



2009-2011 Communications Committee
National Association of Parliamentarians
Lorenzo Cuesta, PRP
May 4, 2011

Incidental Motion to Appeal

This script illustrates proper and improper situations for the incidental motion to appeal. The script contains 7 speaking parts.

The camera must be ready to capture the next speaker. The participants should be seated in a classroom arrangement. The topic should be handled with casual seriousness. [Comments in square brackets are instructions and not to be read aloud.]

This script seeks to illustrate

1. Proper situation for the motion to appeal;
2. Improper situation for the motion to appeal; and
3. This motion's unique debate and voting process.

We join the monthly meeting of the San Diego Bird Watchers Society, during the 'New Business' section of their agenda.

Ch: Is there any other new business?

A: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

A: I move that the new logo for this society's newsletter be the endangered California Daffy Duck.

Z: Second

Ch: "Daffy Duck"? Endangered? The motion is not in order.

A: Is that the ruling of the chair?

Ch: "Daffy Duck"? Please be serious. Is there another recommendation for the new logo for his society's newsletter?

B: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

B: I want to motion... Oh, you know that motion that the assembly can use to decide that it is right and that the chair is wrong. How do I say that in parliamentary lingo?

Ch: You are speaking of the incidental motion to appeal. It is intended to challenge only a parliamentary ruling by the chair, not an answer by the chair. The proper wording is "I appeal from the decision of the chair."

B: Yes, that's it. "I'm appalled by the decision of the chair."

Z: Second



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Ch: That's "I appeal" not "I'm appalled".

Z: Second

Ch: It is moved and seconded to appeal from the decision of the chair.

The motion to appeal has a unique debate process.

The chair will explain his ruling and the secretary will include it in the minutes.

Each member who wishes to speak for or against the ruling of the chair, may speak only once.

And then, the chair is allowed a second chance to support his reasoning.

Ch: The chair reasons that "Daffy Duck" is an inappropriate emblem for this prestigious organization.

B: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

B: But, "Daffy Duck" will attract young people to the sport of birding.

[Silence]

Ch: Does anyone else wish to speak?

Ch: In closing debate, the chair repeats his reasoning adding that dignity is more important than under-aged birders. The chair rules the nomination of "Daffy Duck" not in order.

Ch: The question before you is ... Shall the decision of the chair be sustained?

All in favor, say 'Aye'. [Exactly half vote]

All opposed, say, 'No'. [Exactly half vote]

The 'Ayes' have it. The decision of the chair is sustained.

We are ready to consider a dignified candidate for this society's logo.

C: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

C: I appeal from the chair's decision on the vote count.

Z: Second.

Ch: The announcement of the result of a vote cannot be appealed. The motion you need is "Division".

C: I knew that. Division. Division.

Ch: Division has been demanded. We shall take a rising vote.

Shall the decision of the chair be sustained?

All in favor, please rise. [Exactly half stand up] Please be seated.

All opposed, please rise. [Exactly half stand up] Please be seated.

Ch: The vote is a tie. The 'Ayes' have it.

The decision of the chair is sustained.



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Are there any other recommendations ...

D: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

D: A tie vote means that the negative vote won. That means that the decision of the chair was not sustained by a majority of the votes cast.

Ch: The motion to appeal has a unique voting requirement. It takes a majority in the negative vote to refuse to sustain the decision of the chair.

Ch: The decision of the chair is sustained. "Daffy Duck" is not in order. We are now ready to consider a dignified candidate as a recommendation for this society's logo.

E: (Rises and is recognized) Mr. Chair.

E: I move "Mother Goose".

Ch: What?