

Has every other delegate voted? Does any delegate desire to change his vote?

*(There was no response.)*

The Clerk will record the vote.

There being 113 votes in the affirmative and 6 votes in the negative, the motion carries. The second portion of the amendment is adopted. All of Amendment No. 15 is adopted.

The Chair would like to take this opportunity to recognize the presence in the rear gallery of Dr. Richard Weigle, President of St. John's College, and ask this Convention to join me in expressing to him our sincere appreciation for the hospitality that St. John's College has shown to our boy pages. Thank you, Dr. Weigle.

*(Applause.)*

Are there any other amendments to section 3.04?

Delegate Linton, you withdrew your Amendment DD.

DELEGATE LINTON: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair understands, Delegate Boyer, you will not offer your amendment. The Chair has no other amendments to section 3.04.

Delegate White.

DELEGATE WHITE: Mr. President, members of the Convention, as we know, yesterday was New Year's Day but you also were not aware that yesterday was Delegate Addie Key's birthday. Let's give her a big hand.

*(Applause.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Mr. President, on a point of personal privilege I want to welcome and have the Convention welcome in the gallery two charming twin school teachers of Anne Arundel County, very active in the School Teachers' Association. I am sorry to say, Mr. President, that they are too young and beautiful for my twin brother and me to recognize but I do want the Convention to recognize them, Miss Joan and Miss Jean Pitzer.

*(Applause.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any further amendment to section 3.04?

*(There was no response.)*

If not, proceed to consideration of section 3.14.

The matter pending on section 3.14 is the motion for reconsideration. The motion of Delegate James, I think, was for reconsideration of the vote by which Amendment No. 10 was adopted. Amendment 10, which has the letter "D", amends section 3.14 by inserting in line 25 after the word "officers" the words "by secret ballot". You should have that amendment before you. Motion for reconsideration was made and seconded. The Chair recognizes Delegate James to speak to the motion.

DELEGATE JAMES: Mr. President and fellow members, this is a just-can't-be amendment, as we would call it.

*(Laughter.)*

Seriously, the simple fact of the matter is that the General Assembly of Maryland is a public body. The strength of any legislative body is the fact that it operates in a public manner. Everything it does with very few exceptions are matters subject to public scrutiny. Election of a presiding officer is certainly a most important function of the members. The public is entitled to know exactly how the membership votes in the election of these officers.

Certainly the fact that a member wants to avoid political consequences of voting for one member over another of a legislative body in the organization should not be a sufficient reason to deprive the public of the knowledge of exactly how members were elected, what the line-up was, who voted for whom, and to make their judgments accordingly.

In addition to that, if you can have presiding officers elected by secret vote by constitutional injunctive, certainly this is a very bad precedent. It seems to me one secret action leads to another and the trend in the legislative body, and I am in favor of this, is to lean away from any secret proceedings to more open proceedings.

I believe in one instance at least we provide that, for instance, votes by which we confirm officers should be by open vote. This is now conducted in executive session. This will be another step toward making all proceedings public. I certainly think this Constitutional Convention will set a good example by requiring as much of the proceedings as possible of the legislative bodies to be open. You will recall that at the beginning of this session there was high indignation when there was the suggestion we have a secret ballot in the organization. There was a provision providing we could have secret committee meetings at the discretion of the Committee. I think