

JOURNAL
OF THE
House of Representatives
OF THE
REGULAR SESSION
OF THE
THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Convened January 9, 1917, and Adjourned March 21, 1917



ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The Honorable Secretary of State then announced that the next business in order is the election of a Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Mendell offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Reading Clerk call the roll and as each member's name is called he walk to the Reading Clerk's desk and place his ballot for Speaker in a hat.

The resolution was read second time and was adopted.

The Honorable Secretary then announced that nominations for Speaker of the House are now in order.

Hon. Bruce W. Bryant of Haskell county nominated Hon. F. O. Fuller of San Jacinto county.

Hon. George B. Terrell of Cherokee county seconded the nomination of Hon. F. O. Fuller.

Hon. Wallace E. Hawkins of Runnels county seconded the nomination of Hon. F. O. Fuller.

Hon. James H. Woods of Navarro county seconded the nomination of Hon. F. O. Fuller.

Hon. R. F. Spencer of Wise county seconded the nomination of Hon. F. O. Fuller.

Hon. James A. Florer of Dallas county seconded the nomination of Hon. F. O. Fuller.

Hon. W. M. Fly of Gonzales county seconded the nomination of Hon. F. O. Fuller.

Hon. George Mendell, Jr., of Travis county seconded the nomination of Hon. F. O. Fuller.

The Honorable Secretary declared nominations closed, and directed the Clerk to call the roll and requested each member as his name was called to come forward and deposit his ballot.

The Honorable Secretary then appointed the following tellers to count the ballots:

Mr. Spradley, Mr. Thomason of El Paso, Mr. Monday and Mr. Blalock.

The ballots having been counted by the tellers, the result was announced as follows:

Hon. F. O. Fuller received 140 votes.

The Honorable Secretary then declared Hon. F. O. Fuller duly elected to be Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-fifth Legislature and appointed the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the Speaker's stand:

Mr. Thomason of Nacogdoches, Mr. Bryant and Mr. McFarland.

The committee having performed their duty, the Honorable Secretary administered the oath of office to the Speaker-elect and presented him to the House.

Speaker Fuller then addressed the House, thanking the members for the honor conferred upon him, as follows:

"Mr. Secretary, Gentlemen of the House, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"This is indeed one of the proudest moments of my life; I had rather receive the unanimous support of this body—I had rather have this honor conferred upon me—than to have almost any office within the gift of the people. It would be folly for me to

undertake in words to express to you my sincere gratitude for this honor. Suffice to say that I am indeed grateful to my many friends in the Legislature and my friends throughout this State who have made my success possible. I want to say to you that as the years go by this gratitude will be deepened, and time shall never erase from my memory this great honor that has been conferred upon me by you this evening.

"To those who have stood by me in this contest during the past months, I want to say to you that I shall ever be your friend; that I shall ever go at your beck and when you need my assistance. To those who have seen proper to differ from my opinions, today I wish to say to you that I extend to you the glad hand of friendship and brotherly love.

"When I entered this campaign over a year ago I promised myself and my God that there would be not one word said by me by implication or otherwise, neither would I permit my friends to say an unkind word, with reference to anyone who might oppose me; and I have religiously adhered to that principle, even to the present. And I want to say with reference to my opponents that they have conducted this campaign upon a high plane, and I am glad we have demonstrated to Texas that a campaign can be conducted as true Democrats and citizens without the ordinary politics that accompany the usual campaign.

"It shall be my purpose to assist you as much as is within my power to do so; it shall be my purpose to see, so far as I am able, that this Legislature is a business Legislature—that we work in harmony and in unity; yet I wish to say to you that it shall be my purpose to try and preside fairly and impartially, and it shall be my purpose to not undertake to dictate the policies of this House; it shall be my purpose to not undertake to force upon you my views; because of all questions, I believe that the question of tolerance is the greatest attribute that applies to the American citizen.

"You may differ with me; you may be right and I may be wrong; and from my point of view this is the spirit in which this Legislature should work and labor. The greatest question that is confronting this Legislature is the development of this State. I do not mean by that that there are no other questions, but Texas,

as we all know, is yet a frontier. We know that the latent resources of Texas have not been developed, and for that as well as many other reasons, it behooves the Texas Legislature as well as the citizenship of this great State to see to it that a better understanding and a better feeling exist between the various interests of this State and the people in general.

"I believe that a legislator should represent all the people, should represent all interests fairly and impartially, and that he should keep in mind the best interest and the good of all the people.

"And again, I will say to you, that the success of this Legislature will very largely be in proportion to the co-operation of this branch with the co-ordinate branches, for the reason that this Legislature should work in harmony with all the branches of the government to the end that the most be accomplished for the good of Texas, ever keeping in mind that the Democratic forms of government are the best and for the best interest of all the people.

"Democracy is a truth; truth is eternal. The principles that went to make up the virtues of the manhood and womanhood of my father and your father and of my mother and of yours are as applicable today to manhood and womanhood as they were yesterday. The principles of Christianity of the years gone are the same today; the customs may change in some respects, yet the principle remains the same. The government as inaugurated by our forefathers back in the days of the Colonies should be today what it was then, and we should ever keep in mind that as long as we adhere to that principle, just so long will the ship of State move serenely over the sea. But I fear it is a tendency of this government to lean in the other direction, toward that of centralization; and from my point of view, it behooves especially the Texas Legislature that we adhere to the Democratic principles as laid down by our forefathers. We should stand first in the principles that we represent, ever remembering the cause of our constituency and keeping it uppermost in our lives and in our hearts and especially in our acts in this body; yet we should not lose sight of the fact that tolerance, as we said, in the beginning is the greatest of virtues, and while we differ on some of the principles of government, yet if we expect to get the greatest results from our labors here we should realize that it is our duty to work in

harmony and realize that the other fellow has some rights, and yet at the same time take him to our bosom as our brother.

"In conclusion, I wish to say to you gentlemen of the House, that in the organization of this House, that is, with respect to your elective officers, I have no preference nor choice; that is a question for you to determine. I shall not undertake in any manner, as I have said before, to force upon you my views on any question. I do not know that I will, but I may at times try to persuade you on certain measures, but I shall never undertake as your presiding officer, in any measure to dictate the policies of this House.

"I realize that I have a great task before me; I realize that the organization of this House is a great question within itself,—that this House should be organized, keeping in mind that the first principle should be that of efficiency; and when I go to make appointments, that will be my greatest purpose. You should understand that it will be impossible for me probably to please you all. You may differ with me on many questions, you all may differ with me on some questions, but I will say to you that I shall do my best. So far as the appointive officers are concerned, and in the organization of this House along clerical lines the paramount thought will be efficiency. I will say it is impossible for me to succeed without the co-operation of this body; it would have been impossible for me to have been elected without the co-operation and assistance of my friends; and just so, without your co-operation and assistance, it will be impossible for me to succeed. Just in proportion as you assist me and each other along these various lines, just in that proportion will this House succeed. I now ask what is the pleasure of the House?"