

JOURNAL

OF THE

House of Representatives

OF THE

REGULAR SESSION

OF THE

Forty-sixth Legislature

BEGUN AND HELD AT

THE CITY OF AUSTIN

JANUARY 10, 1939



CAPITAL PRINTING CO., INC.



ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Honorable Secretary of State announced that the next business in order is the election of a Speaker of the House of Representatives, of the Forty-sixth Legislature, and announced that nominations for Speaker are now in order.

Hon. G. H. Little of Potter County nominated Hon. R. Emmett Morse of Harris County.

Hon. Houston McMurry of Clay County seconded the nomination of Hon. R. Emmett Morse.

Hon. Howard Hartzog of Calhoun County seconded the nomination of Hon. R. Emmett Morse and moved that nominations for Speaker of the House of Representatives be now closed and that the Chief Clerk be instructed to cast the entire vote of the House for Hon. R. Emmett Morse for Speaker.

The motion prevailed unanimously.

In accordance with the above action, the Chief Clerk then cast the entire vote of the House for Hon. R. Emmett Morse for Speaker.

The Honorable Secretary of State then declared Hon. R. Emmett Morse to be the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Forty-sixth Legislature.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED

The Honorable Secretary of State announced the appointment of the following members as a committee to escort Honorable R. Emmett Morse and his family, to the Speaker's stand for the purpose of administering the oath of office to him:

Messrs. Leonard, Heflin, Howard, Montgomery and Winfree.

The committee having escorted Mr. Morse to the Speaker's stand, Mr. Morse then took the constitutional oath of office which was administered by Hon. Edward Clark, Secretary of the State.

The Honorable Secretary of State then presented Hon. E. H. Thornton, Jr., of Galveston County.

Mr. Thornton in turn presented Hon. R. Emmett Morse, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Forty-sixth Legislature.

Mr. Morse then addressed the House, speaking as follows:

"Mr. Secretary of State, Mr. Thornton, Fellow Members, and Friends:

I am deeply grateful for this confidence you have shown in me, but not unmindful of the responsibilities which go with the office. In being elevated to the high position of Speaker of this House, I feel that I have reached the climax of a long and most enjoyable legislative career, which will have extended over a period of 14 years at the end of the Forty-sixth Legislature.

During my service as a Member of this body it has been my pleasure to serve with many of Texas' ablest Legislators and under the leadership of five Speakers of outstanding ability. They have set a standard, which will be difficult to match.

However, it is my belief that we should have a feeling of confidence in approaching our task. During the last 14 months it has been my privilege to visit nearly every Legislative District in Texas, and I have come to know the personnel of the Forty-sixth House extremely well for this period of its existence. As a result of my knowledge of the membership, I feel no hesitancy in saying that we have in this House as fine a body of men and women as it has ever been my pleasure to know.

I believe the results of our deliberations will prove I am not too optimistic.

In carrying out my duties as Speaker I would like to be of as much assistance to the Members as is possible. Likewise, it is my intention to offer every reasonable cooperation to the Executive Branch of our government and to the Senate.

I am not misled into believing that I am the ablest Member of the House whom you might have selected as your Speaker. We have within the membership many who are as well or

better equipped to preside over this body. I hope I may feel free to call upon them from time to time during the next four months.

I wish to express my appreciation to the newspapers over the State and particularly to the Capitol correspondents for the many nice things they have had to say not only during the past year but throughout the years I have been in the House.

During the past few days it has been necessary for me to call upon many Members of the House for assistance in making preparations for this session. Had it not been for their efforts, my task would have been an impossible one. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all who have helped.

I am happy today to have with me my wife, and my son, Robert Emmett, Jr. They and my daughter, Eugenia, who was unable to leave her studies at Rice Institute, have been a constant inspiration to me. The only regret I have is that during the term of the 45th Legislature the Supreme Ruler of the Universe has, in His wisdom, seen fit to call to a Higher House the two loved ones who would have most enjoyed this happy occasion.

In electing me Speaker of the House you have bestowed upon me the highest honor which is within your power to bestow, but it will prove an empty honor indeed unless through the cooperation of you and each of you, we can within the next four months accomplish the major portion of a constructive program for our State.

To that end I pledge to you and to the people of Texas the best efforts at my command, and earnestly plead for a like spirit of endeavor on the part of each and every Member of the House.

I thank you.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL TO SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable Secretary of State presented Hon. Homer Leonard who presented the Speaker with a gavel, Mr. Leonard speaking as follows:

"Here in Austin, is an old oak, famed for its beauty, tradition and history. It stands in the 500 block of Crockett Street, on the bank of the Colorado. Its age is half a thousand years, and its branch spread is 120 feet, perhaps the greatest in all of North America. History has named it the Treaty Oak.

It is said that the Treaty Oak has

played an important and romantic part in the history of the Lone Star State; battles have been planned, pacts signed, important conferences planned, feasts and religious ceremonies celebrated beneath its mighty branches, while many a Texas pioneer whose name glows on history's pages, has sought rest and shelter in its gracious shade.

Here, too, was nature's council chamber for the Tejas and the Comanches. They held their powwows here and it is said also that the Indian maidens, troubled by the hazards of war, gathered here when the low-hung moon was a crescent, and concocted from the green balls of the oak, a sauce which they drank to insure the safe return of their braves from battle. This same sauce, sweetened with honey, was the Tejas maidens' panacea for unrequited love.

For a hundred years, our people have gained inspiration at the roots of this oak; the beauty of its branches and the tradition of its past have excited the eloquence of orators, and more than a hundred poets have sung its praises.

So, in the light of these things, and because you are one who reveals in the glory of Texas' past, and looks forward to the bright promise of Texas' future, the Members of the House have asked me to present to you this morning, this gavel, carved from a fallen limb of the Treaty Oak."