

SIXTH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Held at:

Arthur Abel Complex Conference Room
56A Prince Street, Frederiksted, St. Croix
and via Zoom Online Platform

(10:25 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.)

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PLENARY SESSION

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

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DELEGATES PRESENT:

Delegate Usie R. Richards, President
Delegate Stedmann Hodge, Jr., Vice-Chair
Delegate John J. Abramson, Jr., Treasurer
Delegate Imani Daniel, Secretary
Delegate Lilliana Belardo de O'Neal
Delegate John M. Canegata
Delegate Devin F. Carrington, Esq.
*Delegate Lydia Hendricks**
Delegate Rudel A. Hodge, Jr., Esq.
Delegate Akima Richardson
Delegate Rupert W. Ross, Jr.
Delegate Ronald E. Russell, Esq.
*Delegate David Silverman**
*Delegate Arturo Watlington, Jr., Esq.**
*Delegate Alecia M. Wells**

*=[Via Zoom On-line Platform]

Press Present:

Diana Dias - VI Source

*Janeka Simon - VI Consortium**

*Marisol Garcia - WTJX Newsfeed**

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1 -----
2 Thereupon, the Session convened at 10:25 a.m.
3 -----

3 PRESIDENT USIE R. RICHARDS: Good morning, every-
4 one.

5 CHORUS OF DELEGATES: Morning, morning.

6 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Good morning again, every-
7 one. And for those of you that are virtually on-line,
8 we are about to reconvene the first recessed Session,
9 excuse me, of the Virgin Islands Sixth Constitutional
10 Convention that was recessed by the President in his
11 capacity as Chair to return within 14 days.

12 I would ask that the roll be called to ensure
13 that we have a quorum to proceed and to accurately
14 record the members.

15 -----
16 ROLL CALL
17 -----

17 MS. MYRNA DeALTIER PICKARD: John J. Abramson,
18 Jr.?

19 DELEGATE JOHN J. ABRAMSON, JR.: Present.

20 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Abramson,
21 present.

22 Lilliana Belardo de O'Neal?

23 [Technical difficulties and loud feedback]

24 DELEGATE JOHN M. CANEGATA: One second, guys?

25 DELEGATE LILLIANA BELARDO de O'NEAL: There's too

1 much noise in here.

2 DELEGATE CANEGATA: There's too much feedback.

3 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Could we ask those of you to
4 only open your microphone when you're getting ready to
5 speak?

6 DELEGATE RUDEL A. HODGE, JR.: It's this and
7 this.

8 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: And John?

9 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Yes. John, you need to mute
10 yours.

11 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Mines is mute.

12 THE TECHNICIAN: I put a message in the CHAT so
13 everybody could just call the conference phone.

14 DELEGATE DAVID SILVERMAN: There's excessive
15 feedback and we're not hearing if you're proceeding.

16 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Say that again? Say it to
17 this over here.

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Can we mute the volume on
19 the laptop that you have down there? Let's see what
20 happens.

21 [Technical difficulties and loud feedback]

22 THE TECHNICIAN: If we could have everybody just
23 mute their microphone and probably call in?

24 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Don't do that.

25 THE TECHNICIAN: Don't do that?

1 O'Neal, present.

2 John M. Canegata?

3 DELEGATE CANEGATA: Present.

4 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Canegata,
5 present.

6 Devin F. Carrington?

7 DELEGATE DEVIN F. CARRINGTON: Present.

8 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Canegata,
9 present.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Carrington.

11 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Carrington, present.

12 Imani Daniel?

13 DELEGATE IMANI DANIEL: Present.

14 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Daniel, present.

15 Lydia Hendricks?

16 DELEGATE DANIEL: She would be on Zoom in St.
17 Thomas?

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yes.

19 DELEGATE DANIEL: Want me to get her?

20 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Can she open her mic?

21 Lydia Hendricks?

22 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Election System.

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Lydia Hendricks?

24 We could -- we'll come back. Proceed.

25 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Unmute. Yes, they're open

1 now; they're open.

2 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yes, Lydia Hendricks, the
3 roll call.

4 DELEGATE ARTURO WATLINGTON, JR.: They're on
5 mute. That's on mute --

6 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: We can hear you.

7 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: -- I ain't hearing nothing.

8 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Hendricks, pre-
9 sent.

10 Rudel A. Hodge, Jr.?

11 DELEGATE R. HODGE: It's "Rudel," present.

12 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: We can hear you. So, say
13 yes, "present," Rudel.

14 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Rudel A. Hodge, Jr.?

15 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I ain't hearing the roll
16 call.

17 DELEGATE ALECIA M. WELLS: Me neither.

18 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Rudel A. Hodge, Jr.,
19 present.

20 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Hold on, hold the roll call?

21 Ladies and gentlemen on the virtual, I understand
22 at least two persons are together in the Election System
23 based on our log-ins. The -- you could start from Ms.
24 Hendricks again.

25 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Lydia Hendricks?

1 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Lydia Hendricks?

2 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: She's there, and they're
3 open.

4 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Put she as --

5 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: She is physically --

6 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- present, yea.

7 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Hendricks,
8 present.

9 Rudel A. Hodge, Jr.?

10 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Present.

11 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Hodge, Jr.,
12 present.

13 Stedmann Hodge, Jr.?

14 DELEGATE STEDMANN HODGE, JR.: Here.

15 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Hodge, Jr.,
16 present.

17 Usie Raymond Richards?

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Present.

19 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Richards,
20 present.

21 Akima Richardson?

22 DELEGATE AKIMA RICHARDSON: Present.

23 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Richardson,
24 present.

25 Rupert W. Ross, Jr.?

1 DELEGATE RUPERT W. ROSS, JR.: Present.

2 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Ross, Jr.,
3 present.

4 Ronald Russell?

5 DELEGATE RONALD E. RUSSELL: Present.

6 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Russell, present.
7 David Silverman?

8 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Silverman?

9 DELEGATE DAVID SILVERMAN: Present.

10 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Silverman, pre-
11 sent.

12 Arturo Watlington, Jr.?

13 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Present.

14 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Watlington, Jr.,
15 present.

16 Alecia M. Wells?

17 DELEGATE WELLS: Roll call finished and I didn't
18 hear my name.

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: We were waiting for you to
20 respond.

21 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Alecia M. Wells?

22 Mr. President, 15 present.

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you.

24 The -- there is a quorum established with all 15
25 members present. As I mentioned, prior to the roll

1 call, the --

2 [Technical difficulties and loud feedback]

3 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Who is the person at (340) --

4 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: That's he. So you could
5 turn your volume all the way down. You turned your
6 volume for the other one down?

7 THE TECHNICIAN: Okay, so they should be able to
8 hear you now.

9 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Good morning, we're testing
10 to see if you all can hear us. Those of you --

11 THE TECHNICIAN: They could unmute theirs on St.
12 Thomas to talk, but we'll keep ours muted. We're going
13 to just use the phone.

14 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay. Can everyone on vir-
15 tually, delegates, you could unmute your system so that
16 you could have your open mic.

17 DELEGATE WELLS: Is there something going on?
18 I'm not hearing anything.

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: I'm not saying -- we weren't
20 --

21 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: I'm not hearing anything
22 either. They all seem to be muted.

23 DELEGATE LYDIA HENDRICKS: I'm also not hearing
24 anything.

25 DELEGATE CANEGATA: Testing! Are we muted here?

1 'Cause they're not even hearing it through the phone
2 here, and they should be picking it up.

3 They should be picking up through this conference
4 phone. It seem like they've not been admitted into the
5 meeting as yet.

6 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: We have everyone in.

7 DELEGATE CANEGATA: Including this number right
8 here?

9 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Yes.

10 DELEGATE CANEGATA: Did you admit everyone?

11 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Yes.

12 DELEGATE CANEGATA: Okay, star 6.

13 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay. Ah --

14 [Technical difficulties and loud feedback]

15 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: You have two phone on.

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Turn your computer away to
17 see. Is it this?

18 THE TECHNICIAN: Testing, testing.

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Good morning, again. Can
20 everyone hear now without the feedback?

21 DELEGATE WELLS: Now I can hear.

22 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you.

23 We apologize --

24 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: I could hear, but there is
25 an extensive echo.

1 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: That's we -- we are prepar-
2 ing to work with that at this point.

3 We're going to proceed, and we apologize for the
4 technical difficulties we're having being set up.

5 So, you mute it here? Somebody phone?

6 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: You got two phone on.

7 It's (340)643-7392 is on and (340)773-6449.

8 DELEGATE DANIEL: Mr. Abramson, you have to turn
9 your volume completely off.

10 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: It is down.

11 DELEGATE DANIEL: No, not your mute. I'm hearing
12 from your device, it's picking up. It needs to be
13 completely silent.

14 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: It's off.

15 DELEGATE DANIEL: I'm still -- I'm good, no
16 worries.

17 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Also you're the Zoom host;
18 right?

19 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Yes.

20 DELEGATE R. HODGE: You can mute everybody except
21 this from your host position.

22 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: I can, I did, but then they
23 can't talk.

24 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: But then them in St. Thomas.

25 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: My thing is down. Okay.

1 DELEGATE DANIEL: You're still emitting noise,
2 which is "reverbing" over here. You have to be com-
3 pletely -- only one device can make noise in the room.

4 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Good day.

5 MEMBER HENDRICKS: That's better.

6 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: That's better?

7 Again, we apologize for the reconvening and the
8 technical difficulties that we have, which apparently,
9 at least from this end, has been solved. We would
10 proceed with the meeting.

11 For the matter of record, we do have present, in
12 addition to the delegates, the stenographer, excuse me,
13 Miss Dowling; a representative from the VI Source, and
14 what is your name?

15 MS. DIANA DIAS: Diana Dias.

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Diana Dias.

17 And the assistance from the Legislature in Ms.
18 Myrna Pickard.

19 We do have the Consortium, I believe also on-
20 line. And in addition to the Consortium you say WTJX --

21 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: TJX, Marisol Garcia.

22 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- Newslite is also on-line.

23 So that we can proceed, in regards for the
24 announcements and for the record of this meeting, we did
25 -- well, I did issue on February 2nd a memorandum in

1 regards to the notice of this particular meeting; shar-
2 ing the fact of where the meeting will be located and
3 the intention of the business to be discussed at this
4 meeting, specifically the Rules of the Convention; the
5 Number and Composition of Committees and the Constitu-
6 tion Revision Process and Other Business that members or
7 delegates may have an interest in adding to the discus-
8 sion of the Convention.

9 And then also on February 7th, the agenda was in
10 fact itemized listing the four items that we are taking
11 under consideration for discussion.

12 Having shared that, before I proceed with the
13 agenda, is there any item that someone would like to add
14 under "Any Other Business" before we are able to com-
15 mence with what the list say?

16 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I know what the agenda
17 says.

18 DELEGATE WELLS: Point of Information?

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Wells?

20 DELEGATE WELLS: Yes, I didn't hear my name
21 called.

22 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Your name -- you said that
23 earlier, your name was called and you've been recorded
24 as present.

25 DELEGATE WELLS: Thank you very much, Mr. Presi-

1 dent.

2 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: You're very welcome.

3 Hearing none, let's proceed on the discussion of
4 the Consideration of the Adoption of the Rules of the
5 Virgin Islands Sixth Constitutional Convention.

6 An electronic copy and a hard copy should have
7 been on the desk of everyone this morning based on the
8 prior submittal, and this is currently before us.

9 Is there ah --

10 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Question? Member Watling-
11 ton.

12 Yes, I want to make sure I have the Rules that
13 we're referring to. Is there any distinction in terms
14 of various editions or is there just one edition?

15 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: There's one edition, the
16 updated email that was sent out this morning.

17 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I didn't see any this
18 morning. I saw an email yesterday, and it said "latest"
19 well it says "replace." I don't know, it didn't -- I
20 don't know which one you're referring to? What date?
21 'Cause you said it was sent this morning, at what time?

22 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: This morning at 8:35 or
23 9:00.

24 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I'll have to go to my phone
25 to find that.

1 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Well, that's understood.

2 The hard copies are in front of everyone here
3 who's in the meeting here on the island of St. Croix.

4 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Okay, so that we could know
5 exactly what we're reading from, 'cause I have an edi-
6 tion here, but I don't know if it's the same thing.

7 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Hello, hello? One at a
8 time.

9 Who's that -- and please let us know when you
10 want to be recognized?

11 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Arturo Watlington.

12 I'm saying the same question and concern I have
13 as to whether, if it was sent 8:30 in the morning, is it
14 different than the one sent out two days ago?

15 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: The answer is yes.

16 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Okay, well I'll have to see
17 that revision.

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay.

19 DELEGATE DANIEL: I also got those Rules at
20 10:01, just for the record.

21 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yeah, we were in here deal-
22 ing with this internet.

23 DELEGATE DANIEL: Um-hm.

24 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: All right.

25 And, just for the record, Delegate Daniel is

1 saying that the email probably came through around 10:00
2 this morning.

3 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: But we were here at 10
4 o'clock.

5 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: I didn't get a copy.

6 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Everything is on your desk
7 there.

8 DELEGATE R. HODGE: I think it's underneath.
9 This.

10 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Is there any -- is there
11 any way it's going to be displayed?

12 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: It's been distributed.

13 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Displayed, displayed --

14 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Oh, displayed?

15 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: -- because you're saying
16 the you sent it out at 10:00, when in fact the meeting
17 was supposed to start at 10:00. And I have a document
18 that was sent by Mr. Abramson a couple days ago, now I'm
19 being told that it's a different set of Rules.

20 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Point of Information?

21 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Hold on, hold on ah --
22 Delegate Hodge?

23 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Yes, thanks for recognizing
24 me for the Point of Information.

25 For those delegates that are together on the

1 island of St. Thomas, I suggest that based on the
2 resources and the access that you have there, you can
3 printout, have them printout a copy of said document
4 that was sent this morning; okay? That way, you can
5 actually review it. That's the one way to mitigate this
6 issue so we can move forward. Thank you.

7 DELEGATE HENDRICKS: Excuse me, sir? You're
8 saying that you would forward it to this office where we
9 are here at the Board of Elections?

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: To print it out from your
11 email.

12 DELEGATE HENDRICKS: Thank you.

13 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: All right.

14 The -- we are on the item -- the document that's
15 before us.

16 Delegate Carrington, you want to speak on behalf
17 of the document that's been distributed?

18 -----
19 MOTION TO ADOPT RULES OF THE CONVENTION

20 DELEGATE CARRINGTON: I actually want to make a
21 motion -- I'll make a motion that we adopt these Rules
22 so that the Sixth Constitutional Convention can begin
23 its work.

24 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: Second.

25 DELEGATE DANIEL: Motion to postpone.

1 DELEGATE S. HODGE: Second.

2 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: One at a time. Only one
3 motion at a time.

4 A motion has been made by Delegate Carrington to
5 adopt the distributed Rules of this morning. A second
6 has been ah --

7 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Objection, objection.

8 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay.

9 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Objected to by Arturo
10 Watlington.

11 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Please, I will allow and
12 recognize everyone.

13 It's been seconded by Lilliana Belardo de O'Neal.
14 Are there any objections? I heard ah --

15 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Objection. Arturo
16 Watlington.

17 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- objection by Arturo
18 Watlington.

19 The motion is on the floor, and I think it's only
20 appropriate that we begin by allowing discussion on the
21 motion in regards to the item that is on the floor.

22 We'll start on your side, Abramson.

23 DELEGATE WELLS: Point of Information?

24 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Point of Information?

25 DELEGATE WELLS: You're not going to ask about

1 the objection? I know it's the Chair's prerogative.

2 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Please, please don't misre-
3 present. I don't know whether or not you are in a
4 position to hear clearly.

5 The objection was made by Delegate Watlington and
6 it's on the record.

7 DELEGATE WELLS: Right. And what I'm asking is
8 if you're going to ask him what his objection is. I
9 know it's up to the Chair.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No, Arturo Watlington
11 doesn't have to state his objection.

12 DELEGATE WELLS: The Chair would not let him.
13 Okay, thank you.

14 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yes, thank you.

15 We're going to open discussion on the subject
16 matter.

17 Delegate Carrington, you made the motion, you
18 want to begin to discuss the matter that is on the
19 table?

20 -----
21 DEBATE ON MOTION
21 -----

22 DELEGATE CARRINGTON: The matter that's on the
23 table is a matter of adoption of the Rules, the Rules
24 for the Sixth Constitutional Convention.

25 These Rules have been worked on extensively by

1 members of the body. Up to last night, certain members
2 of the body worked on these Rules. We looked at some
3 suggestions that were floated by Attorney Rudel Hodge as
4 well as David Silverman, and we've incorporated those --
5 some of those suggestions into these Rules.

6 These Rules are extensive. These Rules cover all
7 the pertinence of the matter that needs to be in Rules.
8 And therefore, we are -- I ask that this be adopted by
9 the body.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: You're completed? You had
11 three minutes, so I'm going to give everyone.

12 DELEGATE CARRINGTON: Yes.

13 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: That is yours in regards to
14 the motion.

15 Anybody else would like to be recognized to speak
16 on the subject matter?

17 DELEGATE RUSSELL: Yeah, I would like to speak.

18 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman,
19 could you tell me how we're doing this? You're giving
20 each person who support the motion preference or every-
21 one will speak on the issue that's before the body?

22 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: My intention is for everyone
23 to have an opportunity to speak for three minutes. And
24 so the next person that said that they were prepared to
25 speak was Delegate Russell.

1 DELEGATE RUSSELL: I'm ready.

2 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: Go ahead?

3 DELEGATE RUSSELL: Go ahead? Okay.

4 I reviewed this draft, as a draft, and from my
5 estimation, it covers everything that we need to cover
6 with this body. And particularly, I think it addresses
7 the law that created the Sixth Constitutional Conven-
8 tion. It references the law and it reference the por-
9 tions of the law that are very important as we delibe-
10 rate and as we meet and convene to make decisions.

11 So, they're rules. There's a provision in it to
12 amend the Rules if you need to, if you don't like some-
13 thing, and if you could get the Congress -- the "Con-
14 gress"[laughter] -- the Convention to agree with you.

15 But we need rules, and these are well-drafted
16 Rules. And a lot of time went into drafting the Rules.
17 When I reviewed it, I was very pleased with it. And I
18 hope that everybody here adopts these Rules so we could
19 move forward. Thank you very much.

20 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you, Delegate Russell.

21 Anyone wants to speak next?

22 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Point of Information?

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: The Point of Information --
24 we're in debate time at this point -- what is your Point
25 of Information?

1 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Are these "special rules"
2 under Robert's Rules?

3 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: You want to entertain your
4 debate time now?

5 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Correct. I'm just asking,
6 yes.

7 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No, I'm just saying that
8 we're --

9 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Yes.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- in debate time --

11 DELEGATE R. HODGE: So, yes, I'll go --

12 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- the inquiry of Point of
13 Information --

14 DELEGATE R. HODGE: -- for the three minutes
15 debate time.

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- is not in order. But you
17 could proceed. You have three minutes also.

18 DELEGATE R. HODGE: So, just on the record, if
19 these are "special rules," these has to be voted upon by
20 two-thirds. So we need 10 members of this body to vote
21 for these Rules, if they're "special rules" --

22 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: That's not correct.

23 DELEGATE R. HODGE: -- under Robert's Rules of
24 Order.

25 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: It is your time. Delegate

1 Rudel Hodge is recognized. You have three minutes, and
2 you could go ahead and make your comments.

3 DELEGATE R. HODGE: So, if these are "special
4 rules," which these are, clearly they're not, you know,
5 in alignment with Robert's Rules. These are "special
6 rules" that this Convention is going to be governed
7 under, under Robert's Rules, which we are currently
8 governed under, we do need two-thirds. And if this is a
9 body of 15, that means 10 members needs to vote in
10 affirmation of this document currently under Robert's
11 Rules.

12 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: That's the extent of your
13 discussion --

14 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Correct.

15 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- Delegate Rudel Hodge?
16 Anyone else wants to be recognized to speak at
17 this point?

18 DELEGATE DANIEL: I do, yes, please, Mr. Chair.

19 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Point of Information?

20 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Ah --

21 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I just want to make sure,
22 Mr. Chairman -- Mr. Chairman?

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: One second?

24 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I want to speak on my
25 objection.

1 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: The --

2 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Motion, Mr. Chairman?

3 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Could you -- those of you
4 who are not physically in the room, once we've dealt
5 with those who are in the room we are going to come to
6 you who are virtual to make sure if you have any com-
7 ments.

8 At this point, the floor is to Delegate Daniel on
9 the debate time on the subject matter of the Rules that
10 have been moved and seconded and objected to.

11 Delegate Daniel?

12 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Thank you for the clarifi-
13 cation, Mr. President.

14 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: You're welcome.

15 Delegate Daniel?

16 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make
17 a motion.

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Silverman?

19 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: I rise to make a motion, Mr.
20 Chairman?

21 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: A motion is already on the
22 table going for debate. Once this facet is completed
23 then we could recognize for another motion. We're in
24 debate time.

25 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman?

1 I rise to make a subsidiary motion, which is allowed,
2 while there is a pending motion on the floor pursuant to
3 Robert's Rules.

4 DELEGATE DANIEL: Correct.

5 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: At the completion of debate
6 time.

7 DELEGATE DANIEL: Incorrect.

8 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: At any time, sir.

9 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: That is not the ruling of
10 the Chair at this point.

11 Delegate Daniel?

12 -----
13 CHALLENGE TO RULING OF THE CHAIR
14 -----

14 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: I appeal the ruling of the
15 Chair, sir.

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: I didn't hear you.

17 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: I said, I appeal the ruling
18 of the Chair.

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: You're appealing or you're
20 "challenging" the rule?

21 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: I think he's
22 challenging.

23 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: I appeal the ruling of the
24 Chair that --

25 DELEGATE RUSSELL: A challenge.

1 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: -- my motion is not in
2 order.

3 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: There's a challenge to the
4 Chair's ruling --

5 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Yes, sir.

6 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- relative to whether to
7 accept a motion during the debate time on a motion that
8 is already on the floor.

9 The roll call will be made.

10 "Yes" means that the challenge is upheld; "no"
11 means that the challenge is denied.

12 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: The motion is debatable,
13 sir.

14 -----
15 ROLL CALL ON CHALLENGE OF THE CHAIR
16 -----

16 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: John J. Abramson, Jr.?

17 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Yes.

18 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Mr. Abramson --

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Excuse me. "Yes" means --

20 DELEGATE DANIEL: He done vote. He done say his
21 vote.

22 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Mr. Chairman, you're inter-
23 rupting the roll call.

24 DELEGATE DANIEL: Thank you.

25 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: You interrupting while the

1 roll call is going on.

2 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Point of Order, Mr. Chair-
3 man? The motion is fully debatable.

4 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: The --

5 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: No. What is the --

6 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No, let's proceed with the
7 roll call.

8 And, as stated, "yes" means you agree with the
9 challenge; "no" means you disagree with the challenge.

10 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: No.

11 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Abramson, nay.

12 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: No.

13 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Belardo de
14 O'Neal.

15 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: No.

16 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Belardo de
17 O'Neal, nay.

18 John M. Canegata?

19 DELEGATE CANEGATA: No.

20 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Canegata, nay.
21 Delegate Carrington?

22 DELEGATE CARRINGTON: No.

23 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Carrington, nay.
24 Delegate Daniel?

25 DELEGATE DANIEL: No.

1 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Daniel, nay.

2 Delegate Hendricks?

3 DELEGATE HENDRICKS: Yes, yes.

4 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Hendricks, yea.

5 Delegate A. Hodge, Jr.?

6 DELEGATE R. HODGE: No.

7 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate A. Hodge, Jr.,

8 nay.

9 Delegate Hodge, Jr., Stedmann?

10 DELEGATE S. HODGE: Nay.

11 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Hodge, Jr., nay.

12 Delegate Usie Raymond Richards?

13 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No.

14 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Richards, nay.

15 Delegate Richardson?

16 DELEGATE RICHARDSON: No.

17 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Richardson, nay.

18 Delegate Ross?

19 DELEGATE ROSS: No.

20 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Ross, nay.

21 Delegate Russell?

22 DELEGATE RUSSELL: No.

23 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Russell, nay.

24 Delegate Silverman?

25 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Not voting.

1 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Watlington, Jr.?

2 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Yea, yea.

3 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Watlington, Jr.,
4 yea.

5 Delegate Wells?

6 DELEGATE WELLS: Yes.

7 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Wells, yea.

8 Mr. President, you have 3 yeas; 11 nays; 1 not
9 voting.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you. The challenge of
11 the Chair is denied, and the Chair's ruling is upheld.

12 We're going to return and resume the debate time
13 on the motion that is on the floor.

14 Is there any other member that wants to be recog-
15 nized in the room before I move to those that are virtu-
16 ally?

17 DELEGATE DANIEL: You already recognized me, Mr.
18 Chair.

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay.

20 DELEGATE DANIEL: And I do have a Point of
21 Inquiry.

22 DELEGATE R. HODGE: I --

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Hold? Listen, could you all
24 please speak one a time and speak only when recognized?

25 I'm really not concerned about what your

1 emotional response is to whatever other member is saying
2 something.

3 Delegate Daniel has the floor, and when she
4 finished if you have something to say and you haven't
5 had your debate time, then you will have a chance to do
6 that.

7 Delegate Daniel?

8 DELEGATE DANIEL: Thank you.

9 I also have a Point of Inquiry for my own edifi-
10 cation.

11 What -- what ah -- what rules are we currently
12 operating under, sir?

13 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: When you're finished with
14 your debate time.

15 DELEGATE DANIEL: Okay, that's fine.

16 I -- the Rules are very important, and I think
17 that's why over the last three months the St. Thomas/St.
18 John delegation has reached out to all of the members of
19 the St. Croix district to have a collaborative effort to
20 draft Rules that we all have consensus under; right?
21 This should not be a contentious issue.

22 We might not agree on things, but we definitely
23 deserve the respect and time to discuss them as a group.

24 Most recently this weekend we did not have repre-
25 sentation from the full St. Croix delegation about these

1 Rules. The Rules that were sent out last week Thursday
2 are actually different from the Rules that were just
3 sent out after the meeting should have been called to
4 order.

5 And so the question to the St. Croix delegates,
6 who, mind you, voted to blindly ratify Rules and are
7 swearing that you had not seen yet; had not had the time
8 to have deliberative conversation with the St. Thomas
9 delegates, at what point do you start to collaborate?
10 At what point do you actually respect our input and our
11 ability to add to these Rules? Because we are showing
12 up in good faith, because we do want Rules that we can
13 all be proud of and then can build consensus on.

14 And so, you know, I'm going to ask a series of
15 rhetorical questions, and then I'm going to make a
16 motion and we'll go through it again, but what is
17 stopping you all from showing up to meetings that, you
18 know, Mr. Chair, you scheduled?

19 You've said -- I have the floor, Mr. Chair. You
20 --

21 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: I ain't say nothing.

22 DELEGATE DANIEL: That's okay. You suggested
23 Saturday morning. John Abramson agreed. I called the
24 other delegates for this Rules drafting committee to
25 make sure that Saturday morning worked for everyone, and

1 then you were not able to attend.

2 Mr. Carrington was there and participated beau-
3 tifully. Mr. Abramson was there and participated fully
4 until, you know, WAPA do what WAPA do. And, you know, I
5 appreciate your collaboration.

6 We then rescheduled the meeting for Sunday, and
7 again, Mr. President, you did not show. And actually
8 none of the St. Croix delegates showed.

9 Mr. Carrington did reach out, and you know, I
10 would call it an "excuse/absence" if it was an official
11 meeting.

12 But I'm curious about this stonewalling that is
13 being seen from the St. Thomas/St. John district --
14 minus, Mr. Stedmann Hodge -- and not allowing us to
15 collaborate on something that is so important.

16 Is it that you're threatened? Is it that you
17 don't think we have anything to offer?

18 Is it that you think that because you have the
19 eight majority you could just roll through and do what
20 you want?

21 Is that my time, sir? Is there a timekeeper? Is
22 that my time?

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yeah, no, you have 23
24 seconds.

25 DELEGATE DANIEL: Thank you.

1 And so, with the rest of my 23 seconds, Mr.
2 Chair, and I'm fully allowed under Robert's Rules of
3 Order to make a motion to postpone the motion to consi-
4 der the Rules, even during debate, until we can have a
5 collaborative cross-territorial conversation about these
6 Rules that are going to guide all of us for the next two
7 years, really next nine months.

8 But, yes, I'm going to end my talk with an
9 official motion to postpone --

10 THE TIMEKEEPER: Time.

11 DELEGATE DANIEL: -- the motion on the --

12 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Second.

13 DELEGATE DANIEL: -- the motion on the floor by
14 Mr. Carrington.

15 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Second.

16 DELEGATE DANIEL: Thank you for the time, sir.

17 DELEGATE S. HODGE: Point of Information?

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: One second?

19 The -- is there anyone else wants to speak during
20 debate time on the subject matter that's on the table?

21 DELEGATE RICHARDSON: Mr. President?

22 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: You want to speak?

23 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Excuse me, Mr. President,
24 so the motion that was just made is out of order?

25 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Correct.

1 DELEGATE S. HODGE: It's out of order. You have
2 to be recognized by the President or the Chair of the
3 meeting.

4 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: What are you doing?

5 DELEGATE S. HODGE: Yeah, I apologize. I getting
6 frustrated. Let me drink some water and mind my busi-
7 ness.

8 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Who just responded to me?

9 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Richardson is
10 recognized.

11 DELEGATE RICHARDSON: Yes, again --

12 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Point of Order, Mr. Chair?

13 DELEGATE WELLS: Who's speaking?

14 DELEGATE RICHARDSON: Delegate Richardson.

15 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Point of Order? Point of
16 Order, Mr. Chair?

17 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Richardson?

18 Delegate Richardson has the floor at this point.

19 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Point of Order, Mr. Chair-
20 man?

21 DELEGATE RICHARDSON: Mr. Silverman, can you hear
22 us?

23 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Yes, and I'm raising a Point
24 of Order, but nobody is speaking.

25 DELEGATE RICHARDSON: And I have the floor, Mr.

1 Silverman.

2 I only have one request, Mr. President, and that
3 request is:

4 The same way we went to St. Croix in December and
5 we met with you all to go through the Rules that we all
6 wanted, not for the Convention, but in proposal for
7 working towards the Convention, it is my hopes that you
8 consider each of our input. 'Cause this document right
9 here, I'm not sure if everyone had adequate enough time
10 to go through it.

11 So I'm only asking, Mr. President, and I'm asking
12 Mr. Abramson, Ms. Belardo, Mr. Carrington, Mr. Ross, Mr.
13 Canegata, Mr. Russell, Mr. Hodge as well, I'm hoping for
14 all of your support, and you as well, Mr. Richards. I'm
15 hoping that we can discuss this in a way so that all
16 members can understand it and agree. That is all I have
17 to say.

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you, Delegate Richard-
19 son.

20 Anyone else in the conference room that wanted to
21 speak on the topic?

22 DELEGATE CANEGATA: I'll briefly speak, Mr.
23 President.

24 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Canegata?

25 DELEGATE CANEGATA: So, these Rules, the founda-

1 tion was put together I think by three very experienced
2 individuals. I was not privy to it at that time. Then
3 there was a working group that allegedly worked on it
4 and there was some input from our Delegate "Rudel" Hodge
5 and some input was --

6 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Rudel.

7 DELEGATE CANEGATA: Rudel --

8 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Yes.

9 DELEGATE CANEGATA: -- excuse, I apologize.

10 And there was some input, and I think some of
11 that was incorporated into this. And we met and we
12 discussed it. And I shared with the President there was
13 just one area that I was uncomfortable with, after
14 speaking with my fellow delegates from the other -- from
15 the other -- from the island of St. Johns, and the
16 changes were made. And I feel comfortable about this
17 document.

18 And, to me, I'm not a politician, at best I'm a
19 bad politician, and this is such an obstacle, this pro-
20 cess of what we're doing today, to the final outcome of
21 what we need to do.

22 So, I understand, you know, Robert's Rules and
23 the Rules that we need. This is a pretty good document.
24 I don't think there's nothing offensive in here; there
25 is nothing bad in here. I asked questions because, like

1 I said, this isn't my normal gig. Is there anything out
2 of order with this section that's not, you know -- and
3 my colleagues, you know, they answered me honestly and
4 sincerely. And I feel comfortable about this document.

5 And I'll just leave it at that, Mr. President.
6 Thank you for the time.

7 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you, Delegate Cane-
8 gata.

9 Anyone else in the room that would like to speak
10 on the matter before we go virtually?

11 DELEGATE WELLS: I'd like -- what did you just
12 say "the persons in the conference room and virtually?"

13 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No, I've asked before I go
14 virtually, I don't know if you wanted to speak after-
15 wards or whatever. But I'm going to -- Delegate Wells,
16 you want to be recognized to speak?

17 DELEGATE WELLS: Thank you.

18 I'd like to give some of my three minutes to
19 Delegate Daniel so she can complete what she was saying
20 because I don't need three minutes.

21 And, if not, if she doesn't need any more then I
22 can say what I need to say.

23 Delegate Daniel?

24 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay. You're yielding some
25 time to Delegate Daniel?

1 DELEGATE WELLS: Yes, I am, if she needs it.

2 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay, Delegate Daniel, time
3 has been yielded. You had some additional things you
4 want to share?

5 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: How much time?

6 THE TIMEKEEPER: 2 minutes, 45 seconds.

7 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Daniel?

8 DELEGATE DANIEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank
9 you, Ms. Wells.

10 All I will say is it is a strong document, this
11 is now specifically to Mr. Canegata's point, it's a very
12 strong document. I'm very appreciative of all the work
13 that was put into this document.

14 The issues that I have with it the most is that
15 it consolidates power to the Chair, at the advice and
16 consent of the Executive Committee. That is taking away
17 each of our democratic right to have a voice and a vote
18 on what goes on in this.

19 So, no, there's nothing egregious; there's no-
20 thing offensive, but it is not as equitable and democra-
21 tic as it could be. And so I think there are ways that
22 we could collaborate.

23 I have a list of 16 amendments -- again, we could
24 be here for days, if we really want to go through Ro-
25 bert's Rules of Order, going -- separating these motions

1 and amendments; right? I don't want to do that. I
2 would prefer that we had a good faith working group,
3 which I have proposed no less than three times in three
4 months, and have not gotten feedback from the Crucian
5 delegation. And so the process is not equitable, so the
6 outcome cannot be equitable.

7 And that is what I'm -- again, there's nothing in
8 here that makes me cry or nothing, but it could be
9 stronger. And when we get into committees and when we
10 are lobbying for our individual concerns, I think we are
11 going to look back and think that we could have done
12 things differently so that each of our individual voices
13 could have been more powerful.

14 And that is what I'm worried about, is consoli-
15 dating power to any one of us or any three of us; right?
16 And so we need to get to these different amendments,
17 because again, words matter.

18 There are also in this, that I just was able to
19 breeze through, grammatical issues which lead to like
20 contradictions that we could go through.

21 And yeah, I'm sure, you know, Mr. Russell, as you
22 said we can spend time amending them later, but why do
23 we not just do it right the first time as opposed to now
24 spending time in future meetings trying to come back to
25 amend something; right?

1 So that is -- this is not like a "us" versus
2 "ah-you," this is like again a request to collaborate so
3 that we all feel comfortable with what we're moving for-
4 ward with.

5 And I'm going to end this again with another
6 motion to postpone, sir, with a --

7 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Second.

8 DELEGATE DANIEL: Right. And so again we're
9 under Robert's Rules of Order, which I know you think
10 I'm inexperienced, but I actually fully understand what
11 I'm doing with this motion.

12 And I want to put on the record that it is
13 improper, as you as the Chair, and I guess the leading
14 parliamentarian here in this capacity to offer two --
15 well, I'll let you respond -- but at least once, to have
16 completely ignored my motion because you think that
17 debate overrules a subsidiary motion like one to post-
18 pone, which is simply not true, sir.

19 So, I yield my time back to Ms. Wells. And again
20 Ms. Wells, thank you so much for the extra time.

21 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: How much time is that?

22 THE TIMEKEEPER: 20 seconds.

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Ms. Wells, 20 seconds.

24 DELEGATE WELLS: How much time is it?

25 DELEGATE R. HODGE: 20 seconds, Ms. Wells.

1 DELEGATE WELLS: Oh! I agree with the postpone-
2 ment since we only received this at 8:30 -- 8-something
3 which is the time when you sent yours also.

4 And I am surprised that no one came to work --
5 I'm hearing ah -- ah -- anyway, I only have a second --

6 THE TIMEKEEPER: Time.

7 DELEGATE WELLS: -- there were no persons from
8 the St. Thomas district working on the amendments, as we
9 all had agreed over the weekend. We need to do better.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you, Delegate Wells.
11 Your time has expired.

12 DELEGATE WELLS: Thank you.

13 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Anyone other than Delegate
14 Wells want to be recognized for their 3-minute debate
15 time?

16 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I have my objection ready.
17 I don't know what you mean by "anyone other than
18 Delegate Wells."

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No, no --

20 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: On this side you're
21 addressing me? You're addressing Ms. Hendricks? Who
22 are you addressing? Somebody in your office? Anybody?

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: [Laughter] You're trying to
24 be entertaining. The question was --

25 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I'm trying to be -- I'm

1 trying to understand what you're doing.

2 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Any --

3 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Don't tell me that if I'm
4 trying to be entertaining.

5 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Any delegate that is on vir-
6 tually that would like to be recognized was the question
7 after Delegate Wells.

8 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Yes, I would like to be
9 recognized. That was not the question.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Good.

11 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: You said "anybody else."

12 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Proceed.

13 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I would like to be recog-
14 nized.

15 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Watlington, you're
16 recognized.

17 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Thank you, sir.

18 You know, it is really really insulting what is
19 happening, because it shouldn't be this way.

20 I hear Delegate Russell saying that it's strong,
21 it's compliant. Rules are in adjunct -- it's an adjunct
22 to what the law is. The Rules of this Convention will
23 in fact form and really be responsible for how we behave
24 and how we act and what we do.

25 I don't understand why is it that -- I don't even

1 know how many, how many -- well, let me say my point,
2 quickly:

3 I don't believe in giving you, anyone, president,
4 vice-president, secretary, ultimate power to bind or in
5 fact have the authority to obligate funds of this Con-
6 vention without other people's involvement. This is not
7 a dictatorship. This is not Trump's presidency.

8 Why is it that the Executive Committee cannot be
9 part of advice and consent, or even the full delegation?
10 It should be a matter of inclusion; not exclusion.
11 Exclusion, just for the purpose of what you're saying,
12 "practicality" or because somebody might disagree?

13 How many committees we have? Four? That's the
14 last thing I saw. I don't think it should only be four.

15 Why are we just meeting or suggesting that we
16 meet every first Saturday? Other delegates have con-
17 cerns about that.

18 Have there been a question asked? Is every
19 Saturday for the next nine months, first Saturday,
20 available to everyone?

21 Why can't set an agenda?

22 Why can't we set a calendar in these Rules,
23 rather than say "you may meet every first Saturday."
24 Isn't that suggesting that it shall be every first
25 Saturday? Other people have conflicts that may have

1 been obligated a long time ago.

2 None of these things have been addressed. I'm
3 speaking on the floor, and I'm looking at a document
4 that I saw two days ago. And telling me you gave it to
5 me at 10 o'clock, I could speed-read, but I don't think
6 that's right. It's not right. But if you think you
7 want to get away with it or you're going to get away
8 with it continually, continue. The young people will
9 take it on; not me.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Watlington, you're
11 finished with your time?

12 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I reserve the rest of my
13 time.

14 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you, Delegate Watling-
15 ton.

16 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: How much more time I have?

17 THE TIMEKEEPER: 20 seconds.

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: 20 seconds.

19 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I'll save it for my last
20 objection.

21 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you.

22 Delegate Hendricks is there?

23 DELEGATE HENDRICKS: I'm here.

24 I do have some concerns also.

25 I really think that we need to really partner

1 together and not "us" versus "somebody else," because
2 it's not right.

3 I joined this Convention for collaboration. This
4 is our Sixth Constitutional Convention. And many of you
5 have been in this same place before, and you're coming
6 back with the same thing.

7 The reason why it failed is because there was no
8 collaboration. I don't think that the Chair should have
9 so much power. And that's what I am seeing, and it's
10 scary.

11 Who decided that we're going to meet the first
12 Saturday in every month? That's crazy! Who? Who? I
13 wasn't there. I wasn't invited. I had no input, but
14 now all of a sudden I'm hearing every first Saturday I
15 must attend a meeting.

16 I reserve my time to somebody else who needs to
17 speak a little longer.

18 Mr. Silverman, you could have my time.

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you, Delegate Hen-
20 dricks.

21 Delegate Silverman, you're recognized.

22 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Good morning and thank you,
23 Mr. Chairman -- Mr. President.

24 There are a number of matters that I want to
25 speak to. I will begin by discussing the document which

1 was emailed to us early this morning and which purports
2 to be a new version of the document which was previously
3 distributed to the body. Without a redline comparison
4 or just a synopsis of the changes, I'm at a loss to see
5 how this document is any different than one that was
6 previously distributed. But it does have a concluding
7 section on amendments, which I actually think is some-
8 what redundant.

9 The second point I'd like to make is about the
10 motions that have been made during this debate on the
11 principal motion and the actions of the Chair to not
12 consider those motions.

13 There is a subsidiary motion to postpone conside-
14 ration, which, according to Robert's Rules, should have
15 been decided before we continue the debate and discus-
16 sion on the primary motion.

17 That's quite important and we're not adhering to
18 our de facto parliamentary procedures.

19 The third thing I would like to talk about are
20 the substantive objections to these Rules of Order and
21 the way in which they were created.

22 It's my understanding that the Executive Commit-
23 tee when they met last week agreed that a working com-
24 mittee would convene to try to reconcile differences of
25 opinions between the various drafts which had been

1 distributed, and at that point there were three drafts.
2 There was a Rudel Hodge draft; there was a Mr. Abramson
3 draft and there was a draft which I had submitted.

4 We were unable to act on the request of the Exe-
5 cutive Committee to come up with a consensus set of
6 Rules because of lack of participation of those who were
7 representing Mr. Abramson's draft.

8 But there were understandable excuses having to
9 do with medical emergencies and VIYA and WAPA failures.
10 But notwithstanding all of that, we have not had a sub-
11 stantive discussion to try to reconcile these two sets
12 of Rules, and that is the rationale for Ms. Daniel's
13 motion to postpone the consideration until we've had an
14 opportunity to meet as a joint group. That motion is
15 fully in order and should have been attended to.

16 The third -- the fourth thing I want to talk
17 about are our specific reasons why we won't discuss
18 Abramson's rules. And I would digest that down, in my
19 opinion -- and I'll be speaking to many issues of
20 concern -- but the first is that the assignment of
21 members to committees in these Rules are strictly in the
22 hands of the President with the advice and consent of
23 the Executive Committee.

24 There are no guardrails on how the committee
25 assignments are to be made or how the committee leader-

1 ship is to be appointed.

2 Even in the Rules of the Fifth, there was a
3 requirement that there be no more than a majority of one
4 from either electoral district in any committee; that
5 the Chair and Vice-Chair be from alternate committees
6 and so forth.

7 I have an objection to that method of committee
8 assignment that puts the power in the hands of the
9 Chair.

10 I have an objection to the way in which the Chief
11 Counsel of the Convention is to be selected, which
12 according to the Abramson's rules are strictly in the
13 hands of the Chair with the advice and consent of the
14 Executive Committee.

15 General Counsel is obviously an absolutely cri-
16 tical role in this deliberative collaborative process,
17 and I think the membership needs to be fully considered
18 before we appoint and hire General Counsel.

19 I have objection to the way in which contracts
20 are entered into and funds are expended, and I believe
21 that Mr. Watlington already spoke to that point.

22 My main issue here is the success of our Conven-
23 tion. We know that at the end of the day, it will
24 require the votes of 10 of us in order to adopt a Draft
25 Constitution. If we do not have consensus all along the

1 way, how are we ever going to get to a majority of 10 at
2 the end of the day?

3 And so I am a huge advocate of collaboration and
4 consensus and mediation and compromise at every step of
5 the way. I stand fully prepared to compromise on every
6 single point that I mentioned to try to get a set of
7 Rules that we can all put our hands on heart and say we
8 can live by them.

9 Right now I feel that something is being shoved
10 down my throat without consideration of any of the
11 points that I just made, and I find that very objection-
12 able.

13 I will have an additional motion to make after
14 you have concluded the debate on the primary motion --

15 THE TIMEKEEPER: Time.

16 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: -- and before you call for a
17 vote.

18 I think I've probably exceeded my time. You'll
19 tell me if I have any remaining time, including what was
20 given to me by Ms. Hendricks.

21 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Your time has completed,
22 expired.

23 Thank you ah --

24 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Thank you, sir.

25 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- thank you, Delegate

1 Silverman.

2 Is there anyone else that want to share anything
3 in debate, during the debate time?

4 DELEGATE RUSSELL: Yeah, I want to understand --

5 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Who's speaking?

6 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Hold on, Delegate Russell?

7 This is debate time. Everyone have had three
8 minutes. And I've asked the question if anyone that
9 hasn't had the opportunity to speak would like to be
10 recognized to speak at this moment.

11 Hearing none, at least, I would take --

12 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Motion?

13 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Mr. Chairman, I have 30
14 seconds left to conclude.

15 THE TIMEKEEPER: 20 seconds.

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No, you have 20 seconds
17 Delegate Watlington.

18 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Mr. Chairman, I want to
19 reiterate what I said. It's not personal. It's not a
20 situation wherein we should be having to beg for parti-
21 cipation. Participation and input by everyone in this
22 Convention should be respected and adhered to. And if
23 we continue --

24 THE TIMEKEEPER: Time.

25 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: -- not to do so, it's going

1 to just be a fiasco.

2 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Your time have expired,
3 Delegate Watlington.

4 I want to at least take a few minutes to share
5 some information for the entire membership, and more
6 importantly, for those people who are viewing and lis-
7 tening in outside of this discussion as non members of
8 the Sixth Constitutional Convention. And I think there
9 are some statements that may require, at least in my
10 mind, some clarity.

11 We are sitting here today in a reconvened session
12 that started on January 28th. The session was recessed
13 because at that particular time, the Resolution that was
14 adopted organizing the Sixth Constitutional Convention
15 requested and required an attached Rules to govern the
16 operations of the Constitutional Convention.

17 The prevailers that adopted the Resolution that
18 established the officers were vested with the responsi-
19 bility of completing the Resolution submitted and
20 adopted with an attachment known as the "Sixth Constitu-
21 tional Convention Rules."

22 Given that foundation, the prevailers of that
23 Resolution No. dash 001, commenced the task of develop-
24 ing the Rules to be considered here this morning.

25 During that period of the task, a proposed docu-

1 ment was put together by three of the persons that had
2 agreed to work on a document on January 22nd during a
3 virtual meeting for submittal of the members' review.

4 That document was distributed to all of the mem-
5 bers for their review, their perusal, their recommenda-
6 tions and suggestions for the final document that will
7 be on the table today.

8 Following that, last Wednesday, the Executive
9 Officers, namely, the President myself Usie Richards,
10 the Vice-President Stedmann Hodge, the Secretary Imani
11 Daniel and the Treasurer John Abramson met to discuss --

12 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Junior.

13 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: I'm sorry?

14 DELEGATE R. HODGE: You're not saying the
15 "junior."

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: John Abramson, Jr.?

17 DELEGATE R. HODGE: No, for Stedmann.

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you. For the record,
19 Stedmann Hodge, Jr., the Vice-President, and I also will
20 say John A. Abramson, Jr., the Treasurer and Delegate
21 Imani Daniel, the Secretary.

22 The purpose of the Executive Officers' meeting
23 was the intent to have a discussion in preparations for
24 today's reconvened session.

25 Once the subject matters were discussed, and

1 prior to the ending of that Executive Committee meeting,
2 which we attempted to first hold on Monday; there were
3 conflicts. We attempted to try it on Tuesday; there
4 were conflicts. And then finally on Wednesday there
5 were confirmation that all individuals were available to
6 participate as Executive Officers.

7 The subject matter of the review by the group of
8 individuals of the -- T-H-E -- the proposal, distributed
9 by the prevailing side and distributed by Treasurer John
10 A. Abramson, Jr. was the subject matter that will be on
11 the table for review and discussion. Irrespective of
12 the fact that there were other draft Proposed Rules, the
13 prevailing side Proposed Rules was the standing document
14 to be reviewed and edited in regards to the discussion.
15 That is the pretext of which the group was established.

16 More importantly --

17 DELEGATE DANIEL: Point of Order, sir?

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: I am in my speaking time.

19 More importantly -- and please allow me to finish
20 as I did with everyone else?

21 More importantly, that discussion was also shared
22 directly with the officer, in this instance, the
23 Secretary Imani Daniel, or Delegate --

24 THE TIMEKEEPER: Time.

25 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- that we should begin from

1 the perspective of our document being the prevailing
2 document to be reviewed, amended and discussed.

3 And so it was on that context that we have pro-
4 ceeded. And on that context that we are here today.

5 And thereby, that completes the discussion on the
6 debate time.

7 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Motion, Mr. Chairman?

8 DELEGATE DANIEL: Yeah, motion to postpone.

9 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: The -- the -- the --

10 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Mr. Chairman, motion?

11 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: I am going to acknowledge --
12 I am going to recognize you.

13 The debate time has completed. There's a motion,
14 Mr. Silverman, Delegate Silverman, excuse me, that you
15 wanted to make?

16 -----
17 AMENDMENT TO ORIGINAL MOTION
18 -----

18 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair-
19 man -- Mr. President.

20 I move to amend the motion, the pending motion,
21 by inserting the rules[sic], "and shall require a
22 majority plus one vote for adoption" at the end of the
23 motion.

24 I'm making this motion to ensure that the Rules,
25 when adopted, represent a collaboration and a --

1 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Could --

2 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: -- and a consensus of the
3 members.

4 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Silverman, could
5 you just state your motion? We can understand your
6 motion.

7 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: My motion is to amend the
8 motion on the floor by inserting the words "this motion
9 shall require a majority plus one vote for adoption" at
10 the end of the motion, the motion on the floor.

11 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: A motion has been moved. Is
12 there a second?

13 DELEGATE DANIEL: Second.

14 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Second.

15 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Second, second.

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: A motion have been moved by
17 Delegate Silverman; seconded --

18 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: Object.

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- seconded by Delegate
20 Daniel; objected to by Delegate Belardo de O'Neal.

21 A roll call on the motion?

22 -----
23 ROLL CALL ON AMENDMENT TO MOTION
24 -----

24 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: John J. Abramson, Jr.?

25 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: One second, please?

1 A roll call on the motion is "yes or yea" that
2 the motion is accepted, or "no or nay" that the motion
3 is rejected.

4 Roll call?

5 DELEGATE WELLS: Amendment?

6 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Point of Order, Mr. Chair-
7 man?

8 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: No, no, no, no. We
9 already started the roll call.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Roll call on the motion?

11 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: John J. Abramson, Jr.?

12 DELEGATE WELLS: Roll call on the amendment.

13 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Nay.

14 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Abramson, nay.

15 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman?
16 Are we voting on the amendment to the motion or the
17 motion?

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Just -- hold? We are voting
19 on the motion just made by Delegate Silverman; seconded
20 by Delegate Daniel and objected to --

21 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.
22 That's an amendment to the outstanding motion, Mr.
23 Chairman. That's an amendment to a standing motion, Mr.
24 Chairman.

25 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yeah, the amendment to the

1 standing motion is what we're voting on.

2 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Okay, good. That's what I
3 wanted you to say it for the record. Thank you.

4 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No problem.

5 And that's what I was stating, the motion made by
6 Delegate Silverman is a motion to amend, but it's the
7 motion of Delegate Silverman; seconded by Daniel,
8 Delegate Daniel and objected to by Delegate Belardo de
9 O'Neal.

10 Roll call?

11 "Yes" means that the amended motion is approved
12 and "no" means it is disapproved.

13 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Belardo de
14 O'Neal?

15 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: No.

16 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Canegata?

17 DELEGATE CANEGATA: No.

18 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Carrington?

19 DELEGATE CARRINGTON: No.

20 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Daniel?

21 DELEGATE DANIEL: Yes.

22 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Hendricks?

23 DELEGATE HENDRICKS: Yes.

24 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Rudel A. Hodge,
25 Jr.?

1 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Yes.

2 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Stedmann Hodge,
3 Jr.?

4 DELEGATE S. HODGE: Nay.

5 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Usie Raymond
6 Richards?

7 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Nay.

8 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Richardson?

9 DELEGATE RICHARDSON: Yes.

10 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Ross, Jr.?

11 DELEGATE ROSS: No.

12 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Russell?

13 DELEGATE RUSSELL: No.

14 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Silverman?

15 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Yes.

16 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Watlington, Jr.?

17 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Yes.

18 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Wells?

19 DELEGATE WELLS: Yes.

20 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Mr. President, 7 yeas; 8
21 nays.

22 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you. The motion is
23 lost.

24 A roll call on the motion initially made by --

25 DELEGATE DANIEL: Point of Information, sir?

1 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- Delegate Carrington for
2 the adoption of the Proposed Rules.

3 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Is this how this thing is
4 going? It's just going to go how it's going to go?

5 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Roll call?

6 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Point of Information, Chair
7 -- President?

8 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: A roll call on the motion?

9 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Point of Information, Presi-
10 dent.

11 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Point of --

12 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: John J. --

13 DELEGATE R. HODGE: He said it first.

14 DELEGATE DANIEL: Right.

15 DELEGATE R. HODGE: All right.

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Roll call on the motion?

17 -----
18 ROLL CALL ON ORIGINAL MOTION
19 -----

19 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: John J. Abramson, Jr.?

20 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Yea.

21 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Hello? Hello?

22 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Belardo de
23 O'Neal?

24 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: No.

25 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Canegata?

1 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: I'm sorry, I'm
2 sorry, let me change my motion. I am --

3 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: There's too much noise.

4 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Belardo de
5 O'Neal, yea.

6 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: My vote -- Mr.
7 Chairman, could you hold the noises, please?

8 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yeah, could you hold the
9 noise during roll call? And start with Delegate Belardo
10 de O'Neal, what you said?

11 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Belardo de
12 O'Neal?

13 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: Yes.

14 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Belardo de
15 O'Neal, yea.

16 Delegate Canegata?

17 DELEGATE CANEGATA: Yea.

18 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Canegata, yea.
19 Delegate Carrington?

20 DELEGATE CARRINGTON: Yea.

21 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Carrington, yea.
22 Delegate Daniel?

23 DELEGATE DANIEL: [Pause - no verbal response]

24 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Daniel, not
25 voting.

1 DELEGATE DANIEL: No, I am voting. My vote is
2 "no," please.

3 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Hendricks?

4 DELEGATE WELLS: Did Delegate Belardo vote twice?

5 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Hendricks, roll
6 call?

7 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Hendricks?

8 DELEGATE HENDRICKS: No.

9 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Rudel A. Hodge,
10 Jr.?

11 DELEGATE R. HODGE: No.

12 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Stedmann Hodge,
13 Jr.?

14 DELEGATE S. HODGE: Yea.

15 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Usie Raymond
16 Richards?

17 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yea.

18 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Richardson?

19 DELEGATE RICHARDSON: No.

20 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Richardson, nay.
21 Delegate Ross, Jr.?

22 DELEGATE ROSS: Yea.

23 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Russell?

24 DELEGATE RUSSELL: Yes.

25 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Silverman?

1 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: No.

2 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Watlington, Jr.?

3 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: No, no, no, no.

4 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Delegate Wells?

5 DELEGATE WELLS: No.

6 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Mr. President, 8 yeas; 7

7 nays.

8 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: The motion to adopt and
9 attach the document, the "Rules of the Sixth Constitu-
10 tional Convention" to --

11 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Point of Information?

12 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- to -- could you please
13 allow me to finish speaking?

14 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Fine.

15 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you.

16 The motion to adopt the "Rules of the Sixth Con-
17 stitutional Convention" as the attachment to Resolution
18 No. 001 that organized the Constitutional Convention and
19 establishes the Rules of the Sixth Constitutional Con-
20 vention has been adopted and approved.

21 Point of ah -- Information?

22 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Again, aren't these "special
23 rules?" And under Robert's Rules you get two-thirds
24 votes for it to be approved?

25 DELEGATE RUSSELL: They're not "special rules."

1 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: The --

2 DELEGATE R. HODGE: These are, under Robert's
3 Rules, again, these are, by definition, "special rules"
4 because we are adding these Rules to our Convention. By
5 Robert's Rules, if you go back into your Robert's Rules
6 --

7 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No, you're -- are you having
8 a Point of Information? You -- you --

9 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Correct.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Well, please don't -- I'm
11 not prepared, at this point we're going into debate and
12 lecturing.

13 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Debate, okay.

14 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: You made an inquiry in
15 regards to whether or not the Rules that has been
16 adopted are "special rules." The immediate response,
17 no.

18 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Okay. So, Point of Informa-
19 tion, why are they not considered "special rules?"

20 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Well, I don't have to ex-
21 plain to you. You tell me why you're saying it's
22 "special rules."

23 They are rules. I don't know what makes them
24 "special" other than the Rules of the Sixth Legislature
25 -- Sixteenth -- excuse me -- Sixth Constitutional Con-

1 vention.

2 DELEGATE R. HODGE: So, okay, do I have the floor
3 to explain why they will be "special rules" at this
4 moment, President?

5 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: There's no "special rules."

6 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yes.

7 DELEGATE R. HODGE: So, based --

8 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: And you have ah -- you have
9 three minutes to do that.

10 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Three minutes.

11 So based on Robert's Rules, any rules that is
12 presenting that precedes over the general Robert's
13 Rules, which as the Act states we are governed by
14 Robert's Rules, plus any additional rules that we craft,
15 those additional rules would be considered "special
16 rules" under Robert's Rules.

17 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: That's incorrect.

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Abramson, could you let the
19 -- let Delegate Hodge finish?

20 DELEGATE RUSSELL: I going to talk too.

21 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Hodge, it's your
22 time. Please proceed.

23 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Yes. And under Robert's
24 Rules it states clearly that two-thirds of the body
25 would have to vote on those rules for them to be

1 accepted or amended; right?

2 Here, we're trying to accept new rules to be part
3 of our convention, and thus they will be considered
4 "special rules" because they're not subsidiary of
5 Robert's Rules. They're actually governed above; right?
6 Because of that mere fact, these govern above, based on
7 this document that he has handed out in person to, I
8 believe, 12 of the delegates, these are indeed "special
9 rules" under the definition of Robert's Rules.

10 So because of that fact, we do need to get that
11 two-thirds threshold.

12 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you for your position.

13 DELEGATE S. HODGE: Point of Information?

14 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Well, we're on this.

15 Point of Information, Delegate Hodge, you want
16 it?

17 DELEGATE S. HODGE: Yes.

18 *"Special Rules of Order in Robert's Rules of*
19 *Order are additional rules that can be created to --*

20 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Mr. Chairman, who's
21 speaking please?

22 DELEGATE S. HODGE: *-- govern meetings."*

23 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Mr. Chairman, who's
24 speaking?

25 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Stedmann Hodge, Jr.

1 I thought you heard me recognize him. I'm sorry.

2 DELEGATE S. HODGE: *"Special Rules of Order in*
3 *Robert's Rules of Order are additional rules that can be*
4 *created to govern meetings, but they can't violate*
5 *member rights.*

6 *Examples of Special Rules of Order:*

7 *Setting a time limit for speeches;*

8 *Limiting the number of times a member can speak*
9 *on a subject."*

10 Thank you.

11 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you, Delegate Hodge.

12 Delegate Russell?

13 DELEGATE RUSSELL: Yeah, I wanted to say I don't
14 see how they could be considered "special rules" because
15 they were part of adoption by the Legislature of our
16 formation. And as a part of our formation we have a
17 right to develop Rules.

18 So I believe that attachment that we put in
19 there, takes it out of the Robert's Rules special order.
20 We had a right to put in Rules as we feel, and I believe
21 that takes it out of that.

22 DELEGATE R. HODGE: And I --

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Excuse? We recognize one at
24 a time.

25 Delegate Abramson?

1 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Mr. Chairman, I need to ask
2 a question?

3 How is -- is it that we're debating whether it's
4 "special rules" or not "special rules?"

5 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No, it was --

6 DELEGATE R. HODGE: I -- I --

7 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Watlington?

8 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Because I heard -- I heard
9 -- I heard you and the person who made the point of --
10 who said it was a Point of Order exchanged some informa-
11 tion. Then I heard another delegate --

12 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate --

13 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: -- speaking earlier also.

14 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Watlington, you
15 asked the question, allow me to answer so -- and permit
16 me the opportunity to recognize you so that we could
17 complete.

18 There's not a debate being had. It's a discus-
19 sion based on a Point of Information asked by Delegate
20 Rudel Hodge, Jr. And based on that Point of Information
21 individuals wanted to share information on the issue
22 raised by Delegate Rudel Hodge, Jr.

23 And so shared on that position was Delegate
24 Stedmann Hodge, Jr.; Delegate Ronald E. Russell, and I
25 was recognizing Delegate John Abramson, Jr. on this

1 subject matter to have some input.

2 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Anyone could speak on the
3 motion? Anyone could speak now then?

4 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yes, yeah, it's not a mo-
5 tion. Anyone could speak. We're just having a discus-
6 sion about --

7 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Correct. I just want to
8 make sure I know what is happening.

9 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: And we just set a time limit
10 to entertain this subject matter, and then we will put
11 it to rest after everyone have shared their opinions.

12 Delegate Abramson?

13 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: May I speak, Mr. President?

14 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Abramson has the
15 floor.

16 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Thank you.

17 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: No, everybody is purporting
18 to know Robert's Rules of Order, and none of you in here
19 has the authority to speak on Robert's.

20 As lawyers, lawyers do not know parliamentary
21 procedure. It is a "procedure." As a trained parlia-
22 mentarian for -- since 1980, I feel assaulted by what
23 ahyo keep throwing about "I said this and..." no, you
24 don't!

25 If you don't know Robert's Rules, shut your

1 mouth? Because right now I'm getting -- feeling offen-
2 sive[sic] that you all are purporting to know my
3 science. And I have learned this science. I've took
4 the time to be where I deh today in this science. And
5 none ahyo in yah can't define me. When I say you wrong,
6 you wrong.

7 And I say right now there's no "special rules."
8 Delegate Russell put everything in context. I going to
9 done now. But when ahyo talk 'bout Robert's make sure
10 you know what you're goddamn saying, because I am --

11 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Ah --

12 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: -- the only authority in this
13 room.

14 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: And you have to maintain
15 your language in your discussions.

16 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: I apologize, Mr. President.

17 DELEGATE WELLS: Then we need to hire a parlia-
18 mentarian.

19 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: I apologize, Mr. President.

20 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: Thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman.

22 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: You're welcome.

23 Delegate Silverman?

24 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman --
25 Mr. President.

1 With all due respect to Delegate Abramson's vast
2 qualifications and certification and years of experience
3 as a parliamentarian, and particularly his expertise on
4 the Robert's Rules of Order under its most recently
5 revised edition, he must know that as a member of this
6 assembly and a voting member of this assembly, he must
7 choose between being a parliamentarian or a voting
8 member and cannot do both. It presents a conflict of
9 interest and it compromises his ability to provide
10 ancillary and neutral advice.

11 I refer you to Section 47, Paragraph 46-55. I
12 thoroughly respect Mr. Abramson's knowledge of Robert's
13 Rules. I'm sure it is better than mine, but I too am a
14 capable reader, and he cannot rule on parliamentary
15 procedures or give parliamentary advice while also
16 acting as a voting member of this delegation.

17 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: I haven't done that.

18 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Thank you for your time.

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you, Delegate Silver-
20 man.

21 Delegate Watlington, did you make mention that
22 you wanted to speak?

23 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Yes, I have a point of --

24 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Please proceed?

25 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Point of Order?

1 I have a Point of Order -- Delegate Watlington
2 speaking -- I have a Point of Order to Mr. Rudel Hodge
3 in regards to his definition of "special rules."

4 I'd like for him to say or tell us what rule or
5 what definition is he referring to in Robert's Rules
6 that he's relying upon for his proposition that a two-
7 thirds vote is required for the adoption of these Rules
8 that he consider to be "special rules."

9 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Thank you, Delegate Watling-
10 ton.

11 The ah -- well, just from the onset, you can't
12 have a Point of Order for the delegate. If you want to
13 yield the rest of your 1-minute time to Delegate Rudel
14 Hodge, Jr. that is allowed.

15 So you have one minute, Rudel to --

16 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: No, no, no, no, hold on a
17 minute? No, no. I have -- I heard three different
18 people, Stedmann Hodge, Mr. Abramson and Mr. Russell
19 talking about what is and what isn't. And I'm asking
20 for him to give me a statute or a provision and a
21 section that he's referring to in Robert's Rules.
22 Simple.

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yes, Delegate Watlington?

24 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: You're saying I have to
25 yield -- I am yielding him my time for that?

1 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Well then I misunderstood
2 your statement because you made a statement -- you ended
3 your time with --

4 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: I was --

5 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Are you going to allow me to
6 speak or finish what I was saying?

7 All I'm saying, Delegate Watlington, that you
8 finished speaking; you raised a question and/or an
9 issue; you initially started by having a Point of Order
10 to a delegate member who is not chairing the meeting.
11 And so I was simply responding by saying that if you'd
12 like -- and at this point your time is up in 18 seconds
13 --

14 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: No, I would like you -- I
15 would like the Chair to give him time to respond to me.

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay. Thank you, kindly.
17 You have 10 seconds to finish your time.

18 Anyone else?

19 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: You ain't speaking to me.

20 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Huh?

21 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: You ain't speaking to me.

22 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: You misunderstood what I
23 said?

24 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: You can't be speaking to
25 me.

1 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: What are you talking 'bout?
2 We're at a loss here.

3 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: You might be at a loss; not
4 me.

5 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay, well fine.

6 THE TIMEKEEPER: Time.

7 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: All I was saying is that
8 your three minutes was up and we were moving on to the
9 next delegate.

10 You spoke already on this subject matter?

11 DELEGATE DANIEL: I did not.

12 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay. Delegate Daniel and
13 then Delegate Belardo de O'Neal.

14 DELEGATE DANIEL: And I have three minutes, sir?

15 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yes, three minutes. Every-
16 one had three minutes.

17 And once that is completed, then we will go into
18 recess for 15 minutes.

19 DELEGATE DANIEL: Right, thank you.

20 So, since we're in debate and no longer on Point
21 of Informations, I want to quote from Robert's Rules of
22 Order, Newly Revised 12th Edition, Section 2, Line 8:

23 *"Special Rules of Order are rules that an assem-*
24 *bly organization adopts to supplement or modify its*
25 *adopted parliamentary authority, not to be confused with*

1 standing rules," which will be Section 2, Line 9:

2 *Standing Rules are the rules which are related to*
3 *the details of administration of a society rather than*
4 *to parliamentary procedure and which can be adopted and*
5 *changed upon the same condition as any ordinary act of*
6 *society.*

7 *In short, "special rules" are those that deal*
8 *with the transaction of business,"* which is what we have
9 decided on in these Rules today on how we conduct
10 business as a body; not how we call meetings.

11 And, to Mr. Silverman's point about -- and I
12 think Mr. Abramson walked out during that time, so I'm
13 not sure if you heard Mr. Silverman being very clear
14 about you are either providing parliamentary council --

15 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: I'm not.

16 DELEGATE DANIEL: -- or you are -- it's my time,
17 sir -- or you are a voting member of this body.

18 And I want to just put that on record again,
19 given your disposition with what I just read.

20 DELEGATE ABRAMSON: I am not.

21 DELEGATE DANIEL: And again it's still my time,
22 sir.

23 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Don't interrupt her.

24 DELEGATE DANIEL: Thank you. And thank you, Mr.
25 President.

1 So there was a request from Delegate Watlington
2 to cite, and this is the newest revised edition, if we
3 need to consult. And then I could go into the voting
4 part, which is in the voting section where it does say
5 -- and this is a Point of Inquiry, actually, Mr. Chair:

6 In your opinion, because you circulated them,
7 would you say that these Rules were circulated in
8 advance or at the time of the meeting? Because that
9 determines how we move forward. I'm curious how you
10 would define your circulation.

11 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: You could complete your
12 time.

13 DELEGATE DANIEL: Okay. I would love an answer
14 for that because that does determine how we move for-
15 ward.

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: That's your expectation.

17 DELEGATE DANIEL: Well, none of my expectations
18 have been met in this Convention so far --

19 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay.

20 DELEGATE DANIEL: -- so, you know, we'll just
21 keep going forward in the name of equity and justice.

22 So, yes, it does need a two-thirds vote majority
23 given what Mr. Rudel Hodge, Jr. was saying.

24 And again, twice now, my motion to postpone has
25 been completely ignored. Like we are so in violation of

1 Robert's Rules of Order at the whim of the Chair, which
2 is literally the reason that we wanted to amend these
3 Rules so that we can all diplomatically and democrati-
4 cally have these discussions and we're already seeing
5 that fall apart here.

6 And I also just want to say like I see a lot of
7 people who voted in favor of these Rules rolling their
8 eyes, scrolling their phones, sucking their teeth;
9 right? It's all very much -- and cool, I get it, we are
10 like -- we haven't discussed the Constitution once.
11 We've been meeting for three months here, there and
12 we're everywhere and we haven't talked about the
13 Constitution once as a group; right? You're spending
14 the people time and money on this "Rules roogadoo."

15 And all I have to say is this could have been
16 completely avoided. If you all had actually responded
17 and collaborated this could have been completely
18 avoided. But if you think that we're going to sit by
19 quietly and just let this power grab happen, specifi-
20 cally on committees, specifically on contracting, speci-
21 fically on fiscal management and how legal counsel is
22 obtained, like, ahyou just mess up, I don't think you
23 know what we come here to do.

24 So I really would -- I'm requesting the Chair --
25 well, I guess I can't postpone anymore because ahyou

1 done show through the vote --

2 THE TIMEKEEPER: Time.

3 DELEGATE DANIEL: -- so I would like, Mr. Chair

4 --

5 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Your time.

6 DELEGATE DANIEL: -- if you can answer the inqui-
7 ries that I gave you on my time.

8 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Your time has expired.

9 DELEGATE DANIEL: Thank you, sir.

10 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Delegate Belardo de O'Neal?

11 DELEGATE BELARDO de O'NEAL: Mr. Chairman, I
12 think that I would like to make a motion that we goes
13 into the previous question -- move into the previous
14 question. That means that if I need a second, debate is
15 finished, we go to the recess.

16 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Okay. Thank you, Delegate
17 Belardo de O'Neal.

18 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Point of Order, Mr. Presi-
19 dent?

20 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: There wasn't a motion --

21 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Point of Order?

22 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- the Chair --

23 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Point of Order, Mr. Presi-
24 dent?

25 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- had just decided to have

1 discussion and we was getting ready to complete the
2 discussion based on the issues raised by Delegate Rudel
3 Hodge, Jr.

4 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: Point of Order, Mr. Presi-
5 dent? I heard a motion to move the previous question --

6 DELEGATE R. HODGE: A. Hodge.

7 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Rudel Hodge, Jr.

8 DELEGATE R. HODGE: Rudel A. Hodge.

9 DELEGATE WATLINGTON: -- for delegates on the
10 floor.

11 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Yes, well I am saying Dele-
12 gate "Rudel Hodge, Jr." It wasn't no disrespect
13 intended. All right.

14 DELEGATE SILVERMAN: Mr. President, I was unable
15 to hear what the previous speaker said.

16 Could you repeat it for the benefit of those of
17 us remotely?

18 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: No, they was asking for a
19 motion to move the previous question. And I just in-
20 formed Delegate Belardo de O'Neal that there wasn't a
21 need for a motion. That the Chair was just exercising a
22 discussion based on the subject matter that was raised.

23 Having said that, we're going to take a recess
24 for 15 minutes and return.

25 The Session stands in recess.

1 Thereupon, a 15-minute recess was had.
2 -----

3 ***[Back on the record]***

4 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: Technician, can we resume?

5 Good afternoon. It is afternoon, it's after
6 12:00. We're going to rise out from recess in regards
7 to the first Session of the Constitutional Convention.
8 And I'm going to ask for the acknowledgement of dele-
9 gates, we are now going to go into the Committee of the
10 Whole since there is no other actions to be voted upon
11 to address the subject matters two and three on the
12 agenda.

13 Item No. 2 is the Standing Committees (Number and
14 Composition); and

15 Item No. 3 is the Constitution Revision Process.

16 We are going to break for an hour and 15 minutes
17 for lunch. We will come back for the Committee of the
18 Whole with the intention of discussing Item No. 2, of
19 getting input, suggestion and recommendations from
20 everyone on the subject matter of the Standing Com-
21 mittees (Number and Compositions).

22 And then when we finish that discussion, we'll
23 also take up the discussion on the Constitution Revision
24 Process, what process and mechanism we will agree to
25 based on the input of everyone else during that discus-

1 sion.

2 And I did ask, and there were no responses, if
3 there was no "Other Business" outside of those two
4 items. And so we're going to recess and reconvene as a
5 Committee of the Whole.

6 It is now 12:15. We will reconvene at 1:30. We
7 stand in recess until 1:30. And lunch, Ms. Pickard --

8 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Yes, sir?

9 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- is up the staircase --

10 MS. DeALTIER PICKARD: Up the staircase.

11 PRESIDENT RICHARDS: -- on the second level.

12 We stand in recess. Thank you.

13 -----
14 Thereupon, the Session recessed at 12:15 p.m.
15 -----

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, **KATHLEEN D. DOWLING**, Stenographer, Division of St. Croix, do hereby certify that I reported, by machine shorthand, stenographically, the proceedings had and testimony given at this **PLENARY SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION** held on the 11th day of February, 2025.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing **82** pages constitute a true and accurate official transcript of said proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my hand this the 14th day of February, 2025.

/s/
KATHLEEN D. DOWLING
Stenographer