of information. But Rule 25
13 says the convention shall proceed in the order of
14 business prepared or printed by the Republican National
15 Committee, right?

16 And all you're doing here is expounding a
17 little bit on what I believe is really inherent in that
18 power, which was, I think Ms. Bettye Fine Collins'
19 point. It's really not necessary, but I believe it's
20 extremely helpful to have this explicitly stated in the
21 rules to allow to have the appropriate order of
22 business for our convention. So I rise to support Mr.
23 Bopp's amendment.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other debate or questions?

25 No response.]

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll go ahead
2 and move directly to a vote.

3 All those in favor of Mr. Bopp's amendment --
4 and I would like him to restate it again for just one
5 moment because we've had a little bit of interplay back
6 and forth.

7 MR. BOPP: It would add a new sentence to
8 Rule 25 on page 51, line 19, "The order of business may
9 include the time and date for consideration of any item
10 of business, the time limit assigned for consideration
11 of any item of business, and the procedural rules for
12 the consideration of any item of business that are not
13 inconsistent with these rules."

14 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any questions on the motion?

15 [No response.]

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those in favor of the
17 motion, please say aye.

18 [Chorus of ayes.]

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposition to the motion,
20 say nay.

21 [Chorus of nays.]

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. The ayes have it. The
23 motion passes.

24 Mr. Bopp?

25 MR. BOPP: Thank you. Now as to Rule 31 on

1 page 5, line 9 and 11. Here Rule 31 permits a
2 suspension of the rules by a majority vote of the
3 convention; that is, any of the temporary rules.
4 That's Rules 25 through 41.

5 As you will soon here, temporary rules are
6 the rules from time to time that we adopt for purposes
7 of governing the national convention. The other rules
8 govern the RNC and other items. These would be
9 referred to under Robert's as standing rules. And they
10 -- and so we have this Rule 31 that says a rule can be
11 suspended by a majority vote. It's not clear what it's
12 referring to. Which rules?

13 And what I would add is "these temporary"
14 before the word "rule" so it is clear that the -- we
15 are referring in Rule 31 to the suspension provision.
16 We are referring to the temporary rules, Rules 25
17 through 41. We're not referring to the other rules.

18 And the second is to clarify -- the rule as
19 currently written doesn't say of those present and
20 voting or what. And so the additional sentence would
21 provide that the motion to suspend "shall be adopted by
22 a majority vote of delegates present and voting." It
23 would add the "present and voting" concept.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to the
25 motion?

1 MR. MCCALL: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. McCall of South Carolina.

3 Any other debate or discussion on this?

4 [No response.]

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Bopp, do you have anything
6 further to add?

7 MR. BOPP: No, thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: No other debate or discussion?

9 [No response.]

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll move
11 directly to a vote. Mr. Little, if you could stand and
12 approach the microphone, please, and identify yourself.

13 MR. LITTLE: Ross Little, Jr., Louisiana.

14 When we're in the convention and we've adopted the
15 rules at the convention, are they then properly
16 referred to as temporary rules?

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: You're making a point of
18 information?

19 MR. LITTLE: Yeah, I guess that's a question.

20 MR. BOPP: The answer is I have an amendment
21 to fix that issue.

22 [Laughter.]

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other discussion?

24 [No response.]

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Phillippe would like to

1 add comments.

2 MR. PHILLIPPE: Well, and to respond
3 directly, once these rules are adopted on Monday --
4 next Monday for the convention, these are the permanent
5 rules of the convention, right? And they will be -- if
6 the convention does what it's done in every prior
7 cycle, they will be the temporary rules of the 2016
8 convention, and basically be placeholders until the
9 first day of that convention, at which point all the
10 rules governing that convention will be permanent rules
11 of the convention.

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: So is Mr. Bopp's --

13 MR. PHILLIPPE: I'm not sure what his other
14 amendment does, so -- at this point without the other
15 amendment, it wouldn't seem to -- the temporary part
16 wouldn't seem to fit here.

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. So if I can depart
18 from procedure here just for a moment, why don't you
19 share with us how you intend to fix this, and then
20 we'll come back. And if it truly does, we'll look at
21 your original motion.

22 MR. BOPP: All right. The amendment to Rule
23 41.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: So let's go to Rule 41, folks.

25 MR. BOPP: Page 62, lines 8 and 9. This

1 would delete the sentence and add a revised sentence
2 that says, "Upon the adoption of the report of the
3 Convention Committee on Rules and Order of Business,"
4 which is what John was just referring to, "Rules 52 and
5 41," which are referred to as temporary rules in the
6 document -- in the rules -- "shall constitute the
7 standing rules of this convention and the temporary
8 rules for the next convention."

9 So we have -- while Robert's Rules of Order
10 supports the exact proposition that John set out, is
11 that Rules 25 through 41 are temporary for the next
12 convention. But once you get to the Monday of the
13 convention and adopt these rules, then Rules 25 through
14 41 become the permanent, or the phraseology used in
15 Robert's is "standing rules" for that convention.

16 So that is to fix the ambiguity where it says
17 about temporary rules.

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. And I think Mr.
19 Rakowski, the members don't have -- do they have this
20 one on their desk?

21 MR. RAKOWSKI: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay, all right. I wasn't
23 sure.

24 MR. RAKOWSKI: The last one in the packet.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. All right. So I'm

1 going to call upon Mr. Engle for his point, and I'd
2 like you to refer it to the original motion being made.

3 MR. ENGLE: Yes. I am speaking of Rule --

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: If you could identify
5 yourself.

6 MR. ENGLE: Richard Engle, Oklahoma. If this
7 amendment passes, it appears that the only mechanism by
8 which the convention can suspend rules is as temporary
9 rules. They would not be able to suspend permanent
10 rules once made permanent in that convention. Correct
11 me if I'm wrong, but it appears that there is no
12 mechanism to suspend any rules other than temporary
13 rules.

14 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Phillippe, any comment?

15 MR. PHILLIPPE: I'm thinking about it. I
16 think I agree, but Mr. Bopp might have a response to
17 that.

18 MR. BOPP: Well, what I'm trying to address
19 in the amendment to 41 is that Rules 25 through 41 are
20 consistently referred to as temporary rules. And what
21 I'm saying in the amendment to 41 is that once they're
22 adopted, they are now the standing rules for this
23 convention, so that when you -- so that means that all
24 temporary rules are now the standing rules for the
25 convention. And that means that Rule 31 continues to

1 be effective, and that is it is a provision of the
2 temporary rules now considered standing rules, you see?

3 Now considered standing rules of the convention and
4 can be suspended by majority vote.

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. I'm going to call
6 upon -- does that answer your question, Mr. Engle?

7 MR. ENGLE: Yeah. Clear as mud.

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. I'm going to call upon
9 Mr. Ryder. We're talking about the original motion.

10 MR. RYDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. John
11 Ryder, Tennessee. Mr. Bopp's having way too much fun.

12 [Laughter.]

13 MR. RYDER: My understanding, and I want to
14 direct this to counsel, is that under the theory of
15 governance of the Republican Party, the convention is
16 the supreme authority. And so the rules that are
17 adopted by the convention then can be suspended at any
18 time by that supreme authority, which is it adopts the
19 rules. It can suspend the rules.

20 Once the convention adjourns sine die, then
21 those rules cannot be amended because there is no body
22 that has the competence to amend those rules unless
23 that authority is specifically delegated as it was in
24 Rule 10(d) four years ago.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Somebody want to say something

1 into the microphone?

2 MR. RYDER: The question is, is that a
3 correct interpretation of our rules?

4 MR. CROCKER: I believe that is correct.

5 MR. RYDER: All right.

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Is there additional
7 debate or discussion on Mr. Bopp's original motion?
8 Ms. Mickelson?

9 MS. MICKELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Enid Mickelson, National Committeewoman from Utah. And
11 perhaps this comment is best directed to counsel.

12 I'm concerned only about on line 11, the
13 delegates present and voting. What's our current
14 standard for determining whether the rules are to be
15 suspended? Is it a majority of the delegates elected,
16 or is it a majority of those present and voting?
17 Because I can foresee an instance, say, on a Monday
18 afternoon where you have less than a majority of the
19 delegates present where you could have a relatively
20 small minority be able to suspend the rules.

21 MR. CROCKER: I would suggest -- you served
22 in the House. You're probably more familiar with the
23 House rules than we are. What is your thought that --
24 as to what the burden would be to suspend the rules
25 before and after this amendment?

1 MS. MICKELSON: Well, in the House, it would
2 always be 435 as your measurement. It wasn't a present
3 and voting. It was -- a majority was half of 435 plus
4 one. And so I'm concerned here that we may be lowering
5 the standard by which a group has to has enough support
6 to suspend the rules.

7 MR. CROCKER: It's been my concern also.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Blackwell?

10 MR. BLACKWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 Morton Blackwell, Virginia. I would like to ask what
12 constitutes a quorum of the national convention,
13 because ordinarily, a body can have percentages of the
14 vote required, and it's a valid vote as long as there
15 is a quorum.

16 So is there a requirement for a quorum of all
17 of the delegates in order to conduct business? Is that
18 the case? I confess I do not know.

19 MR. CROCKER: My understanding is that under
20 the U.S. House rules, as you've heard Ms. Mickelson
21 suggest or say, is that there is no quorum. It's a
22 majority of the total membership of the body.

23 MR. BLACKWELL: In order to --

24 MS. MICKELSON: I was going to say, quorum
25 calls are a regular occurrence to ensure that you have

1 a complete quorum of the House, which would mean that
2 you have, as I said, 435 plus one.

3 MS. CROCKER: Not just those present and
4 voting.

5 MS. MICKELSON: Right.

6 MR. BLACKWELL: Mr. Chairman, that can't be
7 because we on extraordinarily rare occasions ever have
8 435 people there. If that were the requirement of a
9 quorum, probably a majority of the legislation was
10 considered in the absence of a quorum. I think we need
11 to reconsider this. I don't think that's correct.

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Phillippe?

13 MR. PHILLIPPE: We've got confirmation from
14 Counsel to House Rules or to the House that it actually
15 takes two-thirds to suspend the rules under House
16 rules, a quorum being present. So it would be two-
17 thirds of members voting and present. And I believe
18 it's a majority.

19 MR. CROCKER: Or being present.

20 MR. PHILLIPPE: Right. A quorum being a
21 majority.

22 MR. BLACKWELL: That's of those present, not
23 two-thirds of the whole membership.

24 MR. PHILLIPPE: Correct.

25 MR. BLACKWELL: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Ryder?

2 MR. RYDER: John Ryder, National
3 Committeeman, Tennessee. I move to amend the proposal
4 by Mr. Bopp to delete the phrase "present and voting"
5 at the end, so it will be "a majority vote of the
6 delegates." And I would ask Counsel for guidance on
7 this.

8 If we have a defined term of allowed
9 delegates, or delegates that have been seated, or
10 whatever the appropriate term is after the -- so that
11 the number is whatever it is on the roll of the
12 convention.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Could you just
14 restate that again?

15 MR. RYDER: Delete the words "present and
16 voting" from the end.

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Are we getting that up on the
18 screen? I know. I just want to make sure it's up on
19 the screen so that everybody can see what --

20 MR. RYDER: And add before the word
21 "delegates seated."

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Is there a second to
23 the amendment? Is there a second to Mr. --

24 MR. POPE: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Pope, okay. Do we have it

1 up on the screen yet? Okay.

2 Further discussion on the amendment?

3 MR. BOPP: On the amendment.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Bopp.

5 MR. BOPP: Thank you. I don't care which one
6 we do. We can do a majority of the seated delegates,
7 meaning as in the idea of the House rule, or we can do
8 present, voting. Either way, I have no -- I could care
9 less.

10 The problem with the rule is that it didn't
11 say which one we're utilizing. And so this -- either
12 way would clarify, and that was my intent.

13 MR. PHILLIPPE: And I could clarify I think
14 why it doesn't say it. Because under the rules the
15 convention is governed by House rules, that inherently
16 means it's two-thirds of those present and voting. And
17 that's what the current requirement is under House
18 rules, and, therefore, the convention rules to suspend
19 rules at the national convention. That's why that
20 language isn't in there.

21 MR. BOPP: I'm sorry, I didn't understand
22 that. The current rules of the House are what?

23 MR. PHILLIPPE: The current rules -- the
24 convention operates under the rules of the House of
25 Representatives. Under the rules of the House of

1 Representatives, it takes a two-thirds vote of those
2 present and voting in order to suspend the rules.

3 MR. BOPP: Yeah, except for Rule 31 says
4 majority. So that is what governs, not the House
5 rules.

6 MR. PHILLIPPE: Well, I believe the majority
7 in Rule 31 is just talking about the majority of a
8 delegation in a State to make a motion to suspend the
9 rules.

10 MR. BLACKWELL: Morton Blackwell, Virginia.
11 Is it not true that whatever we put in the rules of the
12 Republican Party would supersede any provision in the
13 House rules, that we would be operating under the House
14 rules so as long as they are not inconsistent with the
15 rules of the Republican Party. Is that not true?

16 MR. PHILLIPPE: That is true. I was simply
17 explaining why the language is written as it is,
18 because it would've superfluous to include that because
19 that is what's in the House rules.

20 MR. BLACKWELL: So the national Party rules
21 provisions with respect to suspension of the rules
22 would supersede the House rules in this regard.

23 MR. PHILLIPPE: Correct.

24 MR. BLACKWELL: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any further comment or debate?

1 Mr. Ryder?

2 MR. RYDER: Yes. Again, John Ryder,
3 Tennessee. If I understand Mr. Phillippe's comment
4 that he's referring to Rule 32 in the booklet, 31 in
5 the black line, which deals with the majority
6 requirement within a State delegation for the making of
7 the motion to suspend rules. It would still be
8 appropriate to have it referred to a majority of the
9 seated delegates I suppose since you might have
10 delegates who aren't seated. But I'm not sure that
11 it's as critical a change as we thought it was
12 initially.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Bopp?

14 MR. BOPP: Whichever way we go, we've had
15 conventions of States plagued with these very debates
16 that we are just having right now on what does a rule
17 mean. The House rules of course we are using is like
18 the Wizard of Oz. Nobody knows what the House rules
19 say, except for the guy behind the curtain.

20 And so, you know, all I'm trying to seek here
21 is clarity of which standard we're using. This is now
22 either way the amendment goes a clear standard so we
23 know what standard is being used. And we won't be
24 plagued by the fights over rules and rules and calls
25 for order and all the arrests.

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Engle?

2 MR. ENGLE: Richard Engle, Oklahoma. I have
3 to stand to oppose the motion as it's made in that it
4 dramatically reduces the threshold required to suspend
5 the rules from two-thirds to a majority inasmuch as
6 House rules require a two-thirds to make the
7 suspension. And I believe that that's a good
8 threshold, a super majority.

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Do we have further
10 comment or debate?

11 [No response.]

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any further comment or debate
13 on the amendment?

14 [No response.]

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any further comment or debate
16 on the amendment?

17 [No response.]

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we're going to
19 go ahead with a vote on the amendment offered by Mr.
20 Ryder of Tennessee, which we see up on the board.

21 All those in favor of the amendment as has
22 been stated, please say aye.

23 [Chorus of ayes.]

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposition, say nay.

25 [Chorus of nays.]

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it.

2 Yeah. So the amendment has been adopted.

3 We'll now need to go back to the motion and -- are we

4 voting on this again? Okay. Pardon me?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Further debate on the

6 motion?

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Is there further debate

8 on the motion itself?

9 [No response.]

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll proceed to

11 a vote.

12 All those in favor of the original motion

13 with the amendment, please say aye.

14 [Chorus of ayes.]

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposition, say no.

16 [Chorus of nays.]

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. The ayes have it.

18 Mr. Bopp?

19 MR. BOPP: Thank you. I'd now like to move

20 to Rule 41, the clarifying language that on page 62,

21 lines 8 and 9, that clarifies --

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: This is what you had referred

23 to before, correct?

24 MR. BOPP: That I referred to before that

25 would help us deal with the phrase "temporary," and

1 what that means, and what the use of the Rules 25
2 through 41. And this clarifies that Rules 25 and 41,
3 once adopted by the convention constitutes the standing
4 rules for the convention.

5 And by the way, you could say "permanent
6 rules" of the convention, this convention, I don't
7 care. : "Standing rules" I chose because it's in
8 Robert's and refers to this very thing, and the
9 temporary rules for the next convention.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to the
11 motion?

12 MS. JOSLIN: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Second by Debbie Joslin. I'm
14 looking at Ralph's. By Debbie Joslin of Alaska.

15 Any discussion and further debate?

16 [No response.]

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any discussion or debate?

18 [No response.]

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll move
20 directly to a vote.

21 All those in favor of Mr. Bopp's amendment,
22 please say aye.

23 [Chorus of ayes.]

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposed, say nay.

25 [No response.]

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing no opposition, the
2 motion passes unanimously.

3 MR. BOPP: Okay, two more. Line 29, page 54,
4 lines 15 through 17, which would change the
5 parliamentary authority for our convention from the
6 rules of the House of Representatives to Robert's Rules
7 of Order.

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second?

9 MR. MCCALL: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Second by Mr. McCall of South
11 Carolina. Discussion, debate?

12 MR. BOPP: I actually went online and got the
13 House rules. I sent those to everyone. If you look
14 through those 50 pages, you see creation of the House
15 Ethics Committee. Do we have to create a House Ethics
16 Committee in our -- at our convention? It says things
17 about the post office and franking privileges.

18 You know, I'm sure this got in, you know, in
19 1850 when it made maybe some sense. We didn't have
20 Robert's Rules of Order. People weren't used to that.

21 The Speaker of the House has traditionally been the
22 chairman of our convention, presumably familiar with
23 the House rules.

24 I compared this to Wizard of Oz where nobody
25 knows what's in the House rules except for the guy

1 behind the curtain. You know, when we seek -- when I
2 sought parliamentary authority for some of these
3 propositions that I've already talked about the
4 convention, like what are the temporary rules, what do
5 they mean, what does that mean, are the standing rules
6 of the convention, there is nothing in the House rules
7 about that. There is in Robert's. Robert's is very
8 robust about explaining rights in a -- rights
9 procedures, et cetera, in a convention.

10 Now by my count, about five of the 50 pages
11 of the House rules have any remote application to our
12 convention. There are dozens of pages of Robert's that
13 has applicability.

14 I think one of the things that leads people,
15 that we have seen in some of our conventions, to have
16 problems with how the convention is being conducted is
17 they don't know what the rules are. And they suspicion
18 that what you are telling them is the rules because it
19 refers to an authority that they're completely
20 unfamiliar with, is you're trying to manipulate the
21 convention.

22 If we use Robert's, everyone would have
23 access to it, and they would know when they look at
24 Robert's, because they tell you, you know, what are the
25 rules apply to a mass convention, which is what we

1 have, or to a small committee, which is what we also
2 have? You know, and so you know people will have the
3 opportunity to know.

4 The only thing I've heard substantively about
5 this is somebody was thinking that the House rules
6 gives the Chairman of the convention more authority
7 than Robert's. I cannot figure out by looking at the
8 House rules what the justification for that proposition
9 is. I don't see that there.

10 If it would in a way that we favor, we could
11 put it in the rules. In other words, if that's the one
12 aspect that's a nice thing that the convention chairman
13 can do something, whatever it is, and I can't figure
14 that out, that Robert's doesn't allow that we want him
15 to do, well, we can just amend the rules and put it in
16 there.

17 So that's the justification for the change.

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Let's hear from Ms. Mickelson.

19 MS. MICKELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Enid Mickelson, National Committeewoman from Utah.

21 I respect what Mr. Bopp is trying to achieve,
22 and that is to have the delegates feel invested and
23 have complete control over the convention. However, I
24 have to say having chaired conventions under Robert's,
25 as we all have, but also I had the great honor to act

1 as Speaker Pro Tem on a number of occasions in the
2 United States House, including during the Defense of
3 Marriage Act, which became rather spirited.

4 And it's my experience that the rules of the
5 House of Representatives allow the Chair more control
6 in a large body. When you have 435 people, all of whom
7 think they have the answer, you have to be able to have
8 rules that allow the Chair to maintain control of the
9 debate. And I believe that allowing the House rules to
10 govern for the convention session allows us the control
11 -- that allows to keep control of what people are
12 seeing coast to coast. To lessen those rules in any
13 way certainly invites someone who does not want to see
14 our convention succeed the opportunity to get up and
15 start making dilatory motions, which we've all seen at
16 our State conventions under Robert's.

17 So having acted under both of these rules, it
18 would be my strong recommendation that we maintain the
19 House rules for the convention main session. We have
20 Robert's for every other subcommittee where it's
21 smaller, where we can deal with, you know, the motions
22 that are brought up. And in most of those committees,
23 we've got people on those committees who are
24 parliamentarians themselves. But when you get into a
25 convention where a lot of people don't have that

1 background, I think you need to have the additional
2 protections provided by the House rules.

3 And I urge you to vote against this
4 amendment.

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: I call upon Bettye Fine
6 Collins.

7 MS. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Bettye Fine
8 Collins, National Committeewoman from Alabama. I speak
9 in opposition to this amendment. This is a major
10 change, and we're talking about two different sets of
11 rules, as I understand it. We're always under the
12 guidance, and that's all Robert's Rules of Order is.
13 It is simply a suggested form of order.

14 The concern I have about all this is I've
15 never missed a Rules Committee meeting of this
16 committee, and I've served on it for 15 years. Here we
17 are at the 11th hour before we send our final report,
18 half the seats are empty, and this is all just being
19 handled as routine business. Serious substantive
20 changes to the way we operate the convention should've
21 been brought up early on and had plenty of time for
22 debate, discussion. And here we are in this situation.

23 And so I'm opposed to it. I hope that
24 everybody in this room -- some of you may not have
25 served on the Rules Committee throughout all these

1 months, but we're just handling these kinds of things
2 as if they were routine when we have debated an hour on
3 less consequential matters in the past. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Sir?

5 MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, my name is David
6 Lewis, and I'm the National Committeeman from North
7 Carolina. It's been a long flight, I apologize. I'd
8 like to speak on this amendment if I can, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Certainly.

10 MR. LEWIS: Thank you. I'd like to perhaps
11 add a big more context to some of the debate that has
12 been put forth. The main authority that the U.S. House
13 rules grant, which was also found in the Mason's
14 Legislative Book, which is the one that most of our
15 State legislators use, is House Rule -- I believe it is
16 Roman numerals. But it's House Rule 17.

17 And what that says is that the Chair can
18 recognize someone for a purpose. Under Robert's Rules,
19 once you get the floor, you can do whatever you want to
20 do. Under the U.S. House rules, you have to be
21 recognized to do a certain thing. In other words, I
22 asked could I speak on this, but I could have just as
23 easily, once we got the floor under Robert's move that
24 we adjourn.

25 We don't need to make this change, and I

1 would respectfully ask you to vote no.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Mr. Blackwell?

3 MR. BLACKWELL: Mr. Chairman, there is no
4 question but that our national conventions are packaged
5 for television. And there is some merit in that.
6 Sometimes matters are deliberately squelched that might
7 come out of committee reports by a presumptive
8 candidate -- presumptive nominee's campaign making sure
9 that there isn't a sufficient minority to force a floor
10 battle. And that has sometimes angered people who were
11 even in the majority and found out that they were in
12 the minority such that they couldn't have a floor
13 battle.

14 That having been said, I think it is fair to
15 say that the national conventions have in general
16 produced fair results. And there are protections for
17 minorities under our rules and under how we operate.

18 I shudder to think of a Republican national
19 convention when 25 delegates, one after the other,
20 would stand up and move whatever they wanted to move.
21 Under Robert's Rules, you could do that. Under the
22 rules of the House, you can't do that.

23 And I think while there are things about the
24 current rules and the centralized control, which have
25 been frustrating to us. If you've got something you

1 want done and the convention is going on, you just try
2 to get up there to recognized by the -- whoever is
3 chairing the convention. Good luck. There are armed
4 guards preventing you from getting up there and doing
5 it.

6 But I think -- I got to congratulate again,
7 as I did at the outside, Jim Bopp for his wonderful
8 effort, which is going to benefit us. And I
9 congratulate him further with the order in which he has
10 presented his amendments, because we went through
11 amendments that all of us could agree to and did agree
12 to. And the amendment which would make the greatest
13 amount of changes in the conduct was the last one.
14 He's got a lot of momentum built up, and I've been with
15 him --

16 [Laughter.]

17 MR. BLACKWELL: I've been with him along the
18 way, but I advocate voting down this amendment. Thank
19 you, Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you, sir. Mr. Little?

21 MR. LITTLE: No, sir, I don't need to be
22 recognized.

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: That was short. Mr. Bopp.

24 MR. BOPP: Short closure. I thank Mr. Lewis
25 for being the first person to identify anything

1 specific that the House rules -- how the House rules
2 differs from Robert's in a way that we ought to
3 consider it. And also he has given us the authority
4 for the proposition that the }Chairman of the
5 convention would have more authority to deny people the
6 ability to make motions and be recognized for other
7 purposes.

8 I would support adding to our rules that
9 substantive provision that would limit the authority of
10 the convention -- would provide the authority for the
11 convention Chairman to recognize a speaker for a
12 specific purpose and on other. So that can be fixed in
13 our rules.

14 Secondly, we adopted an amendment to Rule 25.

15 That rule provides that the RNC has the authority to
16 establish "procedural rules for consideration of any
17 item of business." Thus, the RNC could adopt as part
18 of the order of business the procedural rule that one
19 could only be recognized for a specific purpose by the
20 Chair, and would be limited to that purpose. And that
21 would be a standing rule of the convention. So I think
22 we have ample mechanisms to solve this.

23 Now the final point is, I would've brought
24 this up earlier if I had've thought of it.

25 [Laughter.]

1 MR. BOPP: And when I thought of it, I sent
2 you all out an e-mail. So, Ms. Collins, I'm not
3 popping this on you at this moment. I sent out an e-
4 mail. I gave you the link to the House rules so that
5 you could consult them. And plus invited discussion
6 about what are the benefits and not benefits.

7 Now so, but if this body feels that this
8 matter ought to be deferred for consideration, frankly
9 I don't object to that either. But I think it's time
10 that we get off of this dead horse called the House
11 rules and get into a situation in which our delegates
12 can know and understand their rights of participation,
13 because without that, we're inviting trouble that we
14 could avoid by simply making it clear. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: We're going to have as some
16 additional closing comments, General Counsel Bill
17 Crocker.

18 MR. CROCKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've
19 been asked to express the concern of the Counsel's
20 office, and advise you that the convention is already
21 scripted. And all the teleprompters and all the other
22 things that are in the computers behind the screen are
23 already done based on the House rules.

24 I don't know what the difference is in all
25 honesty. I'm supposed to get a briefing between now

1 and next Monday so that I'll be as smart as anybody in
2 the room about the House rules. Maybe as little
3 information as I have been able to find about House
4 rules, I may be the smartest person in the room next
5 week.

6 But all that to say that if they have to go
7 back and rescript the convention, they've got a huge
8 logistical problem that I would hope we wouldn't impose
9 on them.

10 And then let me say just one other thing.
11 Just as a plain old member of the Rules Committee,
12 which sometimes I wish I were so I could get out there
13 and join the debate, let me suggest to you that nobody
14 here I hope is saying that the House rules are unfair
15 or produce an unfair result. They are a mystery to
16 most of us. I think we understand that a Chairman in a
17 large group can exercise more control over the process
18 under the House rules than a Chairman can under the
19 Robert's Rules. That's not necessarily bad.

20 I don't know that we've ever seen an abuse of
21 that authority. I suspect we won't see it this
22 convention. I would suggest to you that all this could
23 explored, and we won't have to worry about fixing
24 Robert's Rules in order to accomplish what we want to
25 see accomplished. Maybe it's already done in the House

1 rules if we'd just understand them.

2 And I would think it might be better in this
3 instance to defer this really significant discussion.
4 And I want Jim Bopp to have an opportunity to respond
5 to what I've said.

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: One minute, please.

7 MR. BOPP: Thank you. In light of the
8 discussion, I would like to move to table this
9 amendment. I will not be here when this committee
10 meets the next time, but I would urge the -- you know,
11 due consideration of this question. And if it is
12 warranted, if it's meritorious, be adopted. If it's
13 not, we can jettison it. And that would give time to
14 consider the matter well in advance of the next
15 convention.

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. A motion has been to
17 table.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those in favor, please say
20 aye.

21 [Chorus of ayes.]

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposition, say nay.

23 [No response.]

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: The motion has been tabled.

25 Mr. Bopp, do you have further business to

1 bring?

2 MR. BOPP: My last pre-submitted motion, and
3 hopefully the last motion, to Rule 13(a) on page 28,
4 line 21. And that is to provide a mechanism to
5 encourage States to adopt closed primaries and closed
6 caucuses.

7 When thinking about this issue in the past,
8 we have -- most people have favored a closed primary or
9 caucuses. But no one has come up, at least in my view,
10 with an adequate -- a way to encourage or enforce that.

11 And everybody's been thinking about enforcement. In
12 other words, we punish them. We penalize them. We
13 whip them upside the head for having a closed primary.

14 And I don't really favor that approach.

15 So what I thought of is the idea of a carrot
16 instead of a stick. And that is that to award
17 additional delegates if you have a closed primary. And
18 that is the motion.

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to the
20 motion?

21 MS. MOYLE: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Cindy Moyle of Idaho.
23 Discussion and debate?

24 MR. BOPP: Thank you. What this amendment
25 provides is delegates are awarded under Rule 13(a),

1 pursuant to Subsections 1, 3, 5, and 8, that -- now
2 that I've moved, you know, the governors into a new
3 six, 1, 3, 5, and 8 are the sections of the rule that
4 award delegates first a set number, then a three per
5 congressional district. And then an additional award
6 of delegates if your State was carried by our last
7 presidential nominee in 5. And then as an 8, that is
8 awarded to D.C., the District of Columbia.

9 So it is tied to not these additional things,
10 but it's tied to the basic formula that reflects the
11 size of the State, while not being absolutely
12 proportional to the size of the State. And secondly,
13 with respect to success in carrying the State for the
14 President. It gives an additional 10 percent of that
15 number that is calculated through those sections.

16 If applied to Indiana, to illustrate, if
17 applied to Indiana, it would -- Rules 1, 3, 5, and 8
18 would award to Indiana 49 delegates at this convention
19 if we had carried four years ago for the Republican
20 nominee. So I'm changing history and pretending we
21 carried for the Republican nominee four years ago. So
22 under Sections 1, 3, 5, and 8, we would be awarded 49
23 delegates. Ten percent is five. So the effect of this
24 amendment, if we had a closed primary, which we do not
25 currently -- if we had a closed primary, it would award

1 an additional five delegates to 49.

2 So it is a carrot. Anyone that likes their
3 closed primary can have it. I mean, anyone likes an
4 open primary can have it, which I don't like the
5 penalty idea. Anybody that wants to move to a closed
6 primary gets an award of delegates. And I think we all
7 have a stake in this.

8 I think it's wrong to think that what happens
9 in Texas, or what happens in Tennessee, or Maine, or
10 New Hampshire doesn't affect us. Particularly it seems
11 like recently in New Hampshire and some of the early
12 States, when we have a substantial number of Democrats
13 voting in the New Hampshire primary distorting the
14 process, that is affecting then the -- how the primary
15 contest develops. In other words, they could actually
16 fundamentally choose our nominee because of the way the
17 momentum occurs in the early States by influencing the
18 early States in an open primary. It would be different
19 than if it was just a primary among Republicans.

20 So that's why we all have a stake in this.
21 And the theory is, the principle is, Republicans should
22 pick our own nominee. And I think the best approach of
23 that is to provide a carrot as this amendment does.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Mr. Ryder?

25 MR. RYDER: John Ryder, Tennessee. And

1 unlike Mr. Bopp, I don't have to rewrite history
2 because Tennessee carried for the Republican nominee
3 four years ago --

4 [Laughter.]

5 MR. RYDER: -- with 57 percent of the vote.
6 And we have had an open primary as long as we've had
7 primaries. It has been a valuable tool in growing the
8 Republican Party in Tennessee.

9 Thirty years ago, the Republicans in the
10 State house and State senate were less than one-third
11 of each body. After this election, we will more than
12 two-thirds of each body.

13 So the process of using an open primary has
14 enabled us in Tennessee to grow our Party, expand our
15 majority, and achieve super majority status at the
16 legislative level. We have seven out of nine
17 congressman. We have both senators. We have the
18 governor. And we carried for President four years ago,
19 and we will again. We're not on anybody's pink list or
20 light blue list.

21 So I think that that is a decision that the
22 States can make. We are now having a vigorous debate
23 in our State over whether or not to have a closed
24 primary. And, you know, frankly I'm just not
25 comfortable with Indiana grabbing an additional five

1 delegate spots simply because they have adopted a
2 system that works for them, and discriminating against
3 those of us who have adopted a different system which
4 works for us.

5 So I would oppose the proposed amendment.

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you, Mr. Ryder. If I
7 could just remind the members, if you have your phones
8 with you, either turn them off or put them on vibrate.

9 The different chimes are starting to get a little
10 confusing.

11 Ms. Joslin?

12 MS. JOSLIN: Thank you. Debbie Joslin,
13 National Committeewoman for Alaska, and I rise to
14 support this motion.

15 I think in my State this would be very
16 helpful. Right now we have what they call a classic
17 open primary, and we let anyone but those registered in
18 other political parties vote in our process.

19 And our presidential primary is different
20 than the regular primary. We only let Republicans
21 vote, so it's a closed primary. However, you can come
22 in the day of the presidential preference poll and you
23 can re-register as a Republican, and then you can vote
24 for our presidential candidate as many, many people do.

25 It looks like the Yukon gold rush that day in our

1 State.

2 Everybody wants to be a Republican that day,
3 and after they have voted for our nominee -- for their
4 favorite nominee or candidate in that process, many of
5 them go back to the Democratic Party, or the
6 Libertarians, or wherever they came from. Some stay
7 and cause havoc.

8 We have a Chair-elect in our Party right now
9 who, unless something changes, you know, he's going to
10 take the State chairmanship in January, and he's only
11 been in our Party since January. And this has caused a
12 lot of trouble for our State.

13 I think that this would be a nice carrot to
14 put out there when our State considers changing the
15 rules and making it. So this is something we've been
16 discussing is this making it so that at least 30 days
17 prior to that process, you would've had to been in our
18 Party. And I think that that would cut down on some of
19 the mischief that takes place.

20 So I support this.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Mr. Pope?

22 MR. POPE: Louis Pope, National Committeeman
23 from Maryland. I rise to support Mr. Bopp's amendment.

24 And actually I congratulate him on having so many
25 successful amendments in today. I think you've hit a

1 new all-time high, Jim.

2 In any case, this is something that's come up
3 as we debated the primary schedule over the last
4 several conventions, and obviously this time between
5 conventions we were able to adjust the primary
6 schedule.

7 But one of the things that always came up was
8 the fact that the early States that allowed open
9 primaries, just as Mr. Bopp said, got to skew the
10 results for the rest of the country because people who
11 were not Republicans were allowed to vote in our
12 primary. And when you open it up that way, you create
13 an opportunity for an awful lot of Independents or
14 Democrats to create mischief in the Republican primary.

15 I understand Mr. Ryder's point, and certainly
16 it's a State's right issue where every State can make
17 their own decision. And Mr. Bopp's amendment doesn't
18 change that in any way, shape, or form. It simply
19 rewards those individuals, or those States, I should
20 say, who actually allow Republicans to choose our
21 Republican nominee.

22 So I think this is a wonderful rule change.
23 I encourage everyone here to vote in favor of it.
24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Mr. Blackwell?

1 MR. BLACKWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Morton Blackwell of Virginia.

3 The Virginia Republican Party has been
4 virtually every year with resolutions and other such
5 things to get the State legislature, our General
6 Assembly, to establish registration by Party.
7 Unfortunately, in our State where you simply register
8 to vote, you have the right, if both Parties are having
9 primaries on primary day, to come and vote in the
10 primary of whichever Party you want that day. It has
11 no lasting impact. You get on a list of people who
12 have voted in the Republican primary. That's it.

13 But we have what I think is a very pernicious
14 practice, particularly when Party has no serious
15 contest, for people in that Party to come in droves to
16 vote in the other Party's primary, either to nominate a
17 person who they think they're more likely to be able to
18 defeat, or to defeat -- or to nominate a candidate
19 that's closer to their Party's preference. And I
20 confess to you that Republicans have on occasion voted
21 in Democratic primaries deliberately to influence the
22 Democrat decision for, one would have to say, less than
23 noble purposes.

24 But I can tell you that the big malefactors
25 here are the Democratic Party of Virginia, who

1 systematically vote in Republican primaries. This
2 won't change the rule in Virginia, but it will give us
3 in the Republican State Central Committee of Virginia,
4 who have been trying to get the legislature to pass
5 this for a long time, this will give us another good
6 argument in favor of installing registration by Party
7 in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

8 I support the proposal.

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Ms. Woods?

10 MS. WOODS: Phyllis Woods, National
11 Committeewoman from New Hampshire. I rise in
12 opposition to this amendment.

13 In New Hampshire, we've had same day voter
14 registration. However, we don't consider that to be an
15 open primary because, as our Secretary of State will
16 tell you, anyone who votes in a Republican primary has
17 to be a registered Republican, even if they register
18 just prior to the vote.

19 If this amendment were to take place, this
20 would severely hamper and adversely affect our
21 opportunity for success in New Hampshire.

22 We have three parties basically in New
23 Hampshire. We have registered Republicans, registered
24 Democrats, and registered Independents. The
25 Independents are by far the largest group. However, a

1 lot of those who are registered as Independents are not
2 truly Independent that they could go one way or
3 another, or that they're undecided. A very large
4 number of them are Republicans who choose to be
5 undeclared on the public rolls. Many are Democrats
6 that choose to be undeclared on the public rolls.

7 We are a live free or die State. People
8 value their privacy. People do not want it publicly
9 known which Party they belong to. This would have, I
10 believe, a detrimental effect on Republicans coming out
11 to vote in our primary who are now undeclared.

12 There have been efforts in our legislature
13 and continue to be efforts in our legislature to
14 require that anyone who votes in a primary in either
15 Party will not be able to change their Party
16 affiliation until after the general election.

17 So we are concerned that this would adversely
18 affect, as I believe it would in several other States,
19 our opportunity for success. So I hope that that this
20 would be defeated. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Curley Haugland.

22 MR. HAUGLAND: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, a point of
23 inquiry.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: If you could just identify
25 yourself for the reporter.

1 MR. HAUGLAND: Oh, Curley Haugland, National
2 Committeeman from North Dakota. I'm sorry.

3 I'd like to call your attention to Rule --
4 our existing Rule 15(c)(2), which states, "Only persons
5 eligible to vote who are deemed as a matter of public
6 record to be Republicans pursuant to State law or, if
7 voters are not enrolled by Party, by Republican Party
8 rules of a State, shall participate in any primary
9 election held for the purpose of electing delegates,"
10 and so and so forth. Does this section have any
11 relevance to this discussion, Mr. Chairman?

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: One moment.

13 MR. PHILLIPPE: I think as we understand the
14 amendment, what it would do is, because it would
15 require people to basically State their Republican
16 affiliation 30 days in advance, it would disallow the
17 same day coming in and declaring yourself a Republican
18 on that day. And so it would give -- this restriction
19 is already in place. The amendment would just give you
20 a 10 percent bonus for having a -- you know, making
21 people declare 30 days ahead of time rather than coming
22 in that day and saying they're Republican, or some
23 period of time less than 30 days.

24 MR. HAUGLAND: Mr. Chairman, if I could
25 follow up, doesn't this section require closed

1 primaries on its face?

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: No. Are you talking about Mr.
3 Bopp's amendment?

4 MR. HAUGLAND: No, no, I'm not talking about
5 the existing rule.

6 MR. PHILLIPPE: No.

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: The opinion of counsel is no.

8 MR. CROCKER: Mr. Haugland, may I explain the
9 answer to that? A classic example would be one I'm
10 fairly familiar with having lived there all my life.

11 The Texas registration process is you vote in the
12 primary on the day of the primary, and you are then a
13 Republican for the following two years. You cannot
14 participate legally in the process of another Party for
15 a year. You can get out of that commitment the second
16 year by filing -- by going through some filing process.

17 But that then -- because every two years is a
18 new two years, every primary cycle is a new cycle, we
19 register by voting in the primary every two years. Our
20 primary process meets the requirement of 15(c) whatever
21 that is. But we would not be qualified for the
22 incentive because we don't have a process that causes
23 us to register 30 days prior to the primary. That's
24 the way I understand, and I'm not taking sides on the
25 amendment. I'm simply trying to explain the proposal.

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Little?

2 MR. LITTLE: I believe it was in 1998 or 1999
3 in Indianapolis, the body met to discuss the Delaware
4 plan. We have been struggling with this concept since
5 that time. And Mr. Bopp has come up with a very clever
6 way, I believe, that really helps in solving this
7 problem. I am in strong support of this.

8 For example, the States that go early, I
9 believe it was four years ago, South Carolina at the
10 convention had a Party, half delegate Party. They were
11 penalized half of their delegation, but they were happy
12 about it because they accomplished what they wanted to.
13 They got media into their State, attention to their
14 State. And so it was okay.

15 And I'm in strong support of this. I thank
16 Mr. Bopp for coming up with this idea. It's a great
17 idea, and it'll solve a lot of problems, give a great
18 carrot, as Morton Blackwell mentioned, to the
19 legislators that need that little prompting. And I
20 hope that we adopt this amendment today.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Bennett?

22 MR. BENNETT: Bob Bennett, Ohio. I have to
23 oppose this amendment because we're very similar to
24 Texas. The only way that you can declare a Party in
25 Ohio is by voting in the primary every two years. If

1 you fail to vote, you automatically go back into the
2 Independent classification.

3 But there's no challenge -- the only
4 challenge that we would have on election day, we can
5 challenge a Democrat who theoretically has to sign an
6 affidavit if they try to vote in a Republican primary.

7 We have no mechanism for the 30-day rule.

8 I'm just asking a question. Are we kind of
9 flogging a hoist that's not moving here? I mean, is it
10 a big issue, or it just affects a few States that are
11 maybe convention State, or caucus States, or, you know,
12 a wild State, maybe like Louisiana or something.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Bettye Fine
14 Collins?

15 MS. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I applaud the
16 intent of Mr. Bopp's proposed amendment. But I think
17 the question raised by the Counselor and committeeman
18 from Texas is a concern that we should all share. It
19 comes back to my questioning the timeliness of some of
20 these amendments.

21 We're on the eve of the convention. And I
22 think this is admirable, but should have been proposed
23 earlier so that we could accommodate those States, as
24 in Texas who have a different form of registration and
25 timing of such. I would hate to see us omit Texas from

1 this opportunity to have this 10 percent bonus of
2 delegates. And that's essentially what we would be
3 doing.

4 So that's my question is, again we're on the
5 eve of the convention. And while this is a worthy
6 amendment, it would've been great to have had this in
7 time to survey the States and try to come up with
8 something that would accommodate all of the States.
9 Thank you, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Mr. Bopp, I'm
11 going to give you one minute so we can kind of move
12 things along. And hopefully you'll be able to tailor
13 your comments accordingly.

14 MR. BOPP: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I do
15 believe that Rule 15(c)(2) does require a closed
16 primary, and that is registration in a public record as
17 a Republican before you can participate in that
18 primary.

19 The problem with this provision is there's no
20 enforcement. There's no anything. So this is only
21 aspirational. So my proposal is consistent with that
22 proposition by providing now a carrot, not a stick.

23 Now remember, Texas, you don't have to
24 change. No problem. Ohio doesn't want to change. New
25 Hampshire doesn't want to change. That's up to them.

1 This is a State's rights decision.

2 But if you believe that only Republicans
3 should pick the Republican nominee, then what is wrong
4 with giving an incentive -- a bonus -- to the States
5 that are willing to limit their vote to only
6 Republicans?

7 Now it does affect same day registration. I
8 oppose same day registration. It is ripe with fraud.
9 So to argue that we -- this doesn't account for same
10 day registration and we like it, so we want to defeat a
11 good idea because of a bad idea, which is same day
12 registration, I just don't accept that argument, that
13 we should not be defeating a good idea because of a bad
14 idea. And same day registration is that idea.

15 So those of who you with a closed primary
16 would like to go to one, this is an encouragement. For
17 those that don't like it, like having Democrats help
18 pick your nominees in your primaries, well then, go for
19 it. You just aren't going to get rewarded for doing
20 something I believe Republicans should be doing.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Just a comment
22 from Mr. Phillippe on a legal point that he wants to
23 make.

24 MR. PHILLIPPE: Thank you. And Mr. Crocker
25 and I were just trying to -- discussing a further

1 response to Mr. Haugland's question, and just to
2 clarify here, because I think, and Mr. Bopp can correct
3 me if I'm wrong. I think these apply to two different
4 universes of contest.

5 15(c)(2) only applies to primaries that
6 actually elect or select delegates, which very few
7 States actually have. So if your primary just binds or
8 allocates delegates who are then subsequently selected
9 through a different process, 15(c)(2) doesn't apply.
10 So you could still have open primaries as long as
11 you're not electing or selecting delegates.

12 What this rule does, it applies -- 30 days
13 before any primary caucus, mass meeting, or convention,
14 as part of the selection process, which I think we
15 would read in the Counsel's office to include any
16 county or local convention that may take place several
17 months before the primary even takes place. So if you
18 have a county convention, say, in November before the
19 election year that's the beginning of the delegate
20 selection, it would require anybody that takes part in
21 that convention to state their Republican affiliation
22 30 days ahead of that, which might be, say, October in
23 the year before the election.

24 MR. BOPP: Yeah, and I agree with that. And
25 my amendment only applies to caucuses and primaries

1 that are part of the delegate selection process also.
2 So if you have a presidential primary, then you also
3 have a primary for nominating senatorial candidates.
4 Then you would be rewarded if your presidential primary
5 was closed, and we have no -- and your other primary
6 selecting States offices is irrelevant. We're not
7 doing anything with respect to those.

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay, thank you. Is there any
9 other discussion or debate on the motion?

10 [No response.]

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll proceed
12 with the vote.

13 All those in favor of Mr. Bopp's amendment as
14 stated, please say aye.

15 [Chorus of ayes.]

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: All opposed, say nay.

17 [Chorus of nays.]

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: The nays have it.

19 Okay. All those in favor of the amendment,
20 please stand.

21 [Standing vote taken.]

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you.

23 All those opposed?

24 [Standing vote taken.]

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay, thank you very much.

1 There are 16 for the amendment and 27 against. The
2 motion fails to carry.

3 I believe we have now completed the pre-
4 submitted portion of our agenda for today. Do we have
5 members who are desirous of presenting amendments at
6 this time that have not been pre-submitted? We'll take
7 Rules 1 through 10. Any from Rules 1 through 10?

8 [No response.]

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Are there any non pre-
10 submitted rule amendments, Rules 11 through 20? Eleven
11 through 20?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: John Ryder.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Ryder?

14 MR. RYDER: Mr. Chairman, I have one rule
15 which I think I had handed to Counsel on Rule 5(a)(3).

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: As a pre-submitted?

17 MR. RYDER: No, not pre-submitted.

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. All right. Well then,
19 let's go back. Do we have that on that ability to put
20 that up on the screen? Okay.

21 Mr. Ryder, speak on Rule 5.

22 MR. RYDER: I want to see if we can get it on
23 the screen so I can get the page number. Bottom of
24 page 7 and the top of page 8. This is actually an
25 amendment that we adopted at a previous meeting, or it

1 deals with an amendment we adopted at a previous
2 meeting.

3 Section 5 deals with the officers of the RNC
4 and says "The officers of the RNC shall consist of,"
5 and then Section 1 is the chairman and co-chairman.
6 Section 2 are the eight vice chairs. And Section 3
7 says, "A secretary and treasurer and such other
8 officers as the Republican National Committee may deem
9 necessary."

10 A couple of meetings ago, we inserted the
11 requirement in 5(a)(3) that the secretary, treasurer,
12 and the other officers all be members of the Republican
13 National Committee, members or officers at the time of
14 their election.

15 And when I was reviewing the rules prior to
16 this meeting, it occurred to me that we may have
17 stepped a little farther than we intended. And the
18 reason I say that is, I'm all for requiring the
19 secretary and treasurer to be members of this body.

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Let me just stop you for a
21 second.

22 MR. RYDER: Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: You've made a motion.

24 MR. RYDER: I move that we -- okay, sorry.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: As submitted. Is there a

1 second?

2 MR. BENNETT: I second.

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: A second by Mr. Bennett. I'm
4 sorry, please proceed.

5 MR. RYDER: I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: You just didn't take a breath.
7 I'm sorry.

8 MR. RYDER: Well, I've learned to stay
9 underwater some.

10 The purpose of this is to back off, still
11 require the secretary and treasurer to be members, but
12 not require such other officers as the Republican
13 National Committee may deem necessary. The reason I
14 say that is because those officers don't come into
15 existence unless we decide they need to. And we may as
16 a body decide that there needs to be an officer
17 position which we might want to make available for a
18 non-member of the committee.

19 If we want to require that special officer to
20 be a member of this committee, we can do so at the time
21 of the creation. We can say, you know, the Chairman is
22 authorized to appoint a director of cats and dogs, who
23 must be a member of this committee. And if we decide
24 the director of cats and dogs does not need to be a
25 member of this committee, then we can omit that

1 requirement.

2 But I think we give ourselves a little more
3 flexibility if we just back that down to requiring the
4 secretary and treasurer, and don't apply it to the
5 other specially created officers, and leave that to an
6 ad hoc solution by this body as those matters come up.

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: So the chairman and the co-
8 chairman are required to be officers or not?

9 MR. RYDER: No, Sections 1 and 2 were not
10 amended in that way.

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay.

12 MR. RYDER: It was only Section 3 that was
13 amended. And I support the amendment as to secretary
14 and treasurer. It's just that on the specially created
15 officers that I think we want to give ourselves
16 flexibility.

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Any other discussion or
18 debate?

19 [No response.]

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other discussion or
21 debate?

22 [No response.]

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll move
24 directly to a vote.

25 All those in favor of Mr. Ryder's amendment

1 to Rule Number 5, please signify by saying aye.

2 [Chorus of ayes.]

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposition, say nay.

4 [No response.]

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it. The motion
6 passes unanimously. Thank you, Mr. Ryder.

7 Any other rules changes on Rules 1 through
8 10?

9 [No response.]

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: One through 10?

11 [No response.]

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, any other
13 changes on Rules 11 through 20?

14 [No response.]

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: Eleven through 20? The Chair
16 recognizes Mr. Bennett.

17 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, I have an
18 amendment that I've submitted to Counsel on Rules 16,
19 enforcement.

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. We'll get that up on
21 the screen.

22 MR. BENNETT: Yes. This starts on page 39,
23 line 22, and I'm striking Rule 15(b)(1). At the
24 January meeting --

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay, let's get a second on

1 that. Is there a second to Mr. Bennett's motion?

2 MR. RYDER: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Second by Mr. Ryder. Please
4 proceed.

5 MR. RYDER: Mr. Chairman, at the January
6 meeting, in talking to many members of the committee,
7 there was great concern about the fact that the Florida
8 legislature not only moved back to January 31st, which
9 by rule and by law in some cases required the carve-out
10 States to move into January. And I think there was --
11 I could say that there was almost unanimous opinion
12 among committee members at that time that the
13 requirement to start our process in January affected
14 our religious holidays in December.

15 And so this is a penalty that is pretty
16 draconian, I'll admit. But if any State causes or goes
17 prior to March 1st and causes the carve-out States back
18 into January as the legislature does today, I'm
19 suggesting that we reduce their delegates to nine, plus
20 the three committee members. And the reason I did that
21 is because the committee members I think were almost
22 unanimously opposed to what the Florida legislature did
23 at this time.

24 Nine members would give each State the right
25 to have representation on all the standing committees,

1 and also on the convention committees, and also on the
2 Committee on Arrangements. So that's my proposal.

3 I think it didn't work when we had the 50
4 percent penalty for Florida, and I don't object at all
5 to the Chairman's negotiation of what they're doing.
6 We've enforced the rules I think as strong as we can
7 with our nominee. However, I think going forward that
8 this will strengthen the rule and put a pretty strong
9 penalty on anybody who would go prior to March 1st.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Other debate?

12 MR. ANUZIS: Am I recognized?

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: I recognize Mr. Anuzis from
14 Michigan.

15 MR. ANUZIS: Saul Anuzis, National
16 Committeeman from Michigan. I rise to oppose the
17 amendment for the following reasons.

18 The reason that he stated or Mr. Bennett
19 stated that he was for this was that it forced States
20 to move into January. At the same time, the State of
21 Arizona and the State of Michigan, who have statutory
22 elections who are set at the last week of February --
23 February 28th in our case, two days before the
24 convention -- had none of that effect.

25 If Florida had not moved, Michigan and

1 Arizona could have stayed with their statutory
2 elections. In Michigan's case, it was a \$10 million
3 cost that our taxpayers were not willing, nor our
4 Republican legislators were willing to incur on the
5 State to move that election.

6 And so a State like Michigan and Arizona
7 specifically would be penalized even though we'd
8 enforce the move to going to January as well. Because
9 of the way it's written, you're saying anybody before
10 March 1st. It doesn't say anybody before March 1st
11 that forces the primaries to move into January. I
12 would be --

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Talk to the Chair, please.

14 MR. ANUZIS: If Mr. Bennett would accept that
15 as a friendly amendment, then I would not have a
16 problem with that, basically saying that the delegates
17 to the national convention prior to March 1st that
18 force the carve-out States to move into January.

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Are you offering that as an
20 amendment?

21 MR. ANUZIS: A friendly amendment. I'm
22 asking if he'll accept it a friendly amendment.

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Well, we're not going to do
24 friendly amendments.

25 MR. ANUZIS: Then I am offering that as an

1 amendment.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Is there a second to
3 the amendment?

4 MR. MCCALL: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. So there's a second to
6 the amendment. We'll now proceed with discussion on
7 the amendment. Mr. Anuzis?

8 MR. ANUZIS: Saul Anuzis, National
9 Committeeman. So all this suggests is that if we don't
10 force those carve-out States to go early, that they
11 won't necessarily penalize because in some States, as I
12 mentioned, at least two States have statutory quarterly
13 elections that the State of whatever their given States
14 would be would not to spend -- in our case it was \$10
15 million to move the election. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. McCall?

17 MR. MCCALL: Glenn McCall, South Carolina. I
18 was going to say that it would be more specific for the
19 carve-out States. So we're only speaking to the
20 amendment right now and not the --

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: That's correct. Any other
22 discussion or debate on the amendment?

23 [No response.]

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll move ahead
25 with a vote on the amendment as presented by Mr.

1 Anuzis, which is up on the board.

2 All those in favor of the amendment, say aye.

3 [Chorus of ayes.]

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: All opposed to the amendment,
5 say nay.

6 [Chorus of nays.]

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes appear to have it.
8 The amendment passes. We'll now vote on the original
9 motion as amended by Mr. Anuzis. And I will recognize
10 Mr. Morton Blackwell of Virginia for comments.

11 MR. BLACKWELL: Morton Blackwell of Virginia.
12 Thank you.

13 It's not entirely clear to me whether this
14 potentially affects the carve-out States and could
15 reduce them to nine votes. Does this as now written
16 prevent this penalty from being assessed to the carve-
17 out States that moved -- that might move beyond what is
18 prescribed in the rules because other States have
19 pushed their delegate selection earlier? Does this
20 exempt the carve-out States is my question.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. McCall, or, Mr. Bennett,
22 do you wish to reply?

23 MR. BENNETT: Gladly.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: If you could go to the
25 microphone, please.

1 MR. BENNETT: My intention is to not penalize
2 the carve-out States as they were this year because
3 they moved in January.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. But is that
5 specifically stated to your satisfaction in the
6 amendment?

7 MR. BENNETT: I'll defer to Counsel on that,
8 and ask them if that sufficiently --

9 MR. CROCKER: May I respond, Mr. Chairman?

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Certainly, Mr. Crocker.

11 MR. CROCKER: I have a new perspective on
12 some of these rules having had to advise people how to
13 comply with them and administer the law.

14 I'm having a little problem with the language
15 as it's been amended because the question is, which
16 State that went -- if you have two or three States that
17 go early, which one caused the carve-out States to have
18 to move, and which one didn't? That's going to be a
19 problem as sure as the world.

20 The question is also, would the penalty apply
21 to a carve-out State that moved because somebody else
22 made them move? I am not sure that it wouldn't
23 frankly.

24 MR. MCCALL: Glenn McCall from South
25 Carolina, Mr. Chair. We passed the resolution I think

1 in Arizona that was presented by the Committeewoman
2 from New Hampshire and unanimously approved, Mr.
3 Counsel, saying that carve-out States would not be
4 penalized due to that unintended consequences by a
5 State or multiple States moving to cause those States
6 to move their date.

7 MR. CROCKER: I am a poor multi-tasker when
8 I'm hearing two speeches at the same time. Forgive me.

9 MR. MCCALL: Yes.

10 MR. CROCKER: You're going to have to tell me
11 again what --

12 MR. MCCALL: Well, yes, sir. In our minutes
13 from our meeting in Arizona, spring meeting,
14 Committeewoman Phyllis Woods from New Hampshire
15 proposed an amendment to Rule 15(b)(1) that would allow
16 for the carve-out States -- of course Iowa, New
17 Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina -- to hold their
18 caucus or primary no earlier than January -- March, as
19 it said. One month before any other State. And the
20 motion was properly seconded.

21 So as a result, I guess in summary what I'm
22 saying, we passed a rule change that would allow the
23 carve-out States not to be penalized if we have to move
24 -- if they move their dates as a result of one or
25 multiple States moving to cause that to happen.

1 MR. CROCKER: Does it limit their ability --
2 I don't remember the amendment. I don't have it before
3 me. Does it limit their ability to move, or can they
4 move so far without penalty, but have to have a penalty
5 if they move further?

6 MR. MCCALL: No, it doesn't limit their
7 ability to move.

8 MR. CROCKER: Okay.

9 MR. MCCALL: So as a result of that, I
10 support this amendment.

11 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, you know, I was
12 relying on the fact that we'd already taken care of
13 that. But if we need to clarify this amendment, I
14 think that we can put the language in. Counsel can put
15 the language in that would satisfy that there is no
16 intention here to penalize the carve-out states if they
17 -- particularly like in New Hampshire's case where it's
18 by statute set by the Secretary of State that they
19 would be forced to move.

20 And I think as to Counsel, any State that
21 goes prior to -- that causes -- that would have or
22 could have caused I think has to suffer the penalty.
23 So I don't think it's adding one State, Mr. Counsel, as
24 I think it's any State that could have or would have.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. We can come back to

1 that. Let's go ahead and hear Ms. Mickelson from Utah.

2 MS. MICKELSON: Enid Mickelson from Utah. It
3 seems to me that what we're grappling with is how do
4 you not penalize the carve-out States. And in
5 conferring with Counsel, it seemed to us that you leave
6 the language the way it is, and then instead of the
7 amendment that we just passed, we pick a date certain
8 that applies only to the carve-out States.

9 So you can say, you leave it at March 1st,
10 and then you add something that says with the exception
11 that the carve-out States can have it as early as, and
12 then you pick a date. Do you want them to go January
13 15th? Do you want them to go February 1st? Just give
14 those four States a different date than the one you've
15 got in here, and then you don't penalize the carve-out
16 States.

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Ms. Mickelson, are you
18 interested -- before I hear anybody else, are you
19 interested in putting that in the form of an amendment?

20 MS. MICKELSON: Yes, I am.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Do you need a little
22 bit of time to direct an order?

23 MS. MICKELSON: I do, and I'm just trying to
24 determine what would be the correct date for the carve-
25 out States under -- and then they're going to disagree

1 with me, but that's okay.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A point of order, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: I recognize Bettye Fine
5 Collins for a point of order.

6 MS. COLLINS: I'd like a point of order if
7 the Chairman would recognize me.

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: So recognized.

9 MS. COLLINS: If this is in the motion, then
10 this whole thing is for nothing. So if somebody wants
11 to move for reconsideration on what we just had, then
12 that would make this debate valid. But so far, we're
13 completely after the fact, and that's contrary.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman --

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: Folks, let's take a 10-minute
16 recess. We'll reconvene here at 3:30.

17 [Recessed at 3:18 p.m.]

18 [Reconvened at 3:34.]

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Members, let's go ahead and
20 return to your seats. Members, let's go ahead and
21 retake our seats. We need to get rolling again. Let's
22 reconvene.

23 Okay. All right, folks, we're reconvened.
24 I'm going to call on Saul Anuzis of Michigan.

25 MR. ANUZIS: Saul Anuzis, National

1 Committeeman from Michigan. I'd like to amend the
2 amended language.

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Please proceed.

4 MR. ANUZIS: I would like to strike "March
5 1st" and the previous language that was passed and add
6 "the last Tuesday in February" as is currently up on
7 the screen.

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to that
9 motion?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

11 MR. POPE: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Second by Mr. Pope.

13 Discussion, debate? Mr. Anuzis?

14 MR. ANUZIS: The request was to take out the
15 language that we had added, that I had added, because
16 it could be -- there would be an interpretive question,
17 and the only two States that fell into the statutory
18 language came on the Tuesday of February, which would
19 then fit into Mr. McCall's issue where the amendment
20 that we passed in, I believe it was during the Arizona
21 meeting, reflects the 30 days' window for all the
22 carve-out States. So that's already handled in another
23 section. That won't have any effect on this, and this
24 will make the language much cleaner and easier to
25 understand.

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. We have a second to the
2 motion. Is there further discussion or debate?

3 [No response.]

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there further discussion or
5 debate?

6 MR. BLACKWELL: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Blackwell.

8 MR. BLACKWELL: March 1st is referred to
9 elsewhere in the rules, is it not? So how does the
10 requirement for some element of proportionality affect
11 States which set their date earlier than March 1st, but
12 as early as the last Tuesday in February? Is the
13 proportionality rule going to apply to States in
14 that --

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: I'm not sure, Mr. Blackwell,
16 that we're talking about proportionality here.

17 MR. BLACKWELL: I know, but proportionality
18 is -- if proportionality would apply to those States,
19 then there needs to be an amendment in that section of
20 the rules that refers to proportionality, which affects
21 States that elect their delegates in March. You would
22 have to have another change in order for that to be
23 consistent.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Anuzis, do you care to --

25 MR. ANUZIS: I'm not sure I agree with Mr.

1 Blackwell because that language is still there. I
2 mean, I we want to take that language out and not force
3 proportionality, then, yes we'd have to make a change.

4 But we're referring to the enhanced penalty, as I'll
5 call it, that Mr. Bennett proposed only. So this is
6 only dealing with the enhanced penalty.

7 So the ways the rules are, the
8 proportionality would still be enforced, and anybody
9 who went the last Tuesday of February, anybody who went
10 before March 1st, but we wouldn't get the enhanced
11 penalty of the nine delegates.

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Ryder.

13 MR. RYDER: Mr. Chairman, John Ryder from
14 Tennessee. If I may address Mr. Blackwell's question,
15 Rule 15(b)(2) requires proportionality of any delegate
16 selection event prior to April 1st. So it would
17 encompass the last Tuesday in February since that is on
18 my calendar before April 1st.

19 What this does is it puts -- you know, it
20 puts those States that go the last Tuesday in February
21 prior to the March 1st start date for all primaries
22 other than the carve-out States. So those States that
23 went the last Tuesday in February would be subject to
24 the 50 percent penalty under Rule 16(a), but would not
25 be subject to the super penalty proposed here since

1 they would not be forcing the carve-out States to go
2 much further back since the amendment adopted to Rule
3 15(b) (1) at the last meeting allowed the carve-out
4 States to go no earlier than 30 days prior to the next
5 earliest primary.

6 So the effect of this is that they can go the
7 last part of February and not blow up the calendar.
8 But a State that went as early as January 31st, as
9 Florida did this year, would require the imposition of
10 these penalties. That's the way I interpret now that
11 plays out.

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Ms. Mickelson?
13 Okay. Is there further discussion or debate on this
14 re-stated amendment?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Point of order. I
16 think we have to vote --

17 CHAIRMAN ASH: We're going to vote --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- on the substitute
19 first.

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: We're going to vote on this
21 substitute, and then we're going to go back to the
22 original. Okay.

23 So on the substituted language that we have
24 here on the screen -- this is what we're voting on at
25 this time -- is there any other debate or discussion?

1 [No response.]

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Seeing none, we'll go ahead
3 and proceed to a vote.

4 All those in favor of passing the substituted
5 language as stated on the screen, please say aye.

6 [Chorus of ayes.]

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed?

8 [No response.]

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing no opposition, the
10 ayes have it. The substituted language stands.

11 We'll now vote on the original amendment with
12 the substituted language.

13 All those in favor of the amendment with
14 substituted language, please say aye.

15 [Chorus of ayes.]

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: All opposed, say nay.

17 [No response.]

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing no nays, the motion
19 passes unanimously. Thank you.

20 Are there any other rule changes for Rules 11
21 through 20?

22 [No response.]

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Are there any rule changes for
24 Rules 21 through 30?

25 [No response.]

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Are there any other rule
2 changes for Rules 21 through 30? The Chair recognizes
3 Mr. Haugland.

4 MR. HAUGLAND: Mr. Chairman, Curley Haugland,
5 National Committeeman from North Dakota. Does Counsel
6 have that one?

7 With reference to Rule 28, admission to the
8 convention hall, after the word "senators" -- I don't
9 have the line number here. Anyway, while we're
10 waiting, I'll just read Rule 28. It deals with
11 admission to the convention hall, 28(a). "No person
12 except members of the several delegations, officers of
13 the convention, members of the Republican National
14 Committee, and incumbent Republican governors,
15 incumbent Republican senators, and incumbent members of
16 the United States House of Representatives, shall be
17 admitted to the section of the convention hall
18 restricted to delegates."

19 My proposal would add the words "and honored
20 guests." So, Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the
21 amendment.

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: So that would come -- is that
23 coming up on the screen? And where would that go?

24 MR. HAUGLAND: Yes, there it is.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: So that would go after --

1 MR. HAUGLAND: "Representatives."

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: After "Representatives."

3 MR. HAUGLAND: Yes. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Is there a second to
5 the motion?

6 [No response.]

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to the
8 motion?

9 MS. RUSSELL: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Gail Russell of Kentucky
11 seconds the motion.

12 Any discussion or debate? Mr. Haugland, do
13 you wish to discuss further?

14 MR. HAUGLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman. this
15 basically calls attention to the fact that Florida
16 violated not once, but twice. And then today in the
17 paper I noticed they're going for a trifecta. If we
18 don't pass this amendment, Florida is going to break a
19 third rule with respect to their delegation.

20 I don't intend to vote for this amendment,
21 but if it passes --

22 [Laughter.]

23 MR. HAUGLAND: -- Florida will be legitimate.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Well, that certainly is
25 commitment.

1 [Laughter.]

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Blackwell.

3 MR. BLACKWELL: Morton Blackwell of
4 Virginia. I hesitate under the circumstances to ask
5 for an explanation, but I would like to ask the mover
6 how do you define "honored guests?" Is my wife an
7 honored guest? She is for me. I sit people designated
8 by the Chairman of the convention or the Chairman of
9 the National Committee? How does one define "honored
10 guests?"

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Haugland, would you care
12 to elaborate?

13 MR. HAUGLAND: Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe
14 that was answered for us in today's edition of the
15 Tampa News or Herald, or whatever the paper is here,
16 where the honored guests are the 49 Florida delegates
17 who aren't supposed to be delegates.

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. I think that answers
19 the question. Is there any further discussion or
20 debate on this amendment?

21 [No response.]

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, seeing none,
23 we'll go ahead and proceed to a vote.

24 All those in favor of the amendment as
25 presented, please say aye.

1 [Chorus of ayes.]

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed, say nay.

3 [No response.]

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: The nays have it. The motion
5 fails.

6 Any other rules between Rules 21 and 30? Any
7 other rules changes between Rules 21 and 30? The Chair
8 recognizes Mr. Little.

9 MR. LITTLE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Ross Little,
10 Louisiana. I don't have this in writing, but I also
11 want to speak to Rule 28(a), admission to the
12 convention hall. It says, "No person except members of
13 the several delegations of the conventions, members of
14 the Republican National Committee, incumbent Republican
15 governors, incumbent Republican United States senators,
16 and Republican members of the United States House of
17 Representatives, shall be admitted to the section of
18 the convention hall restricted to delegates."

19 What I would like to do is to add a sentence
20 saying for incumbent Republican governors, incumbent
21 United States senators, and incumbent Republican
22 members of the United States House of Representatives.

23 Appropriate non-voting credentials shall be included
24 for each State.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Have we got that on -- okay.

1 Do you have something in writing, Mr. Little?

2 MR. LITTLE: I'll put it in. I'm about
3 halfway done.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. I'll tell you
5 what. You go back and do that. We're going to move
6 on, but we'll come back -- we'll reserve that. Okay.

7 Any other rule changes between rules 21 and
8 30?

9 [No response.]

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any rule changes, Rules 31 to
11 42?

12 [No response.]

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any rules changes, Rules 31 to
14 42? The Chair recognizes Jan Staples.

15 MS. STAPLES: Jan Staples, National
16 Committeewoman from Maine. The motion is to add to the
17 end of Rule 41(a), which is found on page 62, line 2,
18 the following: "Delegations electing alternate
19 delegates in violation of the preceding sentence shall
20 forfeit all positions on the committee or committees to
21 which such alternate delegates were elected."

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to the
23 motion?

24 MS. COLLINS: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Second by Bettye Fine Collins.

1 Please proceed.

2 MS. STAPLES: Okay. As many of you know, a
3 small delegation sometimes have difficulty filling with
4 four men and four women who are able to serve the eight
5 convention committee slots. And so a while ago we
6 added language that if all else failed and there were
7 not four men and four women who could serve on those
8 committees, that delegations could go to their
9 alternate lists.

10 However, it was never the intention of this
11 rule to allow delegations to go to the alternate list
12 when there were delegates who were, in fact, able to
13 serve.

14 Now in Maine, this time we had a situation
15 where, in fact, we did select alternates to convention
16 committees when a delegate was able to serve on three
17 out of the four committees.

18 And so when I checked with General Counsel,
19 and with the legal, and with the Chairman of the Rules
20 Committee just to make sure I hadn't misinterpreted the
21 rule and discovered that I had not, neither the
22 language, the intent, or the spirit of the rule, I
23 tried to explain it to the delegation. But it didn't
24 seem to make any difference.

25 Our problem in going back to the RNC was that

1 there was really no enforcement mechanism. It was
2 pretty vague. We all knew what was intended. But if a
3 delegation simply ignored the RNC rule, what could we
4 do about it? And so this is intended to suggest that
5 there is, in fact, a penalty or doing what happened in
6 Maine.

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Any other
8 comments? Any other discussion or debate on the
9 motion?

10 [No response.]

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other discussion or debate
12 on the motion?

13 [No response.]

14 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, seeing none,
15 we'll move directly to a vote on the amendment as
16 presented.

17 All those in favor, please say aye.

18 [Chorus of ayes.]

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: All opposed, say nay.

20 [Chorus of nays.]

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it. The motion
22 passes. Thank you.

23 Do we have any other rule changes by
24 suggested, Rules 31 to 42? Mr. Ryder.

25 MR. RYDER: Mr. Chairman, I think I have an

1 amendment here for Rule 40(d), page 59, line 22, and
2 then going to the top of page 60. I'll wait until
3 Counsel --

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: So you have something that'll
5 come up on the screen?

6 MR. RYDER: Actually it's 39(d), I guess.
7 It's under the black line.

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Could you restate that?

9 MR. RYDER: I believe it's 39(d) under the --

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: 39(d)?

11 MR. RYDER: Under the black line. I think
12 that's correct.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay, right.

14 MR. RYDER: Sorry.

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: So we're getting that up on
16 the screen?

17 MR. RYDER: I'm going to read it, and then
18 hand it to Counsel, and then explain the purpose of
19 this.

20 Change the language or conclude Paragraph
21 39(d). "When at the close of a roll call, any
22 candidate for nomination for president of the United
23 States or vice president of the United States has
24 received a majority of the votes entitled to be cast in
25 the convention, the chairman of the convention shall

1 announce the votes for each candidate whose name was
2 presented in accordance with the provisions of
3 Paragraph B of this rule. Before the convention
4 adjourns sine die, the chairman of the convention shall
5 declare the candidates nominated by the Republican
6 Party for president of the United States and vice
7 president of the United States."

8 And I move the adoption of this amendment.

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second?

10 MS. MUMFORD: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Second by Carol Mumford. Mr.
12 Ryder?

13 MR. RYDER: All right. The purpose of this
14 amendment is to allow the votes to be cast early in the
15 convention, but the results to be announced at the end
16 of the convention. And they're going to type it up and
17 get it up there.

18 And the reason for doing that relates to the
19 application of provisions of our favorite law regarding
20 campaign finance, and the ability to conform to the
21 television schedule and still be able to be generating
22 primary debt and raising primary money up until the
23 moment that we announce the nomination.

24 And so delay the nomination to a point late
25 in the schedule, which gets us through the television

1 schedule, but enables the campaign to raise the maximum
2 amount of money allowed under law.

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. We'll get that up on
4 the screen here.

5 MR. RYDER: Mr. Chairman, I've been requested
6 by the gentlelady from Georgia to announce that she
7 agrees with me.

8 [Laughter.]

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Just one moment as we get it
10 up on the screen. But your purpose is not to evade or
11 obfuscate the voting or the balloting. Your purpose in
12 suggesting this, Mr. Ryder, is to make sure that the
13 campaign is able to fundraise to its maximum potential,
14 is that correct?

15 MR. RYDER: That is correct.

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay.

17 MR. RYDER: Maximize the fundraising
18 opportunity while being consistent with the
19 requirements of mass media.

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Let's have Mr.
21 Blackwell weigh in here.

22 MR. BLACKWELL: Morton Blackwell, Virginia.
23 So let's think about this. If you're going to have the
24 balloting earlier in the convention, does that meant
25 that after the ballot is over, the totals will not be

1 promptly announced as is -- and this is simply at the
2 very end of the convention, the formality of declaring
3 a nominee.

4 Because it seems to me it would be very
5 awkward not to have -- to have a ballot. Usually
6 there's enormous celebration at a point where the
7 totals for the candidates are there, and the next words
8 are, "I declare the winner is." So this is setting up
9 the option for that declaration to be withheld after
10 the totals have been announced?

11 MR. RYDER: It specifically requires the
12 announcement of the totals. And presumably the
13 campaign can celebrate to its heart's content once it
14 reaches the magic number. But it does -- it delays the
15 formal declaration of the nomination -- the legal
16 declaration of the nomination until -- it doesn't have
17 to be done until the end of the convention.

18 MR. BLACKWELL: Mr. Chairman, I think Mr.
19 Ryder may have misspoke. You don't make this
20 announcement when somebody reaches the magic total of a
21 majority. You're talking about at the conclusion of
22 the roll.

23 MR. RYDER: What it calls for is the
24 announcement of the vote totals, okay. And then my
25 comment, my editorial comment was that then the

1 campaign can do whatever celebration it wants at that
2 point. But the legal declaration of the nomination
3 being effective doesn't come until later in the
4 convention.

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there additional debate or
6 discussion on this motion?

7 [No response.]

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any questions on the motion?

9 [No response.]

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: If note, we're going to move
11 directly to a vote on the motion.

12 All those in favor of the motion -- the
13 amendment by Mr. Ryder, please say aye.

14 [Chorus of ayes.]

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed to the
16 motion, please say nay.

17 [No response.]

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes appear to have it.
19 The vote is unanimous to pass the amendment.

20 Did you have something else to offer, Mr.
21 Ryder?

22 MR. RYDER: Oh, yes, Mr. Chairman.

23 [Laughter.]

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: I have great anticipation.
25 Please proceed.

1 MR. RYDER: This is an amendment to Rule
2 39(b), page 59, line 15.

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Which letter? Did you say "B"
4 or "D?"

5 MR. RYDER: "B."

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: "B," okay.

7 MR. RYDER: The amendment proposes to
8 increase the number of States required to place a name
9 in nomination from five to 10, and adds the following
10 requirement: "Notwithstanding any other provisions of
11 these rules or any rule of the House of
12 Representatives, to demonstrate the support required of
13 this paragraph, a certificate evidencing the
14 affirmative written support of the required number of
15 permanently seated delegates from each of the 10 or
16 more States shall have been submitted to the secretary
17 of the convention not later than one hour prior to the
18 placing of the names of candidates for nomination,
19 pursuant to this rule, and the establishment of order
20 of business."

21 I move the adoption.

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second?

23 MS. MICKELSON: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: There's a second from Mrs.
25 Mickelson. Discussion, debate? Mr. Ryder, start out.

1 MR. RYDER: Well, this increases -- I mean,
2 it's a direct reaction to a number of situations that
3 have occurred around the country this year. It
4 requires that 10 States rather than five States, a
5 majority of the delegates in 10 States rather than five
6 States, be required in order to place a name in
7 nomination.

8 And it requires that we have written evidence
9 that there really is that support, that it's not a
10 phantom support announced by a chairman. And so I
11 think it requires a greater degree of verification of
12 the support than we've required in the past. And it
13 requires a somewhat higher number to place the name in
14 nomination.

15 The fact of the matter is that in any of the
16 modern conventions we've had, any of the serious
17 candidates for president would have achieved this mark
18 even, say, in a contested convention such as 1976 to
19 the extent that 76 was contested.

20 Further back than that, I would have to call
21 on Mr. Blackwell for commentary, because his memory
22 runs back a little further than mine.

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Blackwell?

24 MR. BLACKWELL: Mr. Chairman, the provision
25 which is being proposed for amendment here was done for

1 the specific purpose of eliminating the possibility of
2 favorite son candidates, which had been a practice for
3 generations.

4 A plurality of five States, it would seem to
5 me should entitle a presidential candidate to have his
6 name placed in nomination, and increasing it to 10 is,
7 I think, a choke operation, and would discourage people
8 from participating within our Republican Party.

9 Understand that the effect of this rule as it
10 currently exists does not prevent somebody who's name
11 wasn't placed in nomination from being our nominee,
12 because the roll call of the convention, the results,
13 the delegates if they are not bound are free to vote
14 for whom they please. And then a multi-ballot
15 convention, which is still a possibility, there might
16 be a deadlock in which somebody could be nominated
17 whose name wasn't placed in nomination.

18 All we're talking about here -- let's put it
19 frankly -- is the possibility that somebody like Ron
20 Paul would be denied the opportunity, after he carried
21 five States, to have his name placed in nomination. It
22 doesn't mean he's going to win. He'd be denied the
23 right to have his name placed in nomination for there
24 to be a demonstration.

25 It seems to me we should be open about this.

1 If people play by the rules and carry a significant
2 number of States -- five is a significant number of
3 States -- that person ought to be allowed the honor of
4 having his name placed in nomination before our
5 convention.

6 I think this is a very bad idea, and we have
7 got to in this Party treat newcomers fairly. To the
8 extent possible, we should treat them politely. And
9 whenever we can, we should treat them cordially. This
10 would be taken as a slap in the face of grass roots
11 people. I think it is a very bad idea, and I urge
12 everybody to vote against this.

13 The current rule requiring five States just
14 for the privilege of having your name placed in
15 nomination, that's a high enough bar. Thank you, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Blackwell, just as a point
17 of information to the Chair, and perhaps this would be
18 of interest to the members as well. I believe you had
19 made the amendment to this in 2008. Do I have my
20 information correct?

21 MR. BLACKWELL: Yes. It was changed by this
22 committee on my motion from a majority to a plurality.

23 And this is because we had significantly increased the
24 possibility by introducing a requirement in March for
25 proportional representation, that there would be many

1 States where no candidate would have a majority, but
2 some candidate would have a plurality. And I thought
3 that that was a reasonable thing. I persuaded the
4 committee, and we voted to do that.

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: And was the threshold, the
6 state threshold at five?

7 MR. BLACKWELL: Five and five. No change in
8 that. It was simply to allow States where no candidate
9 had a majority, but still had -- which they would -- a
10 candidate with a plurality to be counted towards the
11 threshold in order to be accorded the privilege of
12 having their name placed in nomination.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: So the change that you had
14 made in 2008 or the committee had made in 2008, based
15 upon your motion, was strictly changing it from
16 majority to plurality.

17 MR. BLACKWELL: That is correct, Mr.
18 Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: The five States have remained
20 -- has remained constant.

21 MR. BLACKWELL: Five states is the same.

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. I just want to make
23 sure that --

24 MR. BLACKWELL: The rule either way still
25 prevents the old practice of favorite sons where a

1 governor or a senator can tie up his State's delegation
2 and hope to trade off in a deadlock situation. Five
3 States is a reasonable number to allow somebody to have
4 their name placed in nomination before our convention,
5 isn't it?

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay, thank you. Mr. Engle?

7 MR. ENGLE: Richard Engle of Oklahoma.

8 Section 2, with the exception of the number 10, creates
9 a mechanism by which this can be very clear. And I
10 would support Section 2 if it retained the original
11 five. I think that that clarity is very valuable to
12 us, and exactly how one goes about demonstrating
13 support.

14 However, regarding the primary consideration
15 of this amendment, which is changing from five to 10,
16 the great difficulty I have is the situation in which I
17 and many of us who are active in the Republican Party
18 are working to welcome, encourage, and heal some wounds
19 in our local parties. And it's the very kind of piling
20 on once victory is clear.

21 We know who our nominee will be. The result
22 is certain. And yet we would by adopting the 10 give
23 those who would hold to conspiracies more ammunition to
24 suggest that the only reason they were unsuccessful is
25 due to this change, when indeed they will not be

1 successful. Our nominee is determined. Our vice
2 presidential nominee effectively is determined. And to
3 change the rules midstream like this is a piling on,
4 which will really harm all efforts at healing, at
5 unifying, and in helping to mature those newcomers to
6 our Party in being unified and willing to support our
7 nominee not only for president, but offices up and down
8 our tickets. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Jan Staples?

10 MS. STAPLES: Jan Staples, National
11 Committeewoman from Maine. In the food for thought
12 category, I think we're assuming that the delegations
13 necessarily reflect the results of a State's primary or
14 caucus. And we've learned certainly in this cycle that
15 that's not always the case. And it's particularly a
16 problem when you have States that do not bind their
17 delegates.

18 And so I think one of the concerns really is
19 that we have really the will of the States expressed
20 through the primary or caucus process, but that is not
21 what is being carried into the convention. And so this
22 higher standard perhaps is something we should
23 consider. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Mr. Blackwell?

25 MR. BLACKWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm

1 pleased to say that the request of the honorable Mr.
2 Ryder, I move to amend his proposal from 10 to five.

3 MS. COLLINS: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: We have a second. Do we have
5 debate on the amendment?

6 MR. RYDER: I think this amendment
7 accomplishes the purposes that Mr. Engle pointed out,
8 which gives us the clarity of the written evidence of
9 support without treading into the waters of increasing
10 requirements for nomination.

11 I would point out one thing to Mr. Engle,
12 though, which is, we're not changing in midstream. The
13 rules we adopt here today only take effect in 2016.
14 Yeah. But I understand the concern, and I would urge
15 adoption of the amendment proposed by Mr. Blackwell.

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Is there any other
17 debate or discussion on the amendment? Mr. Haugland.

18 MR. HAUGLAND: Mr. Chairman, a point of
19 inquiry. If I'm not mistaken, this change would be
20 effective this convention. Is that not correct?

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: No, the changes would be --
22 this change.

23 MR. CROCKER: These would be the rules of --
24 the temporary rules of this convention.

25 MR. BOPP: Parliamentary inquiry on this

1 point.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Wait one second. Let's deal
3 with one thing at a time. The question was, would
4 these be the rules of this convention, and the answer
5 from General Counsel is they would be in the temporary
6 rules of this convention.

7 MR. BOPP: And the temporary rules become the
8 standing rules once adopted on Monday. So 25 through
9 41 are, in effect, for this convention as adopted on
10 Monday. So if these changes are in there, it goes into
11 effect for this convention.

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Bopp, to answer your
13 question, this amendment would be there. And all of
14 these amendments in this section would be there if the
15 Convention Rules Committee decides to make them part of
16 their final part. All right.

17 Any other questions, debate on the amendment?

18 [No response.]

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, let's proceed to
20 a vote.

21 All those in favor of the amendment as Mr.
22 Ryder has stated, please signify by saying aye.

23 [Chorus of ayes.]

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: All opposed, say nay.

25 [No response.]

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it. The vote is
2 unanimous to adopt Mr. Ryder's amendment.

3 Ms. Collins? If you could go to the
4 microphone. I'm sorry.

5 MR. BLACKWELL: I believe that was a vote on
6 my amendment to the Ryder amendment.

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: You're correct. I apologize.
8 I misspoke.

9 MS. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, that's what I
10 wanted to rise to a point of order. I thought the vote
11 would've been on what --

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: You're correct.

13 MS. COLLINS: -- the gentleman from Virginia.

14 CHAIRMAN ASH: You're correct. I misspoke.

15 MS. COLLINS: And actually what he did was
16 propose a substitute, I believe. Parliamentarian,
17 correct me, but an amendment that changes the intent.
18 So should it be a substitute motion?

19 MS. GIESE: I would say that it would be --
20 since this is the amendment, they want to amend it to
21 go back to the original five. So I would handle it as
22 an amendment. Or a substitute motion would be that you
23 would be changing.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. All right. So we're
25 voting now on -- right. Okay. Now we're voting on the

1 main motion.

2 MS. COLLINS: No. You said we were voting on
3 -- Mr. Chairman, I believe your call to vote was on
4 that amendment as it's on the screen. That's what I
5 understood.

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: That's correct.

7 MS. COLLINS: So I misunderstood. We didn't
8 understand we were voting on the gentleman from
9 Virginia's amendment.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. I'll clarify that.
11 We're going to re-vote again. We're going to vote
12 again.

13 We're voting on the changes made by the
14 gentleman from Virginia to the amendment, and that's
15 all we're voting on at this time.

16 All those in favor, please say aye.

17 [Chorus of ayes.]

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: All opposed, say nay.

19 [No response.]

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it, and the
21 changes as proposed by Mr. Blackwell are passed.

22 We'll now vote on the main amendment, which
23 was made by Mr. Ryder with Mr. Blackwell's changes.

24 All those in favor, please say aye.

25 [Chorus of ayes.]

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: All opposed, say nay.

2 [Chorus of nays.]

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it, and the
4 amendment as stated here passes.

5 Any other rules changes between 31 or 42?
6 Okay. Mr. Little, approach. And go ahead and make
7 your motion.

8 MR. LITTLE: Ross Little, Jr. I believe
9 you've got my change from Rule 15. I think he's got it
10 up there. No, that's not it. Yes, this is it.

11 This is to ask that for the congressmen,
12 governors, and senators, that appropriate non-voting
13 credentials issued for them.

14 I believe our practice has been varied
15 regarding how we do this. I don't know about you all,
16 but for our senators and representatives, those that do
17 come usually only come for a day or two. They don't
18 usually stay here for the whole time.

19 And some of them are facing tough
20 reelections, and some can come for a day or two --

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Let's get this --

22 MR. LITTLE: This would say --

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Just say you're making a
24 motion, and then I'll for a second.

25 MR. LITTLE: I move that we adopt this

1 motion. I'm sorry.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Is there a second to
3 the motion?

4 [No response.]

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to the
6 motion?

7 MR. MCCALL: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Second from Mr. McCall. Go
9 ahead. Please proceed. I'm sorry.

10 MR. LITTLE: This would be a standard
11 practice whether they're for a day or two or whether
12 they would be absent, that their credentials would be
13 issued. And I think we've had various practice on
14 this, and this is to make the practice uniform.

15 CHAIRMAN ASH: So this would be for incumbent
16 office holders, correct?

17 MR. LITTLE: Correct.

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: In those various offices.

19 MR. LITTLE: This is for our incumbent
20 governors, our incumbent senators, and for our
21 incumbent congressmen. They would be issued
22 appropriate non-voting credentials. This is going to
23 be regardless if they were there for a day or two or
24 not there at all.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay, thank you. Is there

1 discussion or debate?

2 [No response.]

3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there discussion or debate?

4 Mr. Pope?

5 MR. POPE: I have a question. Louis Pope
6 from Maryland. Since we all know that our credentials
7 are easily transferred to somebody else from our neck
8 to somebody else's neck, how do you secure the fact
9 that they're not transferred to someone else if they go
10 for one session and they have credentials for all four
11 sessions, that they're not switched and swapped?

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Right. That's really not an
13 answer for Mr. Little, I think.

14 MR. POPE: Okay. It just seems -- they
15 already have access to the convention floor, do they
16 not?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

18 MR. POPE: So why issue them a separate set
19 of --

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. I'm going to let
21 Mr. Phillippe answer the question.

22 MR. PHILLIPPE: Well, the rules do permit
23 them essentially access to the floor, yes. So I'm not
24 aware that there's been an issue. I don't know that we
25 have a specific credential for them.

1 MR. POPE: I can't hear you, John.

2 MR. PHILLIPPE: I don't know that they've
3 ever been denied access.

4 MR. POPE: We can't hear you. Talk in the
5 microphone. Can you explain the credentials they
6 currently receive, because that's what -- I know they
7 have access.

8 MR. PHILLIPPE: I don't know that answer.

9 MR. POPE: What do they have now?

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. We don't have that
11 answer at this time. Bettye Fine Collins.

12 MS. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Bettye Fine
13 Collins from Alabama. I also want a definition of
14 credentials. I think that the delegations give passes
15 to the people. Are we talking about seating them with
16 delegates? I mean, what are we going to be giving
17 them? Are we talking passes? Are they going to be
18 seated with the delegation since we have assigned
19 seating for just those elected delegates? I think it
20 just leaves it wide open as to what we're talking
21 about.

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay, Mr. Little, what was
23 your intent as you made the change?

24 MR. LITTLE: They are issued credentials now.
25 In order to get into the convention, on the floor of

1 the convention, you've got to have credentials just
2 like anyone else. They're going to check your
3 credentials to see if you're there. So they're issued
4 some sort of floor credentials as it is.

5 We're not talking about them being delegates,
6 or alternates, or voting. It says clearly non-voting
7 credentials. That is a floor pass that will allow them
8 to be on the floor.

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Are you seeking -- let's say
10 if a delegation had 30 delegates, are you seeking to
11 get them another two U.S. senators credentials, another
12 four representatives, and a governors on top of that?

13 MR. LITTLE: I'm saying, and someone
14 suggested what if they're there just one day or two
15 days as it happens? Well, and they would have
16 credentials for all four days. Then typically, at
17 least what happens in our State, their chief of staff
18 winds up with their credentials for the two days that
19 they're not there. That's the intent.

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. I'm going to call Mr.
21 Bennett, who's been a chairman once or twice or so, and
22 talk about the reality of what ends up happening at
23 this time.

24 MR. BENNETT: The credentials for the
25 senators and the congressmen are given out by their

1 liaison to the committee here. I mean, they go through
2 the Credentials Committee. And they don't have a seat
3 on the floor of the convention unless somebody gives
4 them a seat voluntarily.

5 And he's absolutely right that when a
6 governor, or a senator, or a congressman is only going
7 to be here for a day or two, he's free to give those
8 credentials to anybody else that he wants, and it
9 usually goes to staff members. And that's the way it's
10 been handled in Ohio, and I have no objections to that
11 and wouldn't continue to have any objections to it.

12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Mr. McCall.

13 MR. MCCALL: Mr. Chairman, Glenn McCall,
14 South Carolina. I agree. I think the process works
15 well today, and I call the question.

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Actually when the
17 question has been called, I can't take any other
18 questions, can I?

19 MS. GIESE: No, you have to have a motion to
20 close debate. That's what he's calling.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Yeah. No, no, I know that,
22 but Bill wanted to ask the question. I've got to go
23 immediately --

24 MS. GIESE: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: And then a second.

1 MS. GIESE: Pardon me? Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Is there a second to
3 Mr. McCall's motion?

4 MS. MUMFORD: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Second by Ms. Mumford. All
6 those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

7 [Chorus of ayes.]

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposition to closing
9 discussion, say nay.

10 [Chorus of nays.]

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes appear to have it.
12 Discussion is closed. We're going to go ahead and vote
13 on the amendment as stated by Mr. Little. Everybody
14 sees it up on the board.

15 All those in favor of the amendment as
16 proposed by Mr. Little, please say aye.

17 [Chorus of ayes.]

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed, say nay.

19 [Chorus of nays.]

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: The nays have it. The motion
21 fails.

22 Are there any other motions from the members
23 on Rules 1 through 42?

24 [No response.]

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, there are a

1 stack of Counsel's office technical amendments on the
2 table in front of you that I'd like us to review at
3 this time. These technical rules are an attempt to
4 clarify the language of the rules in order to simplify
5 their meaning in order to assist the Counsel's office,
6 who attempts to interpret the rules that you are
7 proposing to adopt.

8 If there is no objection, we'll take up the
9 Counsel's office technical amendments at this time.
10 And who will be making those motions? Mr. Crocker.

11 Okay. A little bit of a problem with
12 coordinating the script with reality. They're going to
13 go up on the screen? Okay. We have these that are
14 going to be coming up on the screen in just a second.

15 MR. HAUGLAND: Mr. Chairman?

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Haugland.

17 MR. HAUGLAND: I have a little bit of concern
18 with these technical corrections. I'd like to point
19 something out if I might.

20 In 2008 under the guise of technical
21 corrections, the words "select," "allocate," and "bind"
22 were added all over our rules, and it was presented in
23 this same manner. And it was in the area of our rules
24 that deals with the election of delegates. Instead of
25 electing delegates, we now, if you look at our rules,

1 we now elect, select, allocate, or bind.

2 I'd like to have a little more time to take a
3 look at -- in writing at what we're supposed to be
4 considering technical corrections.

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Are you making a motion? I
6 mean, this is --

7 MR. HAUGLAND: Just requesting more time to
8 see them in print so we can look at them and see what's
9 going on.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Well, this is the time and
11 place if we're going to --

12 MR. HAUGLAND: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: If we're going to consider
14 these, we're going to have a motion made, it's going to
15 be seconded, it's going to be debated, and it's going
16 to be voted on. If the members decide to vote it up or
17 vote it down, that's the vote of the membership.

18 MR. HAUGLAND: That wasn't my question. My
19 question was could we have a little more time to
20 actually look at them before we deliberate and vote.

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Mr. Haugland, are
22 you making a motion that we not consider these?

23 MR. HAUGLAND: Mr. Chairman, no, I'm not
24 making any motion.

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Then we're going to

1 proceed with the presentation and let the members
2 decide. Mr. Crocker, if you wouldn't mind, you'll head
3 over to the microphone. Mr. Crocker, please proceed.

4 MR. CROCKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just
5 to prove that I'm not part of some conspiracy to
6 sandbag all of you, I'm learning about these almost at
7 about the same time you are, because these come
8 straight from the staff. These are a result of the
9 burden of administering the rules as they are written
10 and finding that sometimes the way they're written,
11 they don't work. And these are clarifying amendments.

12 The Rule Number 2(d) would be an elimination
13 of the roll call in order for the States to declare the
14 winners of the elections for national committeeman and
15 national committeewoman. The history has been that
16 that roll call -- the rules are suspended, and the roll
17 call doesn't happen anyhow. And so this will allow
18 simply the submission by the chairman of -- by the
19 appropriate person of each State to the secretary of a
20 list of the names of their national committeemen and
21 national committeewoman and state chairmen, and those
22 are ratified. There's no hocus pocus or anything else.
23 We just do away with the requirement for a roll call,
24 that we have suspended the rules and done away with
25 historically over the last many conventions.

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to the
2 motion?

3 MR. BOPP: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay, seconds all over the
5 place. Mr. Bopp, we'll show you as the seconder.

6 Any further comments that you want, Mr.
7 Crocker? Any other --

8 MR. CROCKER: No, I made too many. Forgive
9 me.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: I'm sorry?

11 MR. CROCKER: I said, I made too many
12 already. Forgive me.

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Any other discussion or
14 debate on the amendment as proposed by Mr. Crocker?
15 Actually, guys go to the --

16 MR. CROCKER: The question is, does that mean
17 that the committeeman and committeewoman -- the period
18 of their term will change so that they will be -- the
19 committeeman and committeewoman for the convention in
20 which they are ratified. That has not changed. That
21 provision is elsewhere in the rules. Their term still
22 starts and stops with the close of the national
23 convention. There's no change there. This is just the
24 means by which their names are conveyed to the people
25 who are responsible for preparing the list of people

1 who are ratified, nothing else.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Right now, there's a delay
3 from the time a committeeman, woman, or State party
4 chairman are elected to the next RNC meeting before
5 they're actually ratified. So this would take the
6 place of that. There would be a notification to the
7 RNC rather than waiting until the next meeting.

8 MR. CROCKER: It's really not that. It is
9 once upon a time before television, the names were read
10 out, and the convention heard them, and the convention
11 let each State celebrate the nomination of their -- or
12 the election of their national committeeman and
13 national committeewoman. That doesn't fit today's
14 practice. And as a result, we have suspended the rules
15 so they don't have to be read out. It's just not
16 appropriate for even C-Span apparently.

17 And there's nothing else that's changed.
18 There is no change of when the term starts, when the
19 term stops, or any of the rest of it. This is just
20 doing away with the calling of the roll to announce the
21 winners.

22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Bennett?

23 MR. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, Bob Bennett from
24 Ohio. I have a problem with this only because the way
25 we elect our national committee people in Ohio. We

1 elect them -- the State committee actually elects them.

2 And it's the duty imposed upon a State chairman to
3 notify the convention.

4 So I'd like to at least accommodate those
5 States and have a different procedure rather than the
6 delegates during the election of the national
7 committeeman and national committeewoman, because not
8 every State does it the same way.

9 MR. CROCKER: Mr. Chairman, I don't think Mr.
10 Bennett understands. We're not --

11 MR. BENNETT: It says "The delegates from
12 each State shall submit the names."

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Crocker, would you care to
14 comment?

15 MR. CROCKER: That's not what happens. We're
16 not changing that at all. You will elect the way
17 you've always elected. This is simply the means by
18 which you give them the information so that they can
19 put the names on a list and adopt the list or ratify
20 the list. No change in the way they are elected or
21 their terms.

22 MR. BENNETT: I think the former Chairman of
23 Michigan is telling me that all I have to do is hand
24 the list to the chairman of the delegation.

25 MR. CROCKER: It makes it easier for you.

1 MR. BENNETT: It's all right by me then.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Does that answer your
3 question?

4 MR. BENNETT: That answers my question.

5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Is there any other
6 discussion or debate on the amendment? Ms. Collins.

7 MS. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, so we're clear on
8 the fact that -- well, I'm asking you. Mr. Chairman, do
9 I have your permission to get an opinion from him on
10 his motion?

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Just go ahead and ask and
12 we'll --

13 MS. COLLINS: Okay, thank you. I just want
14 to be clear. Our terms go through the convention for
15 the names submitted.

16 MR. CROCKER: That's unchanged.

17 MS. COLLINS: Good. I understand. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Hearing no other
20 debate or discussion, I will move directly to a vote.

21 All those in favor of the motion or the
22 amendment made by Mr. Crocker, please signify by saying
23 aye.

24 [Chorus of ayes.]

25 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed, say nay.

1 [No response.]

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it. The vote is
3 unanimous. The amendment passes.

4 Mr. Crocker?

5 MR. CROCKER: Mr. Chairman, I move the
6 amendment of Rule 6(b)(2) by striking (b)(2) in its
7 entirety.

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Crocker.

11 MR. CROCKER: If I may explain this, Mr.
12 Chairman, this simply eliminates the exception that
13 currently exists in the authority of the Executive
14 Committee of the RNC, and would allow the Executive
15 Committee of the RNC to ratify newly-elected RNC
16 members more frequently than or more quickly than the
17 regularly scheduled meetings of the RNC occur.

18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Right. And I apologize to the
19 members. I mistook the last one for this. This would
20 be in the event of vacancies that occur in between
21 meetings of the RNC, correct, Mr. Crocker?

22 MR. CROCKER: That is correct. That is
23 correct.

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Any other questions, or
25 debate, discussion?

1 MR. BOPP: I second.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Sorry, we didn't have a
3 second before. I apologize. My bad. Second by Mr.
4 Bopp. Any other discussion or debate on the amendment?

5 [No response.]

6 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hearing none, we'll go
7 directly to a vote. All those in favor of the motion
8 made by Mr. Crocker on Rule 6, please signify by saying
9 aye.

10 [Chorus of ayes.]

11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposition, say nay.

12 [Chorus of nays.]

13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Motion passes.

14 MR. CROCKER: Mr. Chairman, I need to pick up
15 the rest of them that have been re-vetted to be sure we
16 don't do anything that's not a --

17 Mr. Chairman, I move the amendment of Rule
18 24(b) to change the word "within" and replace it -- to
19 remove -- to delete the word "within" and replace it
20 with the words "no later than." And this deals with
21 the time for filing of a notice of appeal from the
22 Contest Committee.

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second to the
24 motion?

25 MS. LUCKEY: I second.

1 MR. CROCKER: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Who made --

3 MS. LUCKEY: I second.

4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Jeanne Luckey of Mississippi.

5 Mr. Crocker, proceed.

6 MR. CROCKER: Mr. Crocker, if I may, the
7 current language of the -- that relates to the timing
8 of the required notice of appeal to the RNC from the --
9 I'm sorry, to the Credentials Committee, the notice to
10 the Credentials Committee of an appeal from the
11 decision of the RNC on a contest.

12 The current requirement is that it be filed
13 within one hour prior to the convening of the
14 committee. So that means if filed your notice -- taken
15 literally it means if you filed your notice an hour and
16 five minutes before the committee convened, your notice
17 is inadequate, and you have -- the committee has no
18 jurisdiction to hear the appeal.

19 What they apparently meant to say was it must
20 be filed no later than one hour prior to the convening
21 of the committee. And so this is simply to rationalize
22 that notice requirement, if you will.

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: If you've got a question,
24 please come to the mic.

25 MR. BENNETT: Just calling the question.

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Oh, you're calling -- okay.
2 Calling the question. We have a motion to call the
3 question.

4 All those in favor of calling the question,
5 please say aye.

6 [Chorus of ayes.]

7 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposed?

8 [No response.]

9 CHAIRMAN ASH: We'll now go ahead and vote on
10 the motion as made by Mr. Crocker on Rule 24.

11 All those in favor, please signify by saying
12 aye.

13 [Chorus of ayes.]

14 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those opposed, say nay.

15 [No response.]

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: The ayes have it. The motion
17 passes unanimously. Mr. Crocker?

18 MR. CROCKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 That's all we have.

20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Before we finish up today, I'd
21 like to have a technical unanimous consent request.
22 Without objection, I'd like to ask for the staff to be
23 given permission to make such technical, clerical, and
24 clarifying changes in the report as may be necessary.
25 I want to make sure that they have the chance to do any

1 non-substantive grammar and punctuation changes as
2 necessary, as all members of this committee will have
3 the opportunity to review any additional technical
4 changes during the RNC general session tomorrow.

5 I believe that this motion is in order. Is
6 there a motion?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Is there a second?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN ASH: A second. Discussion? Mr.
11 Bopp?

12 MR. BOPP: So these technical changes are to
13 be made prior to the RNC general session tomorrow.

14 CHAIRMAN ASH: They are going to be made.

15 MR. BOPP: They are to be. Okay, good.

16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Right. We've had a motion,
17 and a second, and discussion.

18 All those in favor of the motion, please
19 signify by saying aye.

20 [Chorus of ayes.]

21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposed?

22 [No response.]

23 CHAIRMAN ASH: The motion passes unanimously.

24 Just as some closing announcements. Friends,
25 we've officially concluded our businesses as the RNC

1 Standing Committee on Rules for the 2008 -- 2012 term
2 of the Republican National Committee. I want to thank
3 all of you for your dedication, for your hard work, for
4 your interest, for your debate, and for your good will
5 amongst all of the members. We never had a
6 disagreeable time, and we had plenty of disagreements.
7 We all had a chance to speak, and it didn't go too long
8 in most cases.

9 And I want to thank all the members of the
10 committee, and I especially want to thank those members
11 of the committee who will be leaving us at the
12 conclusion of this meeting here today.

13 I thank all of you as friends and as fellow
14 patriots for the work that you have put in for your
15 Party and for our country. And I wish you all well in
16 whatever you might do in the future. Mr. Pope?

17 MR. POPE: Chairman Ash, since I'm the one
18 who originally put your name in nomination four years
19 ago, I want to thank you for your service, and I thank
20 the members of this committee for supporting you and
21 the outstanding job you've done over the last four
22 years in guiding us through the rules.

23 [Applause.]

24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
25 Pope.

1 And with that, this meeting is adjourned.

2 [Whereupon, at 4:36 p.m., the meeting was

3 adjourned.]

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