

THE PRESIDENT: I wish also to recognize the presence in the gallery of a student group from Montrose School for Girls at Reisterstown, Maryland. They are attending the General Session this afternoon.

*(Applause.)*

Next item on the agenda is reports of other standing committees. There is a report of the Committee on General Provisions, Committee Recommendation GP-2. The Clerk will read the recommendation.

READING CLERK: Committee Recommendation GP-2, by the Committee on General Provisions, Elroy D. Boyer, Chairman. A recommendation that the constitution include a provision on oath.

THE PRESIDENT: Committee Recommendation GP-2 is referred to the Committee of the Whole. There is filed with this recommendation Committee Memorandum GP-2. You should have both.

Next item on the agenda is consideration of the Committee Report of the Committee on Rules, Credentials and Convention Budget, Rule R&C 12 filed several days ago. The Chair recognizes Delegate Scanlan, Chairman of the Committee, and requests that he come forward to the Clerk's desk.

DELEGATE SCANLAN: Mr. President, fellow delegates, I have the honor to present the Twelfth Report of the Committee on Rules, Credentials and Convention Budget. Hopefully this should be about our last report, at least on any matter of great substance.

The report which I hope you have read is rather long and deals with a number of technical amendments to the rules. However, at least two of the proposed amendments to the rules merit your careful consideration. I would like briefly to summarize what your Committee has proposed.

The first amendment we propose is an amendment to present Rule 33 [35]\*. The purpose of the amendment is to make sure that whatever the rule regarding the printing and distribution of amendments may be, it applies both in the Committee of the Whole and in the Convention itself. The majority of amendments to be offered by delegates will be offered in the Committee of the Whole, but when the Committee on Style has finished its work and the matter comes back before the Convention for second reading amendments will be in order. So whatever the rules or requirements with

respect to the printing and distribution of amendments, they should be uniform in both instances.

The second amendment we propose is some liberalization of matters that can be taken up in the Committee of the Whole. On page 3 of our Report we have two proposed changes regarding matters in the Committee of the Whole. We propose first to prohibit laying the question on the table in the Committee of the Whole. The matter is unclear now under the present rule. On the other hand, the rule regarding the Committee of the Whole makes it perfectly clear that you cannot move the previous question.

Therefore, in order not to allow that prohibition to be circumvented and evaded by use of a motion to table, we propose to insert "no question may be laid on the table" in Rule 36 [38] dealing with proceedings in the Committee of the Whole.

Our second suggestion here is again somewhat technical. Under ordinary parliamentary procedure, no motion to postpone to a time certain in the Committee of the Whole can be entertained. We think this is unwise because it has become already apparent that sessions of the Committee of the Whole will last four, five, and possibly six hours. There may come an occasion when we want to postpone consideration of something in the Committee of the Whole to a later hour in the afternoon. The recommendation of your Committee would permit that.

On the other hand, ordinary parliamentary procedure applies when the motion is made to postpone to a time definite, unless these rules provide otherwise. Since ordinarily in parliamentary practice this is a debatable motion, we could see the Committee of the Whole getting bogged down in debate about whether you should postpone something to a time certain.

So that we have provided and recommended limitation on that. We would recommend that the rule be amended by inserting the words "Any motion to postpone further consideration shall be debatable for ten minutes, no speech thereon to exceed two minutes." It would provide very limited debate if and when this type of situation should arise.

The next amendment we have is also somewhat technical in nature. I think that

\*The number in brackets refers to the final number assigned to the rule in the Rules of Constitutional Convention of Maryland.