

**JOURNAL
OF THE
HOUSE OF TEXAS
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
1893**

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The Chair announced as the first business in order to be the election of Speaker, and that nominations are now in order.

Mr. F. M. Ball, of Bowie county, nominated Hon. L. P. Wilson, of Harrison county.

Mr. Geo. P. Finlay, of Galveston county, nominated Hon. John H. Cochran, of Dallas county.

Mr. J. T. Curry, of Van Zandt county, nominated Hon. M. H. Gossett, of Kaufman county.

Mr. J. R. Cocke, of Gonzales county, nominated Hon. B. A. Calhoun, of Nacogdoches county.

Mr. Frank R. Graves, of Karnes county, seconded the nomination of Hon. L. P. Wilson.

Mr. M. L. Brooks, of San Augustine county, seconded the nomination of Hon. L. P. Wilson.

Mr. J. F. Onion, of Smith county, seconded the nomination of Hon. L. P. Wilson.

Mr. L. T. Dashiell, of Leon county, seconded the nomination of Hon. M. H. Gossett.

Mr. S. M. Simmons, of Maverick county, seconded the nomination of Hon. M. H. Gossett.

Mr. Thomas H. Wheless, of Travis county, seconded the nomination of Hon. John H. Cochran.

Mr. T. D. Rowell, of Marion county, seconded the nomination of Hon. L. P. Wilson.

Mr. O. R. Morrison, of Hamilton county, seconded the nomination of Hon. John H. Cochran.

Mr. J. M. King, of Ellis county, seconded the nomination of Hon. M. H. Gossett.

Mr. T. J. Floyd, of Bastrop county, seconded the nomination of Hon. B. A. Calhoun.

Mr. Henderson, of Lamar county, seconded the nomination of Hon. John H. Cochran.

Mr. Long moved that nominations be closed, which motion prevailed, and

The Secretary appointed the following gentlemen to take up the ballots: Messrs. Turney, Moore, Tankersley, Turner and Nolan.

The following gentlemen were appointed tellers: Messrs. Sebastian, Murrell, Rudd and Erskine.

For the purposes of temporary organization, the Secretary appointed as Sergeants-at-Arms J. S. Boggs, of Kaufman county; Will L. Sargeant, of Navarro county, and A. G. Stuart, of Williamson county, who at once assumed the duties of the office.

The ballots were taken up and counted and resulted as follows:

- Mr. Wilson received 31 votes.
- Mr. Cochran received 50 votes.
- Mr. Gossett received 38 votes.
- Mr. Calhoun received 6 votes.
- Mr. Rogan received 1 vote.
- Mr. Breeding received 1 vote.

Mr. Onion moved to adjourn until 3 o'clock p. m. to-day.

Yeas and nays were demanded and the motion was lost by the following vote:

YEAS—28.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ball, | Barbee, Wharton, |
| Barron, | Beall, |
| Broocks, | Burleson, |
| Calhoun, | Cocke, |
| Cunningham, | Dorow, |
| Faubion, | Feagin, Polk, |
| Floyd, | Griffin, |
| Hodges, | Jackson, Colorado, |
| Jackson, Burleson, | Kennoy, |
| Lloyd, | Moore, |
| Onion, | Phillips, |
| Ragsdale, | Rudd, |
| Smith of Smith, | Turney, |
| Wohlford, | Wynn. |

NAYS—92.

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| Aldridge, | Alston, |
| Baker, Red River, | Baker, DeWitt, |
| Ballowe, | Barry, |
| Bayne, | Breeding, |
| Calu, | Chambers, |
| Chandler, | Cochran, |
| Curry, | Dashiell, |
| Davis, Walker, | Davis, Falls, |
| Dean, | Dever, |
| Dills, | Dodd, |
| Erskine, | Fagan, Lamar, |
| Fields, | Finlay, |
| Flack, | Frazier, |
| Garrett, | Golden, |
| Gossett, | Gough, |
| Graham, | Graves, |
| Greer, | Haller, |
| Hamilton, | Hawkins, |
| Henderson, Lamar, | Henderson, Milam, |
| Hood, Fanuin, | James, |
| Kennedy, Bee, | Kennedy, Harris, |
| Kennedy, Starr, | King, Rockwall, |
| King, Ellis, | Kirk, |
| Long, | Maddox, |
| Martin, | McElwee, |
| McFall, | McFarland, |
| McGehee, | McEmore, |
| Meyers, | Mills, |

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| Moody, | Morrison, |
| Murray, | Murrell, |
| Newton, | Nolan, |
| Peck, | Pickett, |
| Rodriguez, | Rogan, |
| Rogers, Anderson, | Rowell, |
| Rogers, McLennan, | Sebastian, |
| Rogers, Titus, | Simmons, Grayson, |
| Russell, | Slayden, |
| Sherrill, | Strange, |
| Simmons, Mave'k, | Talbot, |
| Smith, Hill, | Taylor, |
| Sumner, | Truitt, |
| Tankersley, | Urbahn, |
| Townsend, | Weinert, |
| Turner, | Wheless, |
| Weeks, | Wilson, |
| Wester, | Young. |
| White. | |

ABSENT—7.

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| Barbee, Freestone, | Brown, |
| Henry, | Hood, Parker, |
| Lindsey, | Peter, |

There being no election, the secretary directed that another ballot be taken.

Mr. Cocke withdrew the name of Hon B. A. Calhoun.

The second ballot resulted as follows:

- Mr. Wilson received 20 votes.
- Mr. Cochran received 63 votes.
- Mr. Gossett received 35 votes.

Mr. Cochran having received a majority of all the votes cast, the secretary declared him duly and constitutionally elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-third Legislature.

The Secretary of State appointed Messrs. Peck and Graves to conduct the Speaker-elect to the chair.

Mr. Cochran was introduced to the House as Speaker, and he spoke as follows:

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

I sincerely thank you for the honor you have conferred on me, and after expressing my gratitude for your confidence thus manifested in me, permit me to assure you I am profoundly sensible of the arduous duties and deeply impressed with the high responsibilities adhering to and connected with the exalted position to which you have promoted and honored me—more so when I remember this was done over such deserving and distinguished gentlemen as aspired to the honor with me.

Before entering upon the duties and assuming these responsibilities in obedience to your expressed will, I must say the position of the presiding officer over a legislative body is a most

responsible one, under ordinary circumstances—more so, when the vital interests of a grand empire State, comparatively undeveloped, are demanding and commanding the thoughtful, patriotic attention of the Legislature. Legislators have in all ages honestly differed on questions of state policy, and it is hardly to be expected that this will be an exception.

Patriotic legislators, however widely they may differ on questions of policy, should always be mindful of the rights of those with whom they may at the time differ. With that dignity becoming the representatives of the great people of the grand State of Texas, should, under all circumstances be tolerant and mindful of the rights of minorities; and I trust such a spirit will control and guide the deliberations of this House. At any rate I shall, as your presiding officer, discharge the duties of Speaker of this House with such fairness and impartiality as will, I trust, command the respect of all. As Speaker I shall recognize no north, no south, no east, no west; but Texas in her entirety, one and indivisible. In my rulings I shall be governed by your rules, as I shall understand them. I may err; all men do; but I assure you every error made by me shall be one of the head and not of the heart. In all my rulings I shall be oblivious as to whether my decision will enure to the advantage of those who may be with me on the question at issue, or to those who may differ with me. Questions of State policy no doubt will arise, which will demand and require calm, thoughtful consideration at your hands; questions which will de-

mand the exercise of an unselfish patriotism and statesmanship; questions affecting the great material interests of all Texas.

Not only the eyes of the great people of Texas, but of this Nation are turned to this Legislature. Upon our action depends the future of Texas. Whether or not we will be equal to the demands and responsibilities of the hour, is yet in the future.

I sincerely trust that, with an earnest, patriotic, conservative action, it may and will go down to history as the wisest and best legislature that ever met in this magnificent capitol, and that the Twenty-third Legislature will ever be held in grateful remembrance in the hearts of the patriotic people of Texas.

In conclusion, I again thank you for the honor conferred, and earnestly ask your aid, your assistance, your support and indulgence in the discharge of the arduous duties you have placed upon me.

Should I have these I will, when our labors shall have ended and before we finally separate, earnestly and sincerely thank you for the honor now conferred and congratulate you on the result of your work.

The chief clerk was directed to administer the oath of office to the Speaker, which was done, and he at once assumed his duties.