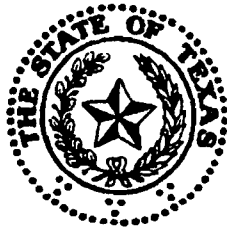


**JOURNAL**  
**OF THE**  
**House of Representatives**  
**OF THE**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**Fifty-fourth Legislature**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF TEXAS**

**BEGUN AND HELD AT**  
**THE CITY OF AUSTIN**  
**JANUARY 11, 1955**



**A. C. Baldwin & Sons**  
**Austin**

**ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER  
OF THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES**

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

The Chair recognized the Honorable Ben Glusing of Kleberg County who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth Legislature the Honorable Jim Lindsey of Bowie County, speaking as follows:

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

Forty-four years ago, at the opening of the 32nd Session of the Texas Legislature, one other member stood before his colleagues in this House of Representatives to place in nomination the name of a young legislator who was later to preside for many years as Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States. That man now occupies that high station, and has been the presiding officer of that great body more years than any other man in history. When elected Speaker of the Texas Legislature, Sam Rayburn had celebrated his 29th birthday only four days before.

Today, another outstanding young Texan sits among us, equally qualified, equally able to assume the demanding responsibilities of guiding the deliberations of this historic legislative body in solving the complex and multitudinous problems of our state.

Like most of the fine people of Bowie County who have elected him to represent them in the Legislature four consecutive terms, this young man has risen to his present posi-

tion of accomplishment through many years of diligent study, through the application of personal initiative, and through plenty of hard work and the serious consideration of the various tasks at hand. These are the qualities that fitted him to represent the people of his district in this Legislature; these are the qualities that caused him to be singled out, by you, his fellow members, to preside over this Texas House of Representatives.

He was born—not quite 29 years ago—on a farm in Bowie County where his father is a farmer and rancher, and where his great-great-grandfather settled 85 years ago. He graduated from the law school of Baylor University with honors in 1950, after having interrupted his education to serve in the Air Force of his country during World War II. He is, first, an able attorney, but like his father, he is interested, and actively participates in farming and ranching in Bowie County. He is married to a Bowie County girl and they have two delightful children.

The people of Bowie County—as we here—are well aware of the importance and responsibilities of the Speakership. They recall the colorful stories they have heard, how a little more than one hundred years ago, Hardin Richard Runnels was elected Speaker of the Fifth Texas Legislature from that county. And how four years later, Runnels defeated Sam Houston in the race for Governor in 1857—the only man to beat Houston in a political contest.

During his six years as a member of this Legislature, this young man has evidenced his acute sense of fairness and understanding; he has demonstrated his outstanding ability to get things done with efficiency and quiet leadership; he has displayed keenness of foresight, and firmness of character. His service in

this House has been the pride of the old members, and the inspiration of the new.

It is a signal honor, of which I am most grateful, to place in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth Legislature, the name of the Honorable Jim Lindsey of Bowie County, Texas."

The Honorable Virginia Duff of Ellis County was recognized by the Chair and seconded the nomination of the Honorable Jim Lindsey, speaking as follows:

"Mr. Secretary of State, Members of the House of Representatives:

It is my pleasure today to second the nomination of the Honorable Jim Lindsey for Speaker of the House of Representatives during the Fifty-fourth Legislature.

When I speak of Jim Lindsey, I speak of a man in great demand as Speaker of this body of lawmakers. I speak of a man of great intellect in governmental affairs and of one of well-known and approved political opinions. I also speak of a young statesman of the highest, broadest, and best sense of ability and moral courage.

It has been my privilege to serve in this House with Mr. Lindsey for two full terms and when I was a new member, as some of you are today, I watched him closely in his committee work and floor developments, and it was not difficult then to prophesy that his ability and his qualifications were material for future Speaker of this House.

The day has arrived when it has become one of the most important duties of the 150 members assembled here to select our leader. This Legislature is going to require a man acquainted with public affairs, one acquainted with the present wants of the people, and with the future demands of the public. Our success or failure will depend largely on the quality of leader we place in this important and most powerful place of service. It is important that we weigh carefully the qualifications and the principles of government to which this leader adheres.

Fellow members, we are privileged today to avail ourselves of the opportunity of selecting a spokesman and leader who can so ably,

fairly, and honestly administer the duties of this office to promote the general welfare of the people of this great State of Texas.

We are indeed fortunate in having with us such a fine young man with a lovely family of Christian devotions—all true Texans and all a credit to this State. We should be humbly grateful that we have one on whom we can place such heavy responsibilities and extra activities that are commensurate to the office of Speakership.

With this in mind, it is truly a great pleasure for me to second the nomination of the gentleman from Texarkana, the Honorable Jim Lindsey, a good Parliamentarian and a sincere hard worker—for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth Legislature."

The Honorable J. Gordon Bristow of Midland County was recognized by the Chair and seconded the nomination of the Honorable Jim Lindsey, speaking as follows:

"Having spent a good portion of my life in competitive sports and especially in football, it is only natural in seeking a quality that would make a man great, I would turn to my experience with sports. I have seen little men who were stars. I have seen big men who were stars. I have seen fast all Americans. I have seen slow all Americans. I have never seen a really great star, who did not have a burning desire to play and a true devotion to his team. With this thought in mind and turning to the political field, I feel that no man regardless of qualifications, can be truly great, unless he has a true devotion to his state and a burning love for his people.

From the piney woods of East Texas there comes a brilliant young man with these qualities. Like his native pine, he is tall in integrity, his honesty is unquestioned. He is tall in ability. His second session he was Chairman of the Revenue and Taxation Committee. He is tall in his devotion to the state and the people, demonstrated by his service in this House and in the armed forces. He is tall in the affection of this House as shown by the landslide of pledges he received. He is tall in his love for all of Texas. I feel if this young man's heart could speak to you it would say:

'I love the good old Lone Star State, from the pine trees of East Texas to El Paso's western gate, the cotton fields of Waco, Fort Worth and Big D too, San Jacinto down near Houston where the channel is running through. The coastal lands of Corpus, Big Bend with all its game. The high plains of West Texas, I love them all the same. The Alamo and Austin these names I love and cheer, my own home county, Bowie, where my friends are near and dear. The Range its open spaces where the men grow tall and straight. Why every city large and small in Texas land, I love them all, I love the good old Lone Star State.'

Knowing these things are in his heart and knowing he will serve Texas well, it is indeed a pleasure to second the nomination for Speaker of this House, the tall pine from Bowie, Genial-Jim Lindsey."

The Honorable Jack Welch of Falls County was recognized by the Chair and seconded the nomination of the Honorable Jim Lindsey, speaking as follows:

"Mr. Secretary of State, Members of this House and Fellow Texans:

It is 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.

We need a man with an understanding of the problems facing this session, and the experience in legislative functions, to guide you and me, as young members of this House, through the trying months ahead. We need a man of diligence, integrity, leadership, and the highest principles—all those qualities we most admire. I feel that Jim Lindsey is all of these.

Although I have known him but a short time, I have felt from our first meeting a clearness of purpose, and devotion to duty that is a part of Jim Lindsey. I feel sure he will strive to impartially administer the affairs of this House of Representatives in a manner worthy of this great office.

We, the new Members of the House of Representatives, can confidently face the legislative responsibilities we have assumed, knowing that our presiding officer understands and appreciates the problems we face; that

while there are many more senior members of this House, our opinions will have a sympathetic hearing, our proposals will be carefully weighed and considered.

Therefore, it is with humble pride that I come before you today to second the nomination of Jim Lindsey for the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Fifty-fourth Legislature of the great State of Texas.

Mr. Secretary of State, I move that nominations for the office of Speaker be closed and that the temporary Chief Clerk of the House be instructed to cast the votes of all members for the Hon. Jim Lindsey of Bowie County for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth Legislature of the State of Texas."

Honorable Jack Welch then moved that nominations for the Office of Speaker of The House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth Legislature be closed and that the temporary Chief Clerk of the House be instructed to cast the entire vote of the House of Representatives for the Honorable Jim Lindsey of Bowie County for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth Legislature.

The motion prevailed unanimously.

The Honorable C. E. Fulgham, Secretary of the State of Texas, then declared the Honorable Jim Lindsey of Bowie County to be the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth Legislature.

#### 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.

#### COMMITTEE TO ESCORT THE SPEAKER-ELECT TO THE SPEAKER'S ROSTRUM

The Honorable Secretary of State announced the appointment of the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the Speaker's Rostrum:

Messrs. Sayers, Stone, Andis, Yancy, Blaine, Pool, Strickland, Joseph, and Heitman.

The Committee then escorted the Honorable Jim Lindsey to the Speaker's Rostrum.

#### OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable Secretary of State then administered the Constitutional Oath of Office to Honorable Jim Lindsey as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth Legislature.

The Honorable Secretary of State then presented Honorable Stanton Stone of Brazoria County, who presented Honorable Jim Lindsey, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fourth Legislature, speaking as follows:

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

It is an honor and privilege to present to you a Bowie County farm boy who won numerous honors before coming here to be one of the three men in history to become Speaker while so young.

Many observers believe him to be the only member in the history of our great State who was ever elevated to this distinguished post with all opposition removed a year and a half before the Legislature convened.

Through it all he has retained a humility, sincerity, and dignity that places him in an enviable position to take a high place among the other Speakers who have made a notable contribution to the welfare and progress of Texas.

Indeed, as stated by Mr. Glusing, it might well be that he will follow in the footsteps of Mr. Runnels, who came from Bowie County over one hundred years ago.

It is with pride and humility that I present our Speaker, the Honorable Jim Lindsey of Texarkana.—Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lindsey then addressed the House, speaking as follows:

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

More than mere words can say, I am thankful from the bottom of my heart for the trusteeship bestowed upon me by your graciousness in this beginning of an epochal session of the Texas Legislature. Ours is a one-party state, but one-mindedness in

political matters has its virtues. It is not an established rule that we select our Speakers without a contest, but it has been done before—and it could not likely be done except in a one-party state.

I owe so much to so many. To all I am deeply grateful. You members of the House—my wife who has been most helpful in statecraft as in our home—the people whose representative I am in this assembly—all of you have been lavish in your kindness. I can only do my utmost to repay you with service—and that I pledge to do.

I take pride in the unanimity of this body in your selection of me to be your presiding officer, but it chastens me with deepest humility. It reminds me that the magnitude of my responsibility is much greater than it might be otherwise.

I have the deepest conviction that this spirit of union of effort is the one sure way in which we can make the best attack on the solution of the economic and social problems that beset our state.

A state and its problems are somewhat like a family and its problems. When a family is established, a small cottage and a single bedroom will suffice; and then the family grows and the need for more room and expanded services becomes pronounced. Texas has grown fabulously in recent years. We are indeed a big family. The services rendered by our State Government are great and our problems many. All of us have dedicated ourselves to the service of Texas and nothing short of the best we can do as individuals can accomplish the tasks that are ours. It is significant, I think, that the great majority of you have had prior legislative experience and the new ones among you come well trained for the exacting service of legislators.

One of our major responsibilities is to put a new surface on the road back to complete state sovereignty. The state must shoulder all of its own responsibilities and thus restore the full dignity of our men and women as individuals. In the final analysis, individuals—citizens of our great state—are both our bosses and the beneficiaries of our endeavors. We should never forget that the prerogatives of the individuals may be, and sometimes are, usurped by de-

spotic centralization of power for a day or a season, but in this country of ours this cannot be for long.

Texans of upwards of a hundred years look down upon us from these hallowed walls. They placed a strong rock under us for a foundation, and their inheritors of blood and worldly substance who delegate this task to us will not ever accept political serfdom. I believe that each of you feels as strongly about this as I do.

As I speak to you briefly today in an attempt to express my gratitude, I must confine myself to generalities. If I did not do so, you may be sure that I would not be brief, for the considerations that confront us cannot be compressed into a few minutes. The House Journal that will detail the record of the doings of this Fifty-fourth House of Representatives will not be brief, and remember that it will contain the record of our actions, not our words.

However, our words in this assembly of government will be many. Sometimes they may be confusing; sometimes they may be even profoundly wise. Unfortunately, I believe what we say here will not be of permanent record; but the things we do here will work for the good or ill of our state and will be etched enduringly into the very body of the ever-growing empire that is TEXAS.

We have dedicated ourselves, in our oath of office today, to the service of Texas. Being human, one of these days we will undoubtedly get caught up in emotional fervor over some issue: we will certainly not be able to agree unanimously over all issues. Let us, always, however, in the spirit of harmonious conciliation and guided by prayer to Him in whom all wisdom resides, remind ourselves of our common objective—service to all our people and the building of an ever greater Texas.

Thank you again and may God bless everyone of you."