

2015 National FFA Parliamentary Procedure CDE

Semi-Finals

Team Problem Solving Activity

Scenario

Member A moves that the FFA chapter spend no more than \$2,000 to purchase a livestock trailer. After considerable debate, Member B moves to strike out \$2,000 and create a blank. Member C seconds the motion. The President opens the motion to create a blank to debate. After debate, the President puts the amendment to a vote and it is carried.

President: "The floor is now open for suggested amounts. Suggestions require a second and are not debatable." Member E suggests \$7,500, Member C suggests \$5,000, and Member F suggests \$10,000.

After closing suggestions, the President puts them to vote.

All those in favor of \$5,000 say Aye. All those opposed to \$5,000 say No. (Aye = 14, No = 21)

All those in favor of \$7,500 say Aye. All those opposed to \$7,500 say No. (Aye = 25, No = 10)

All those in favor of \$10,000 say Aye. All those opposed to \$10,000 say No. (Aye = 15, No = 20)

President: "The amount of \$7,500 fills the blank. The motion to spend no more than \$7,500 to purchase a livestock trailer is adopted.

Questions (45 pts.)

1. Did the President handle the amendment to strike out and create a blank correctly? (9 pts.)

No, the motion to create a blank is not debatable.

"The motion to create a blank requires a second, but it is neither debatable nor amendable." (RONR, p. 163, l. 26-28)

2. Did the President call for suggestions correctly? (9 pts.)

No, suggestions to fill do not require a second and are debatable

"When a blank exists or has been created, any number of members can suggest, without second, a different name, place, number, date, or amount for filling it." (RONR, p. 164, l. 13-16)

"Proposals to fill a blank in a debatable motion are debatable." (RONR, p. 164, l. 24-25)

3. Where the suggestions on different amounts handled properly by the President? (9 pts.)

No, the amount of \$2,000 from the original motion should have been included.

“Any member can move ‘to create a blank by striking out the pending resolution the sum \$300,000.’ If such a motion is adopted, the specification struck out to create the blank automatically becomes one of the proposals for filling it - as “\$300,000” in the example.”

“The particular circumstances must determine the order to be used. If an amount has been struck out in order to create a blank, that amount is voted on in its proper place in the logical sequence among the other amounts.” (RONR, p. 166, l. 31-35)

4. Where the suggestions on different amounts voted on correctly? (9 pts.)

No, the suggested amounts should have been voted on from highest to lowest.

“Each proposal is treated as an independent original to be voted on separately until one is approved by a majority.” (RONR, p. 164, l. 25-26)

“The character of this measure - to spend money - indicates that the amounts should be arranged and voted on in the order from the highest to lowest.” (RONR, p. 165, l. 28-30)

After \$7,500 received a majority vote, no vote should have been taken on \$10,000.

“If \$400,000 is rejected, the vote is taken next on \$350,000; and if that is not adopted, the chair puts the question on \$300,000. If that amount is adopted, no vote is taken on \$250,000...” (RONR, p. 165, l. 30-33)

“Voting on the proposals in the order of their probable acceptability, beginning with the least popular choice, as when filling a blank with an amount.” (RONR, p. 166, l. 23-25)

5. Was the motion disposed of correctly? (9 pts.)

No, filling the blank does NOT pass the motion. After the blank was filled, the President should have opened the motion as amended to further debate and vote.

“...the chair immediately says, “The amount of \$300,000 fills the blank. The question is now on the resolution...” (RONR, p. 165, l. 33-35)