

**JOURNAL**  
**OF THE**  
**House of Representatives**  
**OF THE**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**Fifty-first Legislature**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF TEXAS**

**BEGUN AND HELD AT**  
**THE CITY OF AUSTIN**  
**JANUARY 11, 1949**



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### CONCERNING PROCEDURE IN THE ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Mr. Kirkpatrick offered the following resolution:

H. S. R. No. 2, Concerning procedure in the election of Speaker.

Resolved, That the Clerk call the roll, and as each Member's name is called he shall walk to the front of the Reading Clerk's desk, present his folded ballot for an official number, then proceed to the Chief Clerk's desk and there place his vote for Speaker in a box.

Resolved further, That the Secretary of State appoint eight tellers, who shall inspect the voting procedure and count the votes.

Resolved further, That the candidate for Speaker receiving a majority of the votes of the Members present shall be declared elected Speaker.

KIRKPATRICK,  
COX.

The resolution was read and was adopted.

### HOUSE NOTIFIED

A committee from the Senate appeared at the bar of the House, and being duly announced, stated that the Senate is now organized and ready for the transaction of business.

### 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 Fifty-first Legislature, and announced

that nominations for Speaker are now in order.

Honorable S. J. Isaacks of El Paso County nominated Honorable Joe M. Kilgore of Hidalgo County for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-first Legislature.

Honorable William S. Fly, of Victoria County, nominated Honorable Durwood Manford of Gonzales County, for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-first Legislature.

Honorable Raymond T. R. Tatum, of Angelina County, seconded the nomination of Honorable Joe M. Kilgore.

Honorable M. K. Thomas, of Van Zandt County, seconded the nomination of Honorable Durwood Manford.

Honorable William George Richards of Caldwell County, seconded the nomination of Honorable Joe M. Kilgore.

Honorable Dolph Briscoe, Jr., of Uvalde County, seconded the nomination of Honorable Durwood Manford.

Honorable W. R. Chambers, of Brown County, seconded the nomination of Honorable Joe M. Kilgore.

Honorable Wayne W. Wagonseller of Montague County, seconded the nomination of Honorable Durwood Manford.

The Honorable Secretary of State declared the nominations for Speaker closed.

The Honorable Secretary of State then announced the appointment of the following tellers for the purpose of taking and counting the votes for Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Messrs. Kazen, Smith of Hays, Hull, Morrison, Smith of Lubbock, Hanna, Godard and Jameson.

The vote having been cast the tellers proceeded to the counting of the votes.

While the vote was being counted Honorable Joe M. Kilgore moved that Honorable Durwood Manford of Gonzales County be elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-first Legislature by acclamation.

The motion prevailed unanimously.

Mr. Kazen moved that the tellers destroy all ballots cast in the election for Speaker.

The motion prevailed, and it was so ordered.

The Honorable Secretary of State then declared Honorable Durwood Manford to be the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-first Legislature.

#### OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED

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

Messrs. Johnson, Graham, Kirkpatrick, Hefin and Daniel.

The Committee then escorted Hon. Durwood Manford, the Speaker-elect, to the Speaker's rostrum.

Mr. Manford then took the Constitutional oath of office, which was administered to him by Hon. Paul H. Brown, Secretary of State.

The Honorable Secretary of State then presented Honorable Pearce Johnson of Travis County, who introduced Honorable Durwood Manford, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-first Legislature.

Honorable Durwood Manford then addressed the House of Representatives, and presented Mrs. Manford to the House.

(Note: See appendix for address by Speaker Durwood Manford.)

#### PRESENTATION OF GAVEL TO SPEAKER MANFORD

The Honorable Secretary of State, on behalf of Mr. Ray Lowry, presented the Speaker a gavel.

#### INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SPEAKER'S FAMILY

Speaker Manford presented Honorable Pearce Johnson of Travis County, who introduced the following members of Mr. Manford's family:

Joyce Melvin Manford and Tommy Manford, children of Speaker and Mrs. Manford.

Mrs. T. D. Manford, of Smiley, mother of Hon. Durwood Manford.

Mrs. Pat Manford.

Mr. Miller Manford.

Mrs. W. L. Price.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Price Jr., and son.

Dr. and Mrs. James C. Price.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin F. Johnson.

Mr. B. B. Otten.

## ADDRESSES BY SPEAKER DURWOOD MANFORD

## ADDRESS BY SPEAKER DURWOOD MANFORD ON ACCEPTING THE OFFICE OF SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIFTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Mr. Secretary of State, Governor Jester, Mr. Johnson, Members of the House, Ladies and Gentlemen:

To say to you that this is my greatest honor, that it is as great an experience as I could hope for, is to say what must be obvious to each of you. To me the Speakership has always meant the greatest opportunity for service to the State of Texas of any of its offices. The greatest opportunity because in retrospect Texas remains a State in which the Legislative Branch has not decreased in its power in relation to the other branches of government, the Executive and the Judicial. Each of you know that it is of most importance that the Speakership be administered ably and honorably. I am, therefore, in accepting this office, soliciting all the help, advice and counsel you can spare from your own duties in the administration of the office you so graciously bestow upon me.

I am deeply appreciative of the many kind and fine things that have been said about me today, and, although I am not worthy of these charitable remarks, I am grateful for them having been said. For the remarks of Mr. Fly, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Briscoe, Mr. Wagonseller, and Mr. Johnson, I am thankful. As I said, although I do not merit their remarks, the office does. This I humbly recognize and ask you to bear with my personal limitations.

Yesterday, I had in mind what I would say to you if I were elected. I started to put those remarks on paper. Then I decided that might be "bad luck," and that, having them in mind, I would deliver them without having written them down. Now I find that in the magnitude of this moment the words which I had phrased mentally in advance are woefully inadequate to tell you what is now in my heart.

I find it impossible to deliver such

a speech. I am not capable now of putting my feelings into words.

But substituting for that speech, here, briefly, are some of my thoughts.

This high honor means many things to me. It has a past, a present, and a future meaning. Its past and present meaning, in part, is an expression of friendship and confidence from those of you who have worked so diligently in my behalf. I look at your faces now, and I cannot realize how you could have been so personally unselfish in my behalf. Without your tireless efforts, I could not have aspired to this position of high trust. My prayer is that you will not be disappointed in your choice, and that your reward will be, among other things and including our personal friendship, good and just legislation and government.

This high honor means in the immediate future the assumption of the heavy responsibilities which it entails. I shall earnestly strive to bear these responsibilities in mind, and to shoulder them in the manner that will best serve your interests and the interests of our State. I shall put you, as Members, and the State, above any of my own personal wishes, likes or desires.

And now I am appreciative of this opportunity to talk to you briefly about the policies which I shall try to follow.

There is inextricably mixed with my elation a deep sense of humility as we view the problems which will face this Legislature. I do not have to remind the Members, new and old, of our deep responsibility as representatives of the people of this State. This is a responsibility both to the citizens of today and to the generations of tomorrow, for the actions of this 51st Legislature will shape our lives not only now but for many future years. By thus remembering our fundamental duty and obligation, our democracy will continue to progress in spite of the criticism often hurled at democracies and at the legislatures. That is a reason for stating these policies.

First, as a matter of policy I am not disposed to break good tradi-

tions. Usually, when we tamper with tradition, we get in trouble. Second, the honor of being Speaker is one which can be shared by very few members of the Legislature. I will not be a candidate to succeed myself as Speaker of the House.

Third, I do not believe in the Legislature, and as that applies to us, the House of Representatives, failing to meet the issues. We have problems which have faced us for years. I do not believe in "passing the buck" although we might escape criticism or defeat in an election by doing so. We should do what is right regardless of the personal consequences. Fourth, it will be my policy to do my best to see that every piece of legislation is acted upon either favorably or unfavorably, and that, where no legislation has been introduced on a problem needing attention, such legislation is introduced; and that, if no solution is presently possible, machinery be set in motion to get the solution for future action. This will not be a "do-nothing" or lazy Legislature.

Fifth, I do not intend to turn over to bureaus and boards matters which the Legislature can solve by the passage of detailed laws and statutes. I believe we want a government of laws and not of men. It is the hardest way for us, but it is the best way.

Sixth, I believe that leadership should come from the Legislature. I believe that the Legislature should be ahead of the people's thinking rather than behind the people's thinking. I have noted that the legislator who does the best and who serves the people best is the legislator who not only sees the immediate problem but has the vision through study and common sense to see the effect of his action ten, twenty or forty years from now, or perhaps for centuries. I am thankful for those who have the vision to introduce now legislation for which they will be severely criticized, but which will prevent the people and future Legislatures from facing almost insurmountable problems. Again, the easiest way is seldom the best way.

Seventh, I believe that the Legislature should stay in session until all their job is done.

Eighth, I shall try to do honor

to the office of Speaker rather than have honor done to the Speaker.

Ninth, I want you to come to my office and to tell me when you think that I am wrong.

Tenth, I will frown on any attempts to get anything on the Local and Uncontested Bill Calendar which is other than a local and uncontested bill.

Eleventh, I will try to arrange a committee schedule and make your appointments to the various committees in a manner that will prevent your having conflicts in the committee meetings although it may take longer to make the appointments.

Twelfth, I shall do my utmost to see that all of the problems presently confronting the State will be finally solved and try to foresee the problems which will arise in the future in order that we may legislate so they will never become problems.

Thirteenth, I shall try to see to it that this Legislature accomplishes more than any Legislature has ever accomplished.

Fourteenth, I shall try to see to it that each of you are permitted the opportunity for committee action on your various legislation; and, having favorable committee action, that it be acted upon by the House.

Fifteenth, it will be my policy to expedite the business of the House in that I shall push for final action, either favorable or unfavorable, on the measures brought before the House.

Sixteenth, I will work with Governor Jester and Lieutenant Governor Shivers in helping accomplish their programs insofar as they are compatible with your desires and the welfare of the people, and I think we are indeed fortunate in having able and capable men in these offices. I will, with your help, agree and disagree with them, and work out a program for this session with them to the end that our work will be properly done. Knowing the character of these two fine public servants I doubt that there will be other than minor differences of opinion.

These then are the policies which come to my mind at this time which I hope you will follow. Each of you will be given opportunities as your abilities, desires and wishes are

made known, depending of course, in part, on the importance of the matter. The door to the Speaker's Office is open to you Members at all times.

And now I want to express my appreciation to my opponent and my gratitude to each of you who did not choose to vote for me for making my election unanimous. I want your cooperation and friendship.

And I want to thank the temporary employees of the House for their preparation for this session of the Legislature.

Again looking back to the many events which preceded my election as your Speaker, I am grateful to all who have assisted me. In thinking of the many to whom I am obligated, my thoughts return most often to my wife, for it is she who has been constantly at my side; it is she who has encouraged me when my spirits faltered, both in my previous service in the Legislature and in the Speaker's race; and it is she who has, through her love, given me the strength to go on. To her I owe most, and I should like to present to you now, my wife, Joyce.

To each of you my sincere appreciation, and to you each I pledge unalterably to work with all the strength I possess to fulfill the confidence and the trust in me which you have shown today. For this high honor may I simply say, God bless you. I shall do my best to prove to you that your confidence and trust has been well founded.