

THE PRESIDENT: The pages will distribute Amendment B.

For what purpose does Delegate Vecera rise?

DELEGATE VECERA: Mr. President, I do not know whether I voted for or against the amendment. I wanted to be recorded against the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: You do not know how you voted?

*(Laughter.)*

DELEGATE VECERA: I wanted to vote against the amendment. I think I voted for it.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Vecera, the tally sheet indicates that you voted in favor of the amendment. If you cast that vote under a misapprehension as to what you were voting on, you are not permitted to change the vote except by unanimous consent. If in fact the vote was in error by reason of the machine operating improperly or your switch operating improperly or your finger hitting it the wrong way, you may have your vote recorded properly.

What the Chair is trying to say to you is, if you cast your vote differently from what you intended, not because of a misunderstanding, but just because you hit the lever the wrong way and you tell the Chair that is what you did, the vote will be changed. Otherwise, it can only be changed with unanimous consent.

DELEGATE VECERA: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE PRESIDENT: What is that?

DELEGATE VECERA: I hit the switch the wrong way.

*(Laughter.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Vecera's vote will be changed from Yea to Nay.

The tally on the previous vote will thereby be corrected. There being 60 votes in the affirmative and 63 in the negative, the motion is lost.

For what purpose does Delegate Borom rise?

DELEGATE BOROM: A question of Delegate Vecera.

THE PRESIDENT: He does not have the floor.

DELEGATE BOROM: I would just like to know if he would swear by this.

*(Laughter.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Amendment B will be Amendment No. 2.

The amendment is submitted by Delegate Sickles. Is there a second? Is there a second?

*(Whereupon, the amendment was duly seconded.)*

THE PRESIDENT: The amendment is seconded by Delegate Bennett.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Sickles to speak to the amendment.

First, the Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 2 to Committee Recommendation GP-2, as amended by Report S&D-4, by Delegate Sickles: On page 1, Section , Oath, strike out all of line 11 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

“ “I, ,”;

And in line 20 after the word “State” add the words: “(So help me God)”.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Delegate Sickles.

DELEGATE SICKLES: Mr. President and fellow Delegates:

If you look at the amendment you see what it does. It removes the clause that we have been discussing at some length, “In the presence of Almighty God,” and substitutes in lieu thereof at the end of the proposed oath, also in parenthesis, “So help me God.”

I think at first blush you might be inclined to conclude that there is no difference. Let me explain just why I have proposed this amendment. You have been listening to references to the Supreme Court cases, and one of the cases that was referred to was the Torcaso case. I can remember the day when Roy Torcaso walked into my office, because that was a case that I handled. I wish I could stand here and say to you what the law is on this subject. I wish I could be definitive and say what the implications are.

I have listened to the arguments, and I think that most people have given their best advice on it. But nobody is quite sure what the implications would be.

I worried about this because I do not think that even those of us who want to pay respect or allow those who want to pay respect to the Lord when they take the oath, want to do anything that will impede the oath or hurt the constitution.