

JOURNAL

OF THE

House of Representatives

OF THE

REGULAR SESSION

OF THE

Fifty-sixth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF TEXAS

BEGUN AND HELD AT

THE CITY OF AUSTIN

JANUARY 13, 1959



**CONCERNING PROCEDURE IN
THE ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

Mr. Matthew offered the following resolution:

H. S. R. No. 2

Be it resolved that the Secretary of State be requested to have distributed to the Members ballots to be used in the election of the Speaker; that the roll of the membership be called in alphabetical order and that as each Member's name is called he shall walk to the front of the Reading Clerk's desk, present his folded ballot for official initialing by the Chief Clerk, then proceed to the Chief Clerk's desk and there place his vote for Speaker in a box; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State appoint eight (8) tellers, who shall inspect the voting procedure and count the votes; and be it further

Resolved, That the candidate for Speaker receiving a majority of the votes of the Members present and voting shall be declared elected Speaker; and be it further

Resolved, That immediately upon completion of the count by the tellers, the ballots shall be placed in an envelope and sealed and turned over by them to the Secretary of State who shall completely destroy by fire the sealed envelope and ballots.

The resolution was read and was adopted.

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH 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-sixth Legislature of the State of Texas and stated that nominations for Speaker are now in order.

The Honorable Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Max C. Smith of Hays County who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislature of the State of Texas the Honorable Joe Burkett, Jr., of Kerr County, speaking as follows:

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

Our State Constitution provides that immediately following organization of the House of Representatives we proceed to the election of a Speaker from and by the members of this body. This is a serious and responsible duty. The position of Speaker of the House of Representatives, as each of you know, is one of the most important in State Government. We should and will carefully search our mind and conscience before making the decision.

We face perplexing and unusual problems, both at home and abroad. Local self-government, public school education, and free enterprise, as we know them, face challenges that will require our utmost effort and attention. We have the most serious State financial problem in recent years.

Therefore, fellow members of this House, I say to you we have need, as never before, for the very best in leadership. It is my great honor and pleasure to propose such a man to you as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 56th Legislature, —a man who has proven his character, demonstrated his ability and developed his leadership for eight years as a member of this House.

This man has experience and background in many fields. He is a native Texan, attending public school in Eastland, Military Academy in San Antonio and completing his education in Texas Technological College at Lubbock and Cumberland University

in Tennessee. He was a soldier in World War II with an honorable record in actual combat in the European Theatre; he has been a successful practicing attorney for 25 years, he has served as Justice of the Peace, County Attorney and County Judge in his home county. He is a stock farmer who has pioneered in soil conservation and restoration. He is a church member, a devoted husband, the father of two fine sons and a respected citizen and civic leader in his community.

As a member of this House he was Chairman of the Committee on Insurance in the 54th Legislature that considered and formulated the Insurance reform bills you remember so well. The members of that Committee and people in the insurance business will tell you this great work was accomplished for the State of Texas largely through the patience, the industry, the tact and the guidance of the Chairman of the House Committee on Insurance.

Again, during the 54th Legislature, a need arose for a man with courage, ability, wisdom and patriotism to head a Special House Investigating on Veterans' Land Matters. This man was selected to head and direct such committee. Those of you who were members of the 54th Legislature, will recall the outstanding service performed by the Committee. The other members of the Committee, representatives of the Department of Public Safety and other public officials working with the Investigating Committee give full credit and recognition to the Chairman for the well organized and thorough but always fair and objective work performed by the Committee.

We depend on the Speaker to be just, to give consideration to every member of the House and protect the rights of a minority under the Rules of the House. I pledge you, Ladies and Gentlemen, this will be done if you elect my candidate Speaker of the House.

Texas needs a practical, a responsible, a dedicated and an independent man in this position. It is my opinion, the need for such a man as Speaker is greater now than at any other time, in recent years.

So therefore, my friends, with consideration for all, with criticism for none, with confidence in his character, ability and intelligence, I

give you in nomination as Speaker for the House of Representatives of the 56th Legislature that rugged individual from the Hill Country of Southwest Texas, my good friend, Joe Burkett, of Kerr County. I urge you to support him with your vote and to help him make this session a model for Constructive Legislative Accomplishment. I thank you."

The Honorable Secretary of State recognized the Honorable H. J. Blanchard of Lubbock County who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislature of the State of Texas the Honorable Waggoner Carr of Lubbock County, speaking as follows:

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

I am very humble as I rise for the purpose of placing in nomination the name of a truly great Texan as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 56th Session.

I am pleased and honored that I have been granted the privilege of nominating a man of exceptional ability, a man of high Christian principle, a man of outstanding devotion to public service, one who is possessed of great courage and forthrightness, a man whose ethics and integrity are above reproach and whose calmness, courteousness and fairness are known to all people in Texas.

Waggoner Carr was born in deep East Texas and when the great depression of the 1930's came his family moved to the great south plains of West Texas. He graduated from public schools in Lubbock, Texas. He graduated from Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas, and immediately thereafter enrolled in the University of Texas Law School. He voluntarily left college and entered the Armed Forces in World War II where he served as pilot and Intelligence Officer. After his discharge from service he returned to the University of Texas and was graduated from the Law School.

After leaving school he returned to Lubbock, Texas, and like all young lawyers needed a job. He was appointed Assistant District Attorney of the 72nd Judicial District where he served hard and devotedly. He was then elected County Attorney of Lubbock, Texas, where he established an outstanding record for fairness

and for hard and fair prosecution. In 1950 he was elected to the House of Representatives and has served as a member of the House since that time. In July of 1958 he was elected by the largest margin ever afforded to a candidate in a contested election, winning by a margin of almost 5 to 1. His long service as a legislator and the overwhelming support given to him by the people of Lubbock County is a tribute to the affection which the people hold for him. It is a simple but forthright way of saying 'well done good and faithful servant.' Almost two years ago today I sat as you do now, listening to his colleagues extol his virtues and his accomplishments as a man and legislator. I wondered at that time if a man could warrant such praise and I adopted the attitude of let's watch and see. During the regular session and the two called sessions of the 55th Legislature I worked with him and came to know him not only as a man but as Speaker. I found him to be eminently qualified as Speaker. He was completely fair with every segment of political philosophy and with every section of this great state. I found that he tempered justice with mercy. I found him to be calm and courteous even when lesser men might have done otherwise. He stated on many occasions that he would not tolerate any one breaking the public trust which was given him, would move forthwith to expose any such actions or breach of trust. No one can doubt his statement when observing him take action when scandal and bribery was discovered within the House itself. I found him to be a fighter for clean government when he insisted that the House enact a Code of Ethics and Lobby Bill, even though people fought him at every turn. I found that he did not mind standing and being counted on the side of good clean responsible government. Indeed during these two years he has met every test that could be asked. He has proved himself to be a man among men. Waggoner Carr since the start of his public life has always fought for the Christian ideals in which he so strongly believes.

Waggoner Carr's character was welded in heritage of the founders of Texas. Vincent and Ruth Carr, his father and mother, reared their family in a true Christian manner. Economically they are a poor family, yet each of their children has at-

tained standards and goals which every father and mother wants and desires for their own children. Two of their sons are outstanding attorneys, recognized for their high ethics and fine ability. One son is a very successful and prominent doctor. The one daughter was graduated from college with almost every honor that could be bestowed and is now an outstanding young woman in the town where she lives. This family is a true example of what can happen in our great state.

Ernestine Carr, his charming and lovely wife, is an inspiration to Waggoner and has been a guiding factor in his success. She has conducted herself with a quietness and dignity that has added to her stature as the wife of a great leader. Waggoner has one son, David Carr, who is 9 years old and who is a fine young man by any standard that could be chosen.

No one person or no one thing has been responsible for Waggoner Carr the man, but all factors have contributed to his character and personality, and because of these factors and his ability he has developed a leadership that comes only to a few men in our time.

Mr. Secretary, it is with great pride and pleasure that I place in nomination my friend, and my colleague, the Honorable Waggoner Carr, State Representative from the 97th District of Texas, Place 1, as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 56th Session of Texas Legislature."

The Honorable Virginia Duff of Ellis County was recognized by the Chair and seconded the nomination of the Honorable Joe Burkett, Jr., for Speaker of the House of Representatives, speaking as follows:

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

The day has arrived when it has become one of the most important duties of the 150 members assembled here to select our leader, and it is my pleasure to have a part in this most significant phase of our state government.

Our success or failure during the Fifty-sixth Legislature will depend largely on the quality of leader we place in this important and most powerful place of service as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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 the office of Speakership as can the Honorable Joe Burkett, Jr., of Kerrville.

I was a member of the House in 1953 when Joe Burkett was elected. It was a natural tendency for me to observe closely a new member. It was not difficult then to prophesy that his ability and his qualifications were material for future Speaker of this House. In 1955 he was Chairman of the committee of which I was one of the five members to investigate the Veterans Land scandal in Texas. It was then that I learned first-hand of Joe Burkett's honesty, his integrity, and his impartiality. I learned that he was a man unafraid to assume duties which are above and beyond the call of a public servant. I learned of his long hours of hard work to make ours a better state government. His leadership of that committee and the manner in which he conducted our public hearings proved to me that he is badly needed as the Speaker of this House of Representatives. I found Joe Burkett to be a man of great intellect in governmental affairs and of well-known and approved political opinions. He is a statesman of the highest, broadest, and best sense of ability and moral courage.

This Fifty-sixth Legislature faces the most difficult task of replenishing our Treasury to meet past, present and future needs. It can be done only through a harmonious and cooperative spirit exhibited by our Speaker. These qualifications we have in Joe Burkett. We know the principles of government to which this man adheres.

We are indeed fortunate in having with us such a great man with a lovely family of Christian devotions—all true Texans and all a credit to this State—all just as solid and sturdy as the hills from which they come. 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 Kerr County, the Honorable Joe Burkett, Jr., a good Parliamentarian and a sincere hard worker, for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislature."

The Honorable John Allen of Gregg 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, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House:

Being a new member in this body and somewhat unfamiliar with its proceedings, I perhaps should feel some hesitancy in appearing before you. But it is with an even greater sense of duty to my area and my State that I rise to pay tribute to a man who, though geographically far removed from my district, has always followed in the paths of fairness and justice when confronted with our problems. And it is with no slight degree of honor that I stand here as the man chosen by my fellow East Texans to represent our views in this important race. Consequently, it is with no hesitancy, but rather pride, that I second the nomination of Waggoner Carr.

In him, we in East Texas have found a statesman worthy of our trust and confidence. In the past sessions, when political expediency demanded that we be ignored, Waggoner Carr emerged as a Speaker who would, despite the pressures and consequences, champion our cause. Because of the unalterable integrity and impartiality demonstrated by Mr. Carr, we are compelled to give him our vote of confidence and support.

In past sessions, Waggoner Carr has shown three basic characteristics which have made him an outstanding Speaker and one upon whom we may depend in the coming session. As leader of this legislative body he has displayed a love for his State which has overcome the petty differences and arguments inherent in any assembly of this sort. He has demonstrated honor, not only with his close associates here in the House, but also in private life with citizens of the State. And he has always fought under the banner of truth regardless of the apparent consequences. Because of this love, this honor, and this truth, Waggoner Carr has proven himself a leader of men.

As a layman, I have followed his progress with interest, and have marvelled at his handling of the many difficult problems which arose last session. Because of his tremendous experience as a Speaker, there has been an overwhelming desire among my people to again see him in that posi-

tion. The coming session will certainly bring the extremely difficult problems of finances and education. Since Waggoner Carr is the only candidate who has proved his willingness to cope with these difficulties with fairness, integrity, and truth, he is the logical choice of the members of the House to serve as their Speaker."

The Honorable Jerome Jones of Galveston County was recognized by the Chair and seconded the nomination of the Honorable Joe Burkett, Jr., for Speaker of the House of Representatives, speaking as follows:

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

At this time, I cannot conceive of a greater honor that I could have than this opportunity to address you on an opening day.

On this occasion, I, as a new member, feel a sense of humility. Humility because of my respect for this institution and my respect for the learning and experience of its more senior members.

As a newcomer to these Halls, I am, perhaps overly impressed with the magnitude and multitude of problems that appear to face us at this session.

Problems that have to do with the providing of service for our citizens—with the equitable distribution of the cost of government—with the preservation of individual initiative—with planning for our continued growth as a great State.

All of these are complex problems that give rise to many different opinions and pressures and are certainly not easily or quickly solved.

However they are our responsibility and we owe it to the people of Texas to make every effort to solve them.

In order to accomplish this challenge, we of this political body, must have dedicated and courageous leadership. Leadership that is fair and vigorous.

The members of this House and the people of our State are indeed fortunate to have a man who can provide just such leadership in these crucial times.

I became acquainted with the ideas and reputation of this man before I had the distinct privilege of knowing him personally. I became convinced that he understood the problems of our

beloved State and that he had acquired a reputation for unceasing effort and fortitude in working to solve them.

I was further gratified to learn that his ideals did not contemplate a narrow view of the role of government but took into consideration the broader philosophic and religious principles that underlie our political institutions.

When I finally met the man in whose behalf I am now speaking, I was pleased to learn that the solid reputation that had preceded him was indeed well founded and that he was the man who could furnish us the leadership that we need—that he would not be buffeted hither and yon by momentary shifts of sentiment but would stride forward in a vigorous and straightforward manner toward the solution of our many problems.

With these thoughts in mind—with pride and sincerity, I second the nomination of the Honorable Joe Burkett, Jr., for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas."

The Honorable Alonzo W. Jamison, Jr., of Denton 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 of State, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House:

Out of the immediate past we find a measure of the man whose nomination I move to second.

The 55th Legislature was not very old when we were confronted by problems among ourselves that could well have ruined our chances for any constructive action. But it was our good fortune, and the good fortune of the State, that there was in the Chair of this House a man who could meet immediately the challenge of facing up to unpleasantness. It was Waggoner Carr who helped us to keep things in perspective. Under his leadership we coped efficiently and effectively with that challenge and were able to continue with the real work of the session.

There were other storms, early and late, during that uneasy session; it was hardly an ideal situation for a Speaker. But perhaps more than he himself realizes, it was during moments of friction and strife that he showed his true potential of leader-

ship; and it was then that we were made aware of the value of this man to the House over which he presided.

His dignity and kindness and intelligence came to be indispensable to us. It would be empty to say that I or anyone of us agreed completely with him all the time. And I remember the day when a good friend of mine and of Waggoner's rose to speak on personal privilege and remonstrated with the Speaker over treatment the member objected to. I remember, and I know many of you do, the smile and the grace with which the Speaker listened. This is memorable to me as an early example of Waggoner's inherent courtesy and the respect that he accorded to us. He earned our respect in return. For example, that member that I referred to has worked faithfully and hard for Waggoner's reelection as Speaker.

Well, this session of course will be a different one. But we can be assured that it will have its share of difficulties. I for one do not feel we can afford not to recognize the happy opportunity we have this afternoon—to re-elect a man whose ability has been proven to us.

I have been proud to serve under a Speaker whose dynamic leadership is tempered with humanity, and I look forward to a second session guided by this man. These qualities are too rarely linked together for us to overlook them, and it is my steadfast hope, and my belief, that a vast majority of the House realizes the asset Waggoner Carr will be to us in the future as he has been in the past. I believe that I am joined by you in the respect and affection which prompts me to second so warmly his nomination."

The Honorable Will Ehrle of Childress County was recognized by the Chair and seconded the nomination of the Honorable Joe Burkett, Jr., for Speaker of the House of Representatives, speaking as follows:

"Mr. Secretary, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, Guests and Visitors, it is my pleasure this afternoon to rise to second the nomination of Joe Burkett, Jr., of Kerrville.

We have heard this afternoon of Mr. Burkett's character. We have heard that Joe Burkett, Jr., is fair and impartial. We have heard that Joe Burkett is as tough and rugged as the hill country from which he comes. We have

heard that Joe Burkett is a true Texan who stands for the very traditions on which our great State of Texas has been built. Joe Burkett Jr., is truly an individual, he is a man who believes that his word is his bond. He is a man that will do what he says he will do. He is a man of honor and integrity. This afternoon as I make the last seconding nomination speech for Mr. Burkett, I call on you as members of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas to vote for the best interests of the State of Texas. I call on you as House members to lay aside all political expediencies. I call on you to set aside any thoughts of personal gain and profit. I would even ask that you forget for the moment even your personal friendship or animosity to other members of this body. I would ask you to lay aside regional differences and thoughts of area actions today. I call on you to consider only the best interests of the State of Texas.

As this Speaker's race has progressed we have heard claims and counter claims and talk of pledge cards and yet on this afternoon all these things pale into insignificance. Today we are here to elect a Speaker. We shall elect him by a secret ballot. No person may be either rewarded or punished for the vote he casts this afternoon. I would ask you to vote your own personal convictions. I would call on you to vote as your own conscience dictates, and if you do I know that you, as I, will cast your vote for Joe Burkett of Kerrville. It is indeed a pleasure and honor to second this nomination of Joe Burkett for Speaker for the House of Representatives.

Thank you very much."

The Honorable James S. Bates of Hidalgo 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 of State, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House:

It gives me great pleasure to address you. There are, from my point of view, two single advantages which are to my benefit today. The first is the fact that I am from deep south Texas; the second is that although I am carried on the roster as a new member, I begin service with you as one who has sat here in other days and other sessions.

On these two propositions then, I base my appeal to you.

I have watched from afar the accomplishments of Waggoner Carr. My impression and the reason that I am appearing in his behalf is that I know him to be a fine man—an accomplished legislator and a great leader.

I can personally assure the new members of this House that Waggoner Carr will be to you what he was to me when I was a new member in 1953. Hardly a day passed that I, 750 miles from his district, did not have reason to seek his advice. His warm friendship was immediately felt by me. His generous devotion of his time to others who sought his help was demonstrated to me time and time again.

As a legislator, his record speaks for him. He is talented, able and conscientious. I have watched him operate as a fellow member from the floor and served with him on Committees and we have no reason to doubt his capabilities. He is able and willing to accept and fight for legislation beneficial not only to his district, but for your districts. As Speaker of this House we from many miles away from his home have no need to worry that he would show any favoritism—our bills and interests are as important to him as they are to us.

Mr. Carr has already proved to this House and the people of this State that he is a great leader. His personal convictions make him a fearless but humble man who is thoroughly capable of cleaning his own house when the necessity arises. He is known all over this state for his firm handshake, straight forward manner and his devotion to his ideals.

I say to you that we need such a leader of men—not a dictator to men; if you join me today in casting your vote for Waggoner Carr as Speaker of this great body, we will have a man's man, a legislator without peer, and a leader of that quality so necessary in assisting and guiding us to successful solutions of the many problems which confront us today. Thank you very much."

The Honorable Secretary of State asked if there were any other nominations for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

There being none the Chair declared the nominations closed.

Honorable Zollie Steakley, Secretary of State, again read H. S. R. No. 2, the resolution concerning procedure in the election of the Speaker of the House.

The Honorable Secretary of State announced the appointment of the following tellers to take up and count the votes: Messrs. Tunnell, Conley, Shaw, Oliver, Shannon, Huebner, Bristow and Roberts.

The Members of the House proceeded to the casting of the votes for the Speaker of the House of Representatives following the procedure as outlined in H. S. R. No. 2, previously adopted by the House.

The vote being cast and counted, the tellers and the Chief Clerk certified to the Secretary of State the following result:

The Honorable Waggoner Carr received 79 votes.

The Honorable Joe Burkett, Jr., received 71 votes.

The Honorable Zollie Steakley, 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-sixth Legislature.

OATH OF OFFICE TAKEN BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable Secretary of State announced the appointment of the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the Speaker's rostrum for the purpose of administering the Constitutional Oath of Office to him: Messrs. Boysen, Conley, Cory, Cotten, Heatly, Hollowell, Kennard, Murray, Oliver, Slack, McGregor of McLennan, Ramsey, Roberts, Anderson, Woolsey and Chapman.

Honorable Waggoner Carr, having been escorted to the Speaker's rostrum, took the Constitutional Oath of Office as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislature of the State of Texas which was administered by Honorable Zollie Steakley, Secretary of State.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER CARR

The Honorable Secretary of State presented Honorable R. H. Cory of Victoria County. Mr. Cory, in turn, introduced Speaker Waggoner Carr to the House of Representatives, speaking as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen of the House:

At any time it would be a rare privilege to introduce to this House of Representatives its newly-elected Speaker. It is an even more distinctive honor to present to you this morning the man you have selected to serve a second consecutive term as your Speaker—an occurrence truly unusual in the history of the Texas Legislature, having occurred only twice before in recent years.

In designating Waggoner Carr again as your Speaker, you have chosen a man in whom you can place every confidence—who will join the entire membership of this House in doing everything possible to make the work of the 56th Legislature an outstanding success. I want to predict here and now that the true measure of Waggoner Carr—as he serves with each of us individually and with the House as a collective body—will stand even more clearly revealed in the future. We shall measure him then as he measures himself now—according to his devoted service to the State of Texas. I predict further that, when the course of this session is run, and we look back on its achievements, we will all share the satisfaction of having served under his leadership as an All-Texas team.

For, ladies and gentlemen, it is as a team representing the finest traditions and the best interests of the whole State of Texas that we must serve from this day forward. Teamwork must be the watchword of this House. Transcending any differences among us that have been temporarily magnified in the campaign are the important tasks in front of us. The stakes for Texas are too high—the responsibilities on us as the men and women elected by many districts, but in a true sense, by all of the people of Texas—are too heavy. We cannot afford—Texas cannot afford—any indulgence of personal feelings at the expense of the State. It is the warmth of our common purpose—not the heat of a political contest—

that must be the mold of the destiny of this House. Now that the race is over, let us get our second wind and—instead of running the old race over and over—get set for a different kind of race—a race with good government for Texas as the prize.

Having the pleasure and privilege of knowing each one of you personally—knowing you well enough to realize that your prime allegiance is to Texas—and knowing that this high spirit of dedicated service burns nowhere more brightly than in the heart of our Speaker—I do not hesitate a second to declare that—here today—it would take much more than the momentary disappointment of a loyal group of fellow-members—members loyal, in the last analysis, to the great State of Texas—to divert this House from its path of service.

And—to lead us on this path of service and accomplishment—it gives me the greatest of pleasure to present to you your Speaker—our Speaker—the Honorable Waggoner Carr."

Speaker Carr then addressed the House.

INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY AND RELATIVES OF SPEAKER AND MRS. CARR

Honorable R. H. Cory of Victoria 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. Cory 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. H. C. Story, parents of Mrs. Ernestine Carr.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Carr, brother and sister-in-law of the Speaker.

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

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER
WAGGONER CARR

Speaker Waggoner Carr addressed the House as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen of the House:

I have long been convinced that the Texas House of Representatives is the greatest among all the Houses in American Legislatures. It is of the people of Texas and is truly representative of them. It is responsive to the aims and needs of Texas. I speak with authority because I have had the privilege of seeing it in action for four terms—three as a member and one as Speaker.

For me this is a most gratifying occasion—the body which I hold in highest esteem has elected me again as its Speaker. In so electing me you have given me the finest opportunity I have had to repay this great State of Texas for some of the many things it has done for me. I intend to make full use of it for Texas.

The responsibilities you have placed again on my shoulders, I feel with an even stronger sense of obligation than was the case two years ago. I stood then on this rostrum and could only say, in somewhat halting but most sincere fashion, that I accepted the Speakership with deep humility and a grateful heart. I am not able to find any more or better words now, but in saying them again the humility is more profound and a grateful heart is overflowing beyond description.

We all know there is a tremendous job to be done for Texas by the 56th Legislature, and to this House will fall a lion's share of the burden of finding solutions to our fiscal problems and the many others facing the greatest State in the Nation. The people of our one hundred and five districts have sent us here to perform the hard work for which we offered ourselves, and they are entitled to first-rate performance without excuses or evasions.

Most of all they are interested in results. Least of all they are interested in the business of our internal organization whereby we prepare to perform the tasks they have set before us.

We—the members of the House—cannot, however, ignore the spirited contest that has just come to a close. But come to a close it has—and, in itself, the kind of wide-open free-for-all competition we have experienced bears witness to the vitality of our State and to the diversity of interests found in it. Many have been the barbed words and acts in the heat of the campaign—no one knows this better than I who have been the target of them—but as true steel is born in a crucible of great heat, I trust that the steel forged in this campaign will be that of great public service by all of us. I trust, too, that unity of purpose for Texas will replace any hard feelings.

If I may slightly paraphrase the words of the great Sam Houston—words uttered in 1855 when events and disagreements leading up to the War for Southern Independence were besetting the land—I say to you now:

Our State is too glorious, too magnificent, too sublime in its future prospects, to permit internal shocks or the winds of political opinions to produce a wreck of this mighty vessel, the Texas House of Representatives. Let us hold on to it, and guide it; let the men and women who are members of this House—those who love this State of Texas, endeavor to build up and sustain it, and reconcile conflicting interests.

From this moment on, so far as I am concerned, there will be no 'sides' relating to a Speaker's race that is now in the past. With Jim Hogg I say: 'My disposition has not been, is not now, and shall never be, to inject personalities into politics nor to join in ostracism of those who differ with me.'

As I look about this chamber, it is my conviction that I am not alone

in this attitude. I made up my mind some time ago, while the issue was still very much in doubt, that, whatever the outcome, I would work together with my fellow-members to see that this House gets down to business with a minimum of delay and a complete absence of any hold-over feelings from the contest that has just been concluded. Since I made that decision, I have expressed my sentiment to many of you, and found that it was your sentiment also. To a number of you I have given the same promise that I made to myself. I know that my worthy opponent, the gentleman from Kerr County—whom any man would be proud to call his friend—will join with me now in asking his loyal supporters to link hands with those who voted for me, so that we may get on with the State's urgent business—business that we cannot do properly without the highest order of teamwork.

For my part, I have found that, as John Nance Garner once said when he was a member of this House: 'Whatever it costs to keep one's word, the price is reasonable.' Therefore, I ask—with the utmost seriousness—that those who worked on my behalf go considerably more than half way to show their determination to recapture and enhance the teamwork we all demonstrated so well in the 55th Legislature and to inspire every new member of the 56th Legislature to do likewise.

That we have a major task to perform for Texas no one can deny. In doing this I hope that House Committees will, more than ever before, give the most careful consideration to bills pending before them—giving approval only to those measures which will clearly contribute to the progress of all of Texas. Especially difficult will be the roles of the Revenue and Taxation and Appropriation Committees at this critical time. I hope they will be realistic—realizing the needs of a growing Texas which naturally demand governmental services, but at the same time be aware of our basic obligation to tax only to the extent needed to support essential services and programs. We should be as careful with public funds as we are with our personal funds.

As the holder of the high office to which you have just returned me, I should and will have more to say. Within the next day or two, I want

to make some detailed suggestions of ways and means I believe will effect improvements in the operating procedures of this House and, consequently in the final product of our labors. We need to pay more attention to the mechanics and procedures through which laws are made for this great State and its more than 9,000,000 citizens. The legislative department is spending only twelve one-hundredths of one per cent of our State's total expenditures, and I believe that several steps can be taken, at almost negligible cost, to improve our performance both during and between sessions.

In closing my remarks, please permit me to stress, again approximating the words of Sam Houston:

'I beseech those whose piety will permit them reverently to petition, that they will pray for the unity of our efforts, and ask that He who buildeth up and pulleth down States and Nations will, in His mercy, preserve and unite us in our great endeavors for Texas.'

For, with due respect to Presidents Houston and Lincoln, who both expressed these sentiments, I have no wish to preside over a House divided against itself. I tell you that divided it will not be, and when the record has been written I am confident it will show that you served as members of the most constructive legislative team in the history of Texas. This is the day—this is the hour—that we begin writing this record."