

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Is legal competence the most important quality?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: Legal competence, I would say, is one of the most important qualities.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: In the committee deliberations did you study any campaign literature issued by any attorneys general?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: No, we did not.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: Have you ever personally seen any campaign literature of a person running for this office in which he stressed his legal competency?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: I have seen campaign literature for persons running for this office where they have had the endorsements of hundreds of attorneys who have endorsed him for the office, so I would presume that they think he is legally competent.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: May I ask you whether or not the candidate for attorney general is not generally selected as part of a ticket?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: That is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: May I ask you further whether or not his selection on that ticket is based on his legal competency or upon his, quote, getting power for the ticket on which he is a part, unquote?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: I would imagine it would be a combination of both. You would not select a person completely for legal competency if he could not get any votes so I think it would be a combination of both.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: May I ask you whether or not the area of the State

in which this person lives is not a factor to be taken into consideration in determining whether he is included on a ticket or not?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: I have heard it said that it is a factor, but I would assume we have competent lawyers in all areas of the State.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: So do you not concede by admitting that the vote-getting factor, the area of geography, that these factors are being used in a very important way in determining who the attorney general shall be, and not his legal competency?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: No, I would not concede that. I think his legal competency is always considered, but these other factors are added to that before he is selected by whoever is selecting the ticket.

I do not think a person without legal competence would be selected as an attorney general. If you review the record of the outstanding attorney generals we have had in the State all of them have been competent lawyers and competent attorney generals.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hardwicke.

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: This is my final question, Mr. Chairman. If you were selecting a personal lawyer to represent you in an important case, do you believe that the most competent man would be chosen by an elective process or by some other process which would be subject to your personal determination, such as your own appointment?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE MASON: Well, if it were left to me to select an attorney, who I would think would be most competent, you would obviously have someone you thought was more competent if you selected him, so I think it is subjective as to who is the most competent attorney. We cannot say as a matter of fact that one lawyer is that much more competent than another.

There are many objective factors involved in this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Pullen.

DELEGATE PULLEN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask your legal interpretation of several words that I shall call at-