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**ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH
LEGISLATURE**

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-fifth Legislature of the State of Texas and stated that nominations for Speaker are now in order.

The Honorable Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Wade F. Spilman of Hidalgo County who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Legislature of the State of Texas the Honorable Waggoner Carr of Lubbock County, speaking as follows:

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

It is indeed a pleasure to be recognized for the purpose of placing in nomination the name of an outstanding member of this House for the office of Speaker. I say it is a privilege as well as a pleasure because only on rare occasion, if ever before, in the glorious history of our great state has any member of this body had the privilege to submit the name of a man so eminently well qualified by every standard and measure as the able, inspiring and personable young West Texan it is my pleasure to nominate today.

Born in Hunt County in East Texas in 1918 the first of 4 children, he moved with his family to Lubbock County in 1932 and graduated from Lubbock High School in 1936, and from Texas Tech in 1940. He grad-

uated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1947, having voluntarily interrupted his education in 1942 by enlisting in the U. S. Air Force. He served for three years during World War II in Military Intelligence. After receiving his Law Degree he returned to Lubbock County to practice law and was appointed Assistant District Attorney of the 72nd Judicial District of Texas, and very shortly thereafter was elected County Attorney of Lubbock County. In this office he distinguished himself as an able and aggressive young prosecutor by trying more criminal cases during his two year term than any of his long list of predecessors.

He is now serving his fourth consecutive term in the Texas House of Representatives, which itself is substantial evidence of the high esteem in which he is held by the people of Lubbock County who know him best. The good folks of Lubbock County who in their wisdom have returned this outstanding man to serve all of Texas, could tell you of his years of devoted church work, his civic and public service activities far too numerous for me to enumerate; of his lovely and charming wife, Ernestine and his fine 7 year old son, David, or of a life jam-packed with service, leadership and action. They could also tell you that no West Texan has been honored by election as Speaker of this House since 1927.

Those of us who have served with Waggoner Carr in the Legislature know of his sincerity of purpose and Christian devotion to duty, his inspirational leadership and keen sense of fairness and understanding, and, possibly even more important than any of these, his extraordinarily charming personality which so readily lends itself to the tremendous and demanding responsibilities of directing the deliberations of this historic body in the solution of the many complex problems facing our great state.

And so, Mr. Secretary, and Ladies and Gentlemen of this House, in view of his outstanding record and exceptional qualifications, I take great pleasure in placing in nomination for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, for the Fifty-fifth Legislature, the name of the Honorable Waggoner Carr from Lubbock County."

The Honorable Jerry Sadler of Anderson County was recognized by the Chair and seconded the nomination of the Honorable Waggoner Carr for Speaker of the House of Representatives, speaking as follows:

"Mr. Secretary and Members of the House:

It is with honest and sincere pride that I, a resident of Hickory Grove, Anderson County, in the tall pine country of deep East Texas, rise to second the nomination of a son of the high plains of far West Texas, the Hon. Waggoner Carr, to be Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Session of the Texas Legislature.

Waggoner Carr has through three previous Sessions of the Legislature of our great State of Texas proven himself to be a man of the highest moral character with unquestioned integrity, unequalled ability, undaunted courage, and unswerving devotion to duty as a public servant of the people of his home district and of the State of Texas—a man generously endowed at birth and ably fitted through training, application, and education to serve his fellow members and his native state in the high exacting post to which he has been nominated.

This young man most ably demonstrated his ingenuity and determination during the recent days of World War II—a man of limitless energy and constant drive. He has throughout his lifetime been inclined to be slender—so slender during World War II days that he knew he would be turned down when seeking to enlist. After consulting with a friend who agreed to help him, he hit upon the idea of bringing up his average at the "weighing-in" by stuffing himself with crackers, bananas, and a generous portion of water. His plan proved to be a good one but it became necessary to repeat the performance when a change in processing procedure caused the first effort to avail nothing.

It has often been said that behind the accomplishments of every man will be found a great and noble lady. Waggoner Carr is no exception to this rule. In 1941 he married Ernestine Story of Austin who became not only his life companion but also the source of his inspiration and ambition. To Ernestine and to their young son

David, Waggoner exhibits the love, appreciation, and devotion characteristic of a man of great stature.

To you ladies and gentlemen of the House, I say without hesitation that we will honor ourselves and do the people of our great State of Texas a true service in electing the Honorable Waggoner Carr Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Session of the Legislature and to that end I proudly second the nomination."

The Honorable Don Kennard of Tarrant County was recognized by the Chair and seconded the nomination of the Honorable Waggoner Carr, speaking as follows:

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

"We are gathered here today, on the threshold of a new era in Texas government, an era in which the members of this Legislature will be faced with problems which stagger the imagination, an era of great and not easy decisions.

The genius of Texas and American democracy has been that on the eve of such trying times men of courage, of morality, and of vision, unafraid of ugly truths, contemptuous of lies, half-truths, and demagoguery, have stepped forward to assume the role of leadership and to bring harmony and progress to our people.

We here today are faced with a responsibility to the people of Texas of selecting a Speaker of the House of Representatives of this Fifty-fifth Legislature who will ably and fairly, honestly and impartially assume this role of leadership.

It is indeed fortunate that in this session of the Legislature, we have with us a colleague who has proven himself worthy of our trust and capable of impartial leadership, who has stated, in language that none can mistake, a firm confidence in the belief that this Legislature will provide for the people of our state a sound and progressive program of accomplishment.

I know you join me in gratitude and respect for the great young leader, whose name is now before this House, whose vigor, whose character, whose devotion to the Texas he loves so well has won him the respect of countless Texans and has enriched our state.

Mr. Secretary, it becomes a high honor and truly a great pleasure for me to second the nomination of the Honorable Waggoner Carr of Lubbock for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Legislature."

The Honorable James M. Cotten of Parker County was recognized by the Chair and seconded the nomination of Honorable Waggoner Carr, speaking as follows:

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

"It is with a deep feeling of humility that I, as a newcomer to these halls, rise to the pleasant task of seconding the nomination of one of our finest members to the highest post which we have to offer.

This session of the Legislature and especially the people of Texas need a man of courage, of honesty, of integrity and of dignity to lead us as we embark upon our most important tasks. The people of Texas are fortunate to have such a man, a man who puts principle above self, a man experienced in the legislative processes, a man from West Texas, who has in the past and who will in the future, serve all the people of Texas.

I learned of this man long before I knew him personally. His ability and his performances early stamped him as a leader of men. We new members can confidently face our legislative responsibilities knowing that our presiding officer understands and appreciates our problems, and knowing that our opinions and our proposals will be duly weighed and carefully considered.

I love the grand old State of Texas, from the piney woods of far East Texas, to the flat table land of Far West Texas. From the biting cold of the Panhandle area, to the warm Gulf kissed shores of the coastal plains. I love all of Texas.

Knowing this love is in his heart, and knowing that he has the desire and the ability to serve Texas well, it is indeed a signal honor for me to second the nomination of the Honorable Waggoner Carr for Speaker of this House."

The Honorable B. H. Dewey Jr., of Brazos County was recognized by

the Chair and seconded the nomination of the Honorable Waggoner Carr, speaking as follows:

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

"It is my privilege and pleasure to rise to second the nomination of Honorable Waggoner Carr of Lubbock for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Legislature.

My four distinguished colleagues have pointed out, that one of our most important duties as Members of the House is to elect one of our members to preside over the House. As we all know the roster of Former Speakers is a list of outstanding Texans, and I have no doubt that Waggoner Carr will be a fine addition to this list.

Waggoner Carr is a lawyer practicing in Lubbock, Texas, and he has served the people of Lubbock three terms in the House. We have served together two terms and his leadership and ability has shown me that he will make us a great Speaker for this Session. Waggoner authored the bill creating the Small Claims Courts and has always been interested in our Judicial System. He served on the Crime Investigating Committee of the 52nd Legislature.

In Waggoner Carr we will have a man who knows the Rules and operation of this House. He will impartially preside over this House in a manner of which all of us will be proud.

Speaker of the House of Representatives is the highest office within our power to confer and it carries the heaviest responsibility.

We have many problems facing us this Session and under Waggoner's leadership we will have an effective and constructive Session, and I hope as you do, that we will be finished in 120 days. His Christian Leadership will be an inspiration to all of us.

Therefore, it is with humble pride that I second the nomination of Waggoner Carr for the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 55th Legislature of the 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 Honorable Waggoner Carr of Lubbock County for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 55th Legislature of the State of Texas."

The Honorable B. H. Dewey Jr., of Brazos County then moved that nominations for the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Legislature of the State of Texas be closed and that the Temporary Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be instructed to cast the entire vote of the House of Representatives for the Honorable Waggoner Carr of Lubbock County for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas of the Fifty-fifth Legislature.

The motion prevailed unanimously.

The Temporary Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives accordingly cast the entire vote of the House of Representatives for the Honorable Waggoner Carr of Lubbock County for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Legislature.

The Honorable Tom Reavley, Secretary of State of the State of Texas, then declared the Honorable Waggoner Carr of Lubbock County to be the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas of the Fifty-fifth Legislature.

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, the Honorable Waggoner Carr, to the Speaker's Rostrum:

1. Joe R. Pool of Dallas County.
2. W. S. Heatly of Cottle County.
3. J. T. Ellis, Jr., of Hidalgo County.
4. Leroy Saul of Swisher County.
5. Robert W. Baker of Harris County.
6. William M. Elliott of Harris County.
7. Marshall O. Bell of Bexar County.
8. Cecil Storey of Gregg County.
9. Louis Dugas, Jr., of Orange County.

10. L. DeWitt Hale of Nueces County.
11. Alonzo Jamison of Denton County.
12. Malcolm McGregor of El Paso County.
13. Menton Murray of Cameron County.
14. Harold B. Parish of San Patricio County.
15. Bob Wheeler of McMullen County.

The committee then escorted the Honorable Waggoner Carr to the Speaker's Rostrum.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable Secretary of State then administered the Constitutional Oath of Office to the Honorable Waggoner Carr as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas of the Fifty-fifth Legislature.

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER WAGGONER CARR

The Honorable Secretary of State presented the Honorable Scott McDonald of Tarrant County who presented the Honorable Waggoner Carr, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Legislature, speaking as follows:

"I strongly suspect that after listening to the proceedings of the last few minutes that you are all aware of the identity of the gentleman that I have the honor of presenting.

The preceding speakers have ably set forth the many fine attributes with which he has been so richly endowed. For me to try to add to their remarks might border on flattery.

However, I do wish to say to you, Waggoner Carr, on behalf of myself and the entire membership that we are proud having you as our Speaker; and I would further like to say that we as a legislative body and the people of Texas are fortunate in having you as a leader.

I am proud to present your Speaker, the Honorable Waggoner Carr."

Speaker Carr then addressed the House speaking, as follows:

"It is with deep humility and a grateful heart that I accept the re-

sponsibility which you have placed in my hands.

My gratitude is not the least bit diminished by the fact that I have known for some time that I would be given this great opportunity for service. It is my honest and heart-felt hope that the preparations which I have made have been adequate.

I am deeply grateful to so many of you for the help which you have given me. I shall rely heavily upon each and every one of you throughout this momentous session, and shall at all times be grateful for your counsel, advice and suggestions.

I know that, working together harmoniously, seriously and wisely, we can build a record of achievement that will reflect credit upon the people who elected us.

Later this afternoon, I want to pass on to you some suggestions which I believe will make easier the path to great accomplishments.

But, right now, I just want to say thank you—thank you from the bottom of my heart for this high honor and for the trust you have placed in me."

(Mr. McDonald in the Chair.)

INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY AND RELATIVES OF SPEAKER AND MRS. CARR

Honorable Joe Ed Winfree of Harris County, having been recognized by the Chair, introduced to the House, Mrs. Ernestine Carr, wife of Speaker Carr, and presented their son, David Carr.

Mr. Winfree then introduced the following relatives of Speaker and Mrs. Carr who were present and seated on the Speaker's rostrum:

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Carr, parents of the Speaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Warlick Carr, brother and sister-in-law of the Speaker.

Dr. Robert Carr, brother of the Speaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Weldon, sister and brother-in-law of the Speaker.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Story, parents of Mrs. Ernestine Carr.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pollard, Jr., sister and brother-in-law of Mrs. Ernestine Carr.

Mr. William C. Clark, law partner of the Speaker.

Dr. and Mrs. Logan Wilson. Mrs. Wilson is a cousin of Speaker Carr.

Mr. Winfree then introduced other friends and guests of Speaker and Mrs. Carr as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Murrell R. Tripp. Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Forrest, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. French Pruitt, Dr. and Mrs. John Rountree, John, Jr. and Carl, and Mrs. Chess Lovern, wife of Pastor Lovern of the First Methodist Church of Lubbock, Texas.

Speaker Carr recognized and introduced to the House Mrs. George S. Berry of Lubbock, Texas, wife of the former member, the late Honorable George S. Berry.

Speaker Carr then recognized and introduced Mr. and Mrs. Gene Bumpass of Plainview, Texas.

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER WAGGONER CARR

Speaker Carr addressed the House of Representatives, speaking as follows:

"I realize that it is, perhaps, unusual for the Speaker of the House to utilize an opportunity such as this, on opening day, to express some thoughts, some wishes, some hopes—and to make certain recommendations to the members of this distinguished body.

These, however, are unusual times. Because of that fact, we have a most

unusual opportunity to accomplish great good for our State and its people.

First, let me say that, in my capacity as your Speaker, I intend to try my best to be a good and faithful servant to you. I am at your service. I will strive to provide the kind of teamwork and leadership which you so richly deserve and which is essential to successful deliberations. We can afford to be nothing less than partners in the struggle to provide good government. In keeping with this 'partnership' agreement—which I pray we can maintain throughout this important session—I want to bring you up to date on certain developments and also recommend certain changes in past procedures and customs.

If we are to take full advantage of our vast opportunities for service, we must take certain steps designed to promote our own efficiency as we go about our daily chores. We should not attempt to tell others how to run their business until we first put our own house in such order that it can function efficiently, smoothly and effectively.

I believe you will agree that anything we can do to increase the dignity and decorum of this House should be done without the slightest hesitation. It is well recognized by even the most casual observer that in past sessions the House has been severely handicapped

in its deliberations and the general conduct of its important business due to the lack of working space and facilities.

We have been required to perform our duties in no more space than that afforded by our desks in this Chamber. Our secretaries have worked under even less desirable circumstances, using small typewriter tables jammed together in the open hallway behind this Chamber.

Fortunately, through the planning of the last Legislature and the untiring efforts of others during the interim, we have acquired the space beneath this Chamber on the first floor, formerly occupied by the Attorney General's Department. While it would not provide enough space to give us offices for even one-third of our members, it is large enough to provide much better working conditions for our secretarial help. Each secretary will have a modern metal secretarial desk, a comfortable chair, a good typewriter and a metal filing cabinet.

To help you in the efficient discharge of your duties, your own desk will be equipped with a direct telephone to the desk of your secretary. This is a direct, individual line which will allow you to contact your secretary without delay or interruption. I feel certain you will find this to be a great improvement in working conditions.

This long-awaited step will make it possible for us to eliminate much of the confusion which has been caused in the past by so many people being in the House Chamber while we were in session. I recommend to the temporary rules committee that the necessary rules be adopted to establish the dignity which this House deserves.

In this era of modern miracles, we have been fortunate enough to see scientific developments which can be—and which have been—successfully used to strengthen the bond of understanding among the people of this country.

In my humble opinion, one of the most effective methods for getting the people of Texas better-acquainted with the problems of our State—and for permitting them to gain confidence in the sincerity and ability of their elected representatives—is to let them see their government in action.

A case in point is the televising of the national political conventions last year. This created new interest among our fellow Americans in their government, by giving many people their first opportunity to witness such an event. It also resulted in many improvements in the conduct of the conventions. What has been proven good on a national scale also would be good here.

By granting the same privileges to radio and television which have always been accorded to newspapers, we can play a vital part in helping to bring our government closer to the people it serves. I respectfully recommend, therefore, that our rules be amended to permit the televising of our proceedings, under regulations set up by the Rules Committee to protect our efficiency.

Due to the death of our beloved Chaplain of last session, you will have the honor of electing a new Chaplain. In the busy days ahead, we will need spiritual guidance as we have seldom needed it before. Traditionally, we have had our Chaplain, in addition to his many other duties, deliver our invocation at the start of our day's work. I feel certain that I express your sentiments as well as my own when I say that it is fitting and proper to end the working day with a benediction. I recommend that our rules be amended to permit this.

Since we last met, there have been questions raised about the conduct and ethics of members of the Legislature. We know that much of this talk has been greatly exaggerated and that a great deal of it had absolutely no basis in fact. But we must be realistic enough to realize—and, in fairness, we must admit—that the action of only a few members in the past has been sufficient to create clouds of distrust and doubt over the entire Legislature.

For more than a century, the people of Texas have been fortunate in electing to this Legislature many great men of honesty and integrity. Our Legislature has given to our State and to our Nation many great leaders from the ranks of those who sat where you sit now.

The overwhelming majority of the many men and women who have served in this House have maintained high standards of courage, honesty, integ-

rity and conduct. I know that you want this House to do everything in its power to maintain those high standards. I pledge to you, on this score particularly, my full cooperation.

The Office of the Speaker, so long as I have the high honor of serving in it, will never be used in any attempt to conceal any act of misconduct on the part of any member of the House of Representatives. When one individual in a group this large does commit a wrong, any effort to cover it up—to whitewash it—merely results in reflections being cast upon every member of the group. I assure you that the blameless will not be blamed for any breach of ethics while I am Speaker if I can possibly prevent it.

The combination of improved working conditions, the common-sense approach and the determination which you already have displayed toward our problems, and the spirit of cooperation and teamwork which I have found here convinces me that this House will take full advantage of its many opportunities to serve the people of Texas wisely and well.

In addition to these valuable assets, we have another which should not be overlooked. We have a vantage point

from which we can look back through the pages of history, and thus profit from the experience and advice of those who blazed for us a brilliant path of service to the people.

We can gain inspiration from the words of such statesmen as James Stephen Hogg, the first native-born Governor of Texas, who continued to work for the welfare of the people after leaving public office. In 1903, eight years after leaving the Governor's Office, he said:

'I have not forgotten my obligations to the people, nor shall I cease to speak out for them and in their interest so long as God Almighty permits me to breathe.'

It is my fervent hope and prayer that we shall not forget *our* obligations to the people of Texas but that we shall fulfill them wisely and intelligently.

Again, let me say that I am deeply grateful for the confidence which you have expressed in me. You shall have, at all times, the full cooperation of the Speaker's Office in your efforts to fulfill your obligations to the people of Texas. With the Lord's help, we can accomplish great things for them. Thank you."