

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher, will you yield to Delegate James?

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Yes, I do.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: The practice is to handle this by rule. You cannot vote on an amendment unless a written amendment is on everyone's desk. The rule can be suspended, but it very seldom is, so as a practical matter it is covered by the rule. There are really two situations where the amendments would be considered, as in writing, where they would not actually be written into the bill at the time of the vote. One would be in the second chamber where the second chamber was considering an amendment. You could vote on the amendment and then on the bill on final passage, with the amendments attached. That is one situation, and the other situation would be where the bill had been returned to the house of origin with amendments. In both of those situations, the amendments under the rules have to be on the members' desks.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Della.

DELEGATE DELLA: Mr. Chairman, when the bill is introduced and amended in the house of origin, those amendments are printed into the bill, so when you read the bill you can read the amendments in the bill itself. When the bill is then amended in the second house, there must be five copies of the amendment offered, and one of those copies, by rule, is given to the printer and one goes to the journal clerk, so you have a copy of the amendment. There is no writing in. They must be typed and offered and then the amendments are offered to the membership, so they know what they are voting on. When the amendments are adopted, five copies of the amendments are attached to the bill to be returned to the house of origin.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: That last statement puzzles me a little bit. When the—

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you addressing a question to Delegate Della?

DELEGATE GLEASON: If I may, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you yield to a question, Delegate Della?

DELEGATE DELLA: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Proceed, Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: When the five copies are delivered to the rostrum with

the proposed amendment to the second house, is a copy of that amendment put on everyone's desk before the vote?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Della.

DELEGATE DELLA: The amendment is offered by a member, and before the body votes on that amendment, those members had a copy of what they are voting on.

Now, if the amendment is adopted, then you have 142 copies of that amendment sent over with the bill and the amendments attached to the bill so that the members of the house of origin would know what amendment was offered to that bill so there would be no guesswork whatsoever.

The five copies of the amendment offered to a bill, one goes to the printer, two copies go to the journal clerk, a copy goes to the legislative reference, and one copy is used for the press.

That is the required five copies that must be filed across the reading clerk's desk.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: Let me go back over the road once more with you, if I might, because the five copies and the places they go to are things that are bothering me. This amendment says the bill shall not be approved in final form in each house until the amendments are printed, or the bill is in writing, so I am talking about after the bill has left the house of origin, and it comes to the second house. It has been amended already in the house of origin and I understand the amendments are printed right on the copy of the bill. It then gets to the second house, and the bill is up for discussion and amendments are proposed. Five copies are put across the desk, and they go to various sources, as you have indicated. Before the members vote on that amendment, I gather from Senator James shaking his head, they have a copy of that amendment in writing on their desk.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Della.

DELEGATE DELLA: That is absolutely true, Delegate Gilchrist.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gleason.

Delegate Della.

DELEGATE DELLA: Delegate Gleason, when you offer an amendment, every member of that body is given a copy of it. In addition to the five copies that are attached to the bill, plus the number of amendments that must be forwarded to the house of origin. In the house, if we