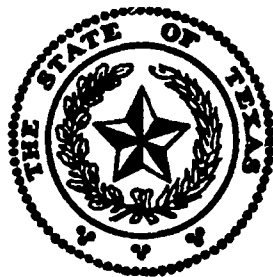


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OF THE
STATE OF TEXAS
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ELECTION OF SPEAKER

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

Hon. John J. Bell of DeWitt County nominated Hon. W. O. Reed of Dallas County for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fiftieth Legislature, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Fellow Citizens of Texas and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

Today, there falls upon me the greatest honor that I have received in ten years of service in the Texas House of Representatives, a representative body which I believe is closer to the people than any other political institution in the American Union.

Occasionally while striding through the long tall corridors of time, the ordinary individual, such as I, has the opportunity given to him of rendering a real service to the people whom he serves and to the Country that he loves.

My feeble efforts on this occasion are made of inestimatable value to the people of Texas and the cause

of Democracy, not because of my performance, but because of the parliamentary processes I put in motion in nominating a Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fiftieth Legislature of the State of Texas.

The Speakership is heralded by many students of government as the second most important office in the Government of this great State—but considered by me perhaps as important as any office which exists under our present Constitution. Without the cooperation of the Speaker, using the great powers of his office, it is possible that the vast machinery of democratic government could be clogged with the resulting conditions of chaos, confusion and anarchy. I place the importance of the Speaker's office on a par with the Governorship and any of the offices found under our Constitution and Laws.

The man I am going to nominate is pre-eminently qualified to hold the position to which he aspires. His political and professional life has not been meteoric. He has not flashed across the political and professional sky to shine brightly for the moment and return to darkness and oblivion. Rather his attainment began as does the morning sun in a mid-summer Texas sky, ever growing more luminous and brilliant, ever throwing off more energy and warmth until today he stands—a shining symbol—a brilliant example of American and Texas Democracy at its best.

Like other great Texans and Americans, the man whose name I will place in nomination started with an humble beginning. His was a rough and tumble career over the corrugated corridors of success and achievement.

Born to a poor family which had moved from Tennessee to Texas, his first recollections were of his humble home, a small house on the banks of the Trinity River. But in that humble American home, ideals and the Democratic Way of Life must have nourished the body and soul of your next Speaker, as much as did the fruits of the harvest on the land which the family farmed—fighting the annual floods of "old man river's wrath" on land which had to sustain a family of ten children, of which this man was the youngest.

Strangely but yet typically American this man's sun is still rising and my prediction is that it has a long, long way to go before it reaches its zenith because of the stuff of which this man is made.

This House and the people of Texas may well be proud of him—because he is the embodiment and incarnation of our Way of Life. He stands as a living, accomplishing example of what ambition, initiative, and energy under our form of government can and does and will accomplish in the future. From a newspaper boy in the streets of Dallas, from an odd-job employee of the Texas & Pacific Railway, he has achieved success. He has made his own security. He is a living example of what man can do under our system of government and the American Way of Life.

What are his qualifications, do you ask? I need only suggest that you look at the record he has written. His personal attainments and his long and valued service in this House. Yes, the laborer is worthy of his hire; he has toiled in this vineyard for almost a score of years with a devotion that is rare. He came here a youth—unheralded and unsung. He stands here today as your next Speaker. In this Body he came up the slow, hard way. He came up persistently because always the man in the next seat, the lady across the aisle, the young and troubled Legislator in the far corner and the Speaker of the House found him worthy of trust and dependable always. Everyone knew where he stood and knew that nothing could shake his considered and conscientious conviction. Someone a long time ago dubbed him "Old Reliable." That appellation fitted at that time—it fits now. The new Members will learn that he will be helpful and courteous—the old Members know that he will be diligent and fair.

This man had a keen ear and eye for his legislative colleagues. He has not spent his thousands of legislative hours in heckling and oratory. On the contrary his soft voice has been lifted only on occasions when he believed it direly necessary. His long work and service in this House has been steady, untiring, and patriotic.

To me, then, this man represents

Texas and America. He is as much a part of it as the forest and the meadow, the rippling stream and the deep flowing river; as much a part of it as the furrowed land and the country schoolhouse—yes—as much a part of it as the factory whistle and the busy city streets. He has arrived at that point where he can with courage, sagacity, and intelligence, comprehend and grapple with the affairs of State. He and others like him—building their own future on their own ability, intelligence and integrity have made America. They are America.

And so, Mr. Secretary of State, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, to devotees of democracy, the State and Nation over, I place in nomination the living embodiment of Texas and Texans. I am profoundly proud to place in nomination for the Speakership of the House of Representatives of the Fiftieth Legislature, the name, the ability, the integrity and the personality of the gentleman from Dallas, the Honorable W. O. Reed.

Hon. James C. Spencer of Henderson County seconded the nomination of Hon. W. O. Reed of Dallas County, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Governor Stevenson and Governor-elect Jester, Friends and Fellow Citizens: I heartily concur in the remarks made in nomination of Mr. Reed by the Hon. John J. Bell.

Texas has been signally honored in the past by having some Speakers possessed with the Statesmanship of men like the Hon. Pat Neff and Sam Rayburn whose names are revered and respected by friend and foe alike throughout this great nation of ours. We are mindful of their sterling qualities.

Today, as always, the office of Speaker demands some measure of the qualifications which those men possessed. From the County of Dallas have come four Speakers in the past:

1. Hon. N. H. Darnell.
2. Hon. N. M. Burford.
3. Hon. John H. Cochran.
4. Hon. Thomas Love.

And now I have what I consider a signal honor to second the nomination of Hon. W. O. Reed as Speaker

of the House of Representatives of the Fiftieth Legislature. Mr. Reed has capably represented Dallas County as one of its several Representatives for many years. As a new Member of the 46th Legislature in 1939, I found Odie ever ready to assist the new Members since he had been one himself only a few years before. I have known Mr. Reed for a long time and though we sometimes differed, I have never questioned his sincerity.

One never forgets his initiation as a new Member here and we who have had previous service will always remember those first impressions which were indelibly stamped upon our minds during our first term in the Texas Legislature.

Mr. Reed can remember the time when the Governor of a neighboring state said of the Texas Legislature that: "there is not a more independent body of legislators anywhere."

He, as do we all, remembers the fact that new member Patrick Henry, untried Colonial representative that he was, once dared to assert (against the advice of more seasoned members) the time-honored American sentiments of liberty and freedom in a voice unafraid and unrestrained. So it was in a Colonial (State, if you please) Legislature that popular rights of liberty and freedom were asserted by a new member.

Odie Reed will be considerate of every Member insofar as is possible, we have been assured. He has malice toward none and he intends to impartially preside in the Speaker's Chair with the dignity befitting the office. This is no small honor and Mr. W. O. Reed deserves it.

Hon. Joe M. Kilgore of Hidalgo County seconded the nomination of Hon. W. O. Reed speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, Citizens of Texas:

It is not without some trepidation, and certainly with considerable humility, that I, a new Member of this Body, accept the pleasant task of seconding the nomination of one of our fellow members for the highest post which you and I have to offer.

As a novice in the vocation of law-making, I am one of that group of

more than eighty who entered these halls as elected members for the first time today, to sit here proudly in this Centennial Legislature. As we go about the privilege that is ours today in casting our votes for the presiding officer of this great deliberative Body, we will have in mind, I am sure, the certain, time-tested truth that no man can serve us here on this rostrum who does not come bearing the knowledge of the rules, the procedures, and the customs and the traditions which have grown out of a hundred years of usage.

No matter what personal ambitions you and I might have, I know that in your heart as well as in mine there lies topmost of our desires the will that Texas first be served. It is with the confidence that the man whom I supported is best able through experience, by disposition, with high mental ability, and with sincerity of purpose, to guide you and me, as young members of this House, through the trying and grueling months that lie ahead, that I exercise the honor now to second the nomination of the gentleman from Dallas, the Honorable W. O. Reed, for Speaker of the Fiftieth House of Representatives.

Hon. William J. Craig of Roberts County seconded the nomination of Hon. W. O. Reed of Dallas County, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, Members of the House, Fellow Texans:

As a freshman member of the House I feel that we should avail ourselves of all the experience and ability available to us in our work, if we are to meet with any measure of success in solving the problems which confront us.

In choosing our presiding officer, we have an opportunity to select a man of experience, ability and fairness. His district has continued to return him for service in this Body because of a proven record of service.

I feel that you will agree with me that the people of Texas will judge each individual legislator by the work accomplished by the Legislature as a whole, therefore, with the firm conviction that this man will provide us with the leadership so necessary for us to make a real contribution to the welfare of our state,

I am happy to second the nomination of W. O. Reed for Speaker of the House.

Hon. Woodrow W. Bean of El Paso County, moved that nominations for Speaker of the House of Representatives be now closed and that the Chief Clerk of the House be instructed to cast the entire vote of the House for Hon. W. O. Reed for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fiftieth Legislature.

The motion prevailed unanimously.

In accordance with the above Action, the Chief Clerk then cast the entire vote of the House for Hon. W. O. Reed for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fiftieth Legislature.

The Honorable Secretary of State then declared Hon. W. O. Reed of Dallas County to be the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fiftieth Legislature.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED

The Honorable Secretary of State announced the appointment of the following Committee to escort Hon. W. O. Reed, Speaker-elect, to the Speaker's rostrum for the purpose of administering the oath of office to him:

Messrs. Parkhouse, Blankenship, Crosthwait, Hanna, and Mangum.

The committee having escorted Mr. Reed to the Speaker's rostrum, he then took the Constitutional oath of office which was administered by Hon. Claude Isbell, Secretary of the State.

The Secretary of the State then presented Hon. George Parkhouse of Dallas County.

Mr. Parkhouse then addressed the House, presenting Speaker Reed to the House.

Mr. Reed then addressed the House and the assemblage, as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Governor Stevenson, Governor-Elect Beauford Jester, Chief Justice Alexan-

der, Attorney General Price Daniel, Members of the House, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Last evening, perhaps I should say early this morning, because I think it was around 3:00 A.M. when I closed the Speaker's headquarters, I dictated what I thought was to be my speech today. The two young ladies who were assisting me at my headquarters very kindly took every word and later transcribed it for me. I have that speech in my pocket. I realize now that what I have to say to you could not possibly be phrased in advance on a written page. Indeed, no words, written or spoken, could adequately thank you for the honor bestowed upon me today.

As to the things which have been said about me by those who have placed my name in nomination, you will understand, of course, that they are to be taken by you in the light of their origin. They were spoken out of an abundance of friendship and they were colored with the enthusiasm of an affection which I do not merit, but which I am highly privileged to enjoy.

Today, the 14th day of January, will ever stand out in my memory. It is truly a day of all days to me. Today, you have paid me an honor of which I am not in the least deserving, but yet an honor so great that in my lifetime it will never be equalled. There is little that any of us can do without the help of our friends. That is particularly true in my case. You Members who have elected me as your presiding officer have reposed a confidence in me that I shall never betray. Weak indeed would I have been without your valuable help. I owe so much to so many.

I should like at this time to pay a special tribute to my colleagues, the members of the Dallas delegation, who have been so loyal, so faithful and so true for so many years. Without their help, their guidance, their counsel and their assistance, I could have never approached the possibility of being Speaker of the House of Representatives. I am grateful to the people of Dallas County who have returned me as a Member of this Body for eight consecutive terms. I shall never be able to properly re-

pay them for this honor. I can only try to show my appreciation.

I would like to say a word to the eighty-four new Members of this Body. I recall the time when I came as a new Member of this Group in 1933. That, too, was a year when there had been a considerable turnover in the summer elections, and far more than half of us were new Members. I believe I know just how you new Members feel today as you approach your duties and your responsibilities. Over and above the appreciation that I have for what you new Members—you who are in the majority—have done for me today, I would like to say this to you. You are truly in the majority as Members of this House; therefore, the responsibility lies squarely upon you for a successful session. It is a serious responsibility as you will realize before this session is over. Knowing each of you as I do, I haven't the slightest doubt that you will come through with flying colors; and furthermore, in my opinion, the Fiftieth Legislature, or in other words, the 100th anniversary of the Texas Legislature, will be the outstanding session of all times; and it will be because of you—you new Members of this House of Representatives.

I could not close without expressing my deep appreciation to the press of Texas, whose members have been so kind to me during the long days of this campaign for Speaker of the House. They have been more than generous in their treatment of me.

I should like, at this time, to introduce my family. May I present my wife, Anna Bess; my older daughter, Alicia Ann; and the youngest member of the family, Judy? These three have made it possible for me to carry on when times were the darkest in my race for re-election to the House, and in the many months of hard work in the Speakership race. To my right are other members of my family: my sister, Mrs. T. K. Cone of Dallas; my brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Reed of Denison, Texas; my nephew and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Reed and daughter, Mary Catherine of Austin, Texas; my wife's mother, Mrs. Ernest Seeger and her husband of College Station, Texas; my wife's brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Boyett

and their daughter, Betty, of Austin, Texas. On my left, I would like to introduce some close friends and neighbors, Judge Dick Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. McCarthy, Mr. Dick Scurry, and Mrs. Gussie Lambert, all of Dallas. Throughout this gathering today, both on the Floor of the House, and in the gallery, are many friends of long standing, former Members of the House with whom I have served, citizens of Dallas, and friends from other parts of the State. Time, of course, does not permit me to introduce them to you, but I would like for them to know that I appreciate very much all that they have done for me and that it means a great deal to me to know that they are present today.

Members of the House, let me close by again telling you how much I appreciate what you have done for me and my family today. I do not have the vocabulary to properly thank you, but if I had the words of Webster himself, there would remain

only two words that really express my true feelings. In those two words, there is all the gratitude and sincerity that is within me. Those two words are simply, Thank You.