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

The Honorable Secretary of State announced that the next order of business was the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-first Legislature of the State of Texas, and stated that nominations for Speaker are now in order.

The Honorable Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Tommy Shannon of Tarrant County, who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-first Legislature of the State of Texas the Honorable Gus F. Mutscher of Washington County, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Members of the House, Distinguished Guests, my Fellow Texans:

During my tenure as a Member of this Legislative Body, I have always tried to be a good Member of the West Texas Delegation, an ardent

spokesman for Fort Worth and Tarrant County and above all, I have tried to do what was best for the people of Texas. Through these experiences, I am confident that my expressions and viewpoints expressed here today are equally the expressions and feeling that have been demonstrated by the people throughout this great State.

We, the Members of the House, are here assembled to fulfill our first duty as Members of the Texas House of Representatives; that duty being to elect from among us, a Member to the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 61st Legislature.

This high office carries with it weighty responsibilities, inherent obligations and the compelling duty to see that the will and the authority of this House is fully exercised. The need for objective thinking which reflects the ability to plan, handle our problems and a successful pattern for programs, the need for a sound utilization of good judgment—this calls for election of a Speaker, not as a friendly honor or as an individual compliment, but for us to raise to a position of leadership a man who will accept service as a sacred trust.

As we have traveled, I know of no man who has been more readily accepted by people of all walks of life—whether they be doctors or lawyers, laborers or executives, cab drivers or elevator operators, educators or students, sales clerks or junior executives—they have all voiced appreciation for what he has done, and an interest in his capabilities for the future.

We need and seek for this office—the highest position we can bestow—a man tried by his colleagues and proven to be “four square to all the winds that blow.” The requisites for the job are that he be determined, courageous, energetic and endowed with the attributes of understanding and compassion. He must have learned how to lead because he has worked hard in the ranks for those causes. He should be a man who has tasted the fruits of victory and the heartache of defeat and shouldered each with good grace and even temper.

Our nominee is a man of such

character, quality and resolve. Our nominee is from a great part of Texas, an area of good people with the demands for good training. By his election for five consecutive terms, our nominee has shown that he has the confidence and support of the people of his district. This sort of stability in a Representative is indispensable to leadership. His career carries the hallmark of constructive effort. He has a natural aptitude for parliamentary procedure, an innate sense of justice and a great understanding of the legislative process. He has gained an intimate knowledge of the machinery by which so vast and complex a Body as this House of Representatives is necessarily governed.

Born within the shadow of that historic site — Washington-on-the-Brazos—where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed, he personifies the resolve, fairness and the principles of justice embodied in that document. He further represents the District of historic Stephen F. Austin State Park. He is of the Democratic spirit which all admire and respect. A member of the Grace Lutheran Church, Gus Mutscher — while a student at the University of Texas—served as State and subsequently, International President of Gamma Delta, a student religious organization of his faith.

He is as much at home on the free-ways as he is on the country farm roads for he has a background of understanding and knowledgeable interest in both urban and rural affairs.

He, too, has reckoned with the problems of the State's financial stability and the multitudinous causes for betterment of state services with equal concern and careful consideration. He knows the glories of the high road and the despair of the low road. A high school champion debater, he also is a good listener. He is plain spoken. He gives you a straight answer. He sticks doggedly to his job of being a good Member of the House.

With all pride and justification, he is a personal friend—he is a Member's Member and he will be a Member's Speaker.

I am happy to place in nomination

the Honorable Gus F. Mutscher of Brenham.

The Chair then asked if there were further nominations for the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-first Legislature.

There being none, the Chair then recognized the Honorable Clyde Haynes of Orange County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Gus F. Mutscher, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Distinguished Guests, Members of the House, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My purpose in rising this afternoon is to lend my best effort in support of Democracy in its highest principles. I concur with the remarks of Mr. Shannon that our duty is clear. We should choose from among us a man qualified for Speaker beyond doubt and cast our votes above sectional and political differences. We are fortunate indeed, that the Constitution provides that we, as our first order of business, proceed to the election of a Speaker from and by the Members of this Body.

There is no Member of this House with whom I have agreed on every roll call. Here where we try to merge the thinking of 150 Members into the hopes, wishes and desires of more than 10 million Texans who have divergent views and political philosophies, we have and will continue to have differences in judgement. To me that is Democracy at work. Nor have Gus Mutscher and I seen eye to eye on all the issues during our 8 years of service together in this great Body. But I can second his nomination because I have full confidence that he will handle the gavel with fairness and with full knowledge of the necessity of expressing the opposite views among us.

Gus Mutscher has exceptional talents and his background is forged of both rural and urban experience. He makes and keeps friends. He keeps out of quarrels among mutual friends. His independence is to be admired by all. He has met many tests of loyalty and many tests for positions of leadership. It has often been said that Gus is a Member's Member.

He has worked in the ranks of the

common man and, as a Legislator, his capabilities are exemplified by this accomplishment.

He toiled hours upon hours and day after day as Chairman of the House Committee on Legislative and Congressional Redistricting; it was politically a backbreaking assignment. The task was to apply the United States Supreme Court's one-man, one-vote decision to the reasonable satisfaction of 180 Members of the Legislature and 23 Texas Congressmen. The proof of how well Gus did his job is that no one saw reason to oppose him for reelection. This to me—reasonably satisfying 203 public officials, State and National—is personification of an able and astute leader.

In the days ahead we must have leadership tempered with fairness and wisdom. We depend on the Speaker to be just and to give fair consideration to the different views of the Members. I say to you with all confidence, with the election of Gus Mutscher as Speaker, this shall be done; therefore, it is with a feeling of high honor and personal privilege that I second the nomination of the Gentleman from Washington County, the Honorable Gus Mutscher, for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives of the 61st Legislature. His election this day will be a good omen for the future of this House in its day-to-day work, and fortunate for the future of our State.

Thank you.

The Chair then recognized the Honorable Menton Murray of Cameron County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Gus Mutscher, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Fellow Members of the House, to whom my remarks are particularly addressed:

Directed by Constitutional authority, and quite pleased over the apparent success of our mission, we are today preparing to choose our Speaker, the Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives, for the next two years.

In doing so, we are looking for a man with courage and ability, a man of ambition, brains and energy. We

must choose well for the success of this 61st Legislature and your individual success as Legislators may well be determined by your selection.

The Speaker of the House is an extremely important State Official whose obligations, duties and prerogatives are weighty and numerous. His duties and decisions bear heavily upon the conduct and performance of our duties as elected officials in this government.

Specifically, the Speaker appoints all House Committees, approval by which are necessary before floor action by the membership. He refers all bills to committee and, as presiding officer, is charged with keeping the House on its work schedule. He sees to it that debate is orderly and within the confines of House Rules. The Speaker represents us at administrative conferences, and oversees the operation of interim committees. He appoints one-half the membership of the Legislative Budget Board and all House Representatives on conference committees. Your selection of the man for these tasks is not to be taken lightly, for, on tomorrow and henceforth, the seeds you sow today will be bearing fruit.

As a Member from the Rio Grande Valley, I took my first oath as a Member of the House—as many of you did today—some 20 years ago. These years have seasoned me in the legislative process. My choice for Speaker today is guided by the experience of having participated in the election of seven men to this high office . . . and the resolve that a qualified man is requisite to our well-being and to the welfare of our State.

There is not a man or lady among us today who will not in years to come, cherish the friendships born in the well of this House. You will, together, taste the sweetness of victory and the bitterness of defeat. These are the roots of real, true friendship. You are fortunate as the chosen few to reap such reward.

My first acquaintance with the man whose nomination I second, was made in this House. My respect for him, as an individual and as a Member, is born of his actions and participation in this House. Few freshman Members are selected for membership on the Legislative Budget Board. Gus Mutscher was so honored. As a close

student of government this fellow Member has served in some of the most arduous and complex tasks this House has to offer. He has shaped his career in such directions that his tastes and talents have been brought into full play—four times a House Conferee on Appropriations, twice Chairman of the Committee on Legislative and Congressional Redistricting, Member of the Governor's Committee on Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Member of the Interim Committees on Water Quality, Junior Colleges, State Parks Development and Agricultural Products Marketing. He rendered a dedicated service in studying Texas land titles which resulted in legislation creating the Padre Island National Seashore Area, a meaningful contribution to every citizen of the valley and coastal area, so far from his home district.

These are some of the spheres in which Gus Mutscher has worked hard and studiously pursued to best possible results. As a consequence, the people of Texas have profited enormously, especially the average citizen in the ordinary walks of life.

To me, Gus Mutscher, from the historically rich area near Washington-on-the-Brazos, is a Member keenly mindful of our State's glorious history, determined to add to its greatness and with his eyes wide open sees the wonders of its future.

His is a constructive, progressive record. He is deserving of your vote and your confidence as Speaker of this House for the next two years.

Gus Mutscher is dedicated and determined to do the job we need done.

The Chair then recognized the Honorable Jack Ogg of Harris County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Gus Mutscher, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Distinguished Members, My Fellow Texans, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure and personal pride, as a friend and neighbor from Harris County, to second the nomination of the Honorable Gus Mutscher of Brenham, for Speaker of the House of Representatives, 61st Legislature.

The three gentlemen who preceded

me have aptly sketched both the job of Speaker, and the qualities of the man we need to best fill that position. To me, none among us personifies the rank, understands the process, exemplifies the ability or will execute the decisions with the wisdom and judgment of Gus Mutscher.

First and foremost, Gus Mutscher has given this House service of unflinching loyalty through four regular and five special sessions. He is of solid and broad background. His record manifests his belief that fearless and faithful application of our democratic principles is the surest guarantee of good government. He is a man of compassion and a man of personal honor, respectful of the privileges to be accorded every viewpoint.

I first met Gus over a decade ago. He moved to Houston after receiving his BA degree at the University of Texas and Honorable Discharge from the United States Army. His propensity for work and his ability to excel promptly earned him civic recognition and business success. He was honored by Harris County as one of its "outstanding young businessmen." While acknowledging the State's agricultural and rural heritage, he possessed the vision to recognize the great perplexity of the times and readily could foresee the rewards to be reaped by our State through the proper development of our metropolitan areas. Therefore I was not surprised at his decision to offer himself for public service.

His selection of his home, Washington County, as the beginning point of his public career was both proper and natural. There he had worked through his high school and junior college days, had become an outstanding member of the college debate team, was elected President of Blinn Junior College Student Body, lettered three years in baseball and there he had made close and binding friendships in all walks of life. Conspicuous absence of a political opponent since he first ran for the House attests to his character and no name has ever been presented to this august Body that came on the tongue of better report.

He has retained his personal identity as Gus Mutscher of Brenham, while his scope of interest and con-

cern has widened to the border of our State. His ambitions for Texas and for Texans are as firm and as broad as our land. When Gus has spoken his speech was better than silence or he was silent. He resolved daily to perform that which he ought and performed without fail that which he resolved. His programs are sound, he is popular with his contemporaries, he serves with honor and it is apparent that he is a man destined for distinction.

Cervantes said, "A man must eat a peck of salt with a friend before he knows him well." I know Gus Mutscher well. I have seen him honored by the State Junior Chamber of Commerce as one of the Five Outstanding Young Texans. I have known him as a fellow student, a colleague, a deskmate and as a friend, and recognize his traits of duty, character, honor and loyalty and his possessions of them are bountiful. He has the drive and resolution of his ancestry . . . the inherent honesty and integrity of a fine mother and father . . . and above all else a deep and abiding faith in Almighty God.

The office of Speaker is revered and coveted by many among us who aspire to leadership, yet our task is to select one from 150, only one. I am firmly convinced that Gus Mutscher has no peer among us for the position of Speaker at the Legislative round table.

Mr. Secretary, Members—I proudly second the nomination and ask your full support for your colleague, your friend, your Speaker, The Honorable Gus Mutscher of Brenham.

Mr. Ogg moved that nominations cease, and that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be instructed to cast the vote of all the Members of the House of Representatives for the Honorable Gus F. Mutscher for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-first Legislature, and that Gus F. Mutscher be unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Representatives by acclamation.

The motion prevailed unanimously.

The Temporary Chief Clerk, upon direction of the Honorable Secretary of State, then cast the entire ballot for the Honorable Gus F. Mutscher

for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-first Legislature.

The Honorable Roy Barrera, Secretary of State of the State of Texas, then declared the Honorable Gus F. Mutscher of Washington County to be the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas of the Sixty-first 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 the taking of the Constitutional Oath of Office by the Speaker-elect: Representatives McKissack, Heatly, Swanson, Blaine, Kilpatrick, McLaughlin, Farenthold, Carrillo, Lovell, Sanchez, Cobb, McAlister, Uher, Hubenak, Solomon, Jungmichel, Lombardino, Traeger and Moore of Dallas.

The Honorable Gus Mutscher of Washington County, having been escorted to the Speaker's Rostrum, took the Constitutional Oath of Office as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-first Legislature of the State of Texas, which was administered by the Honorable Roy Barrera, Secretary of State.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER GUS MUTSCHER

The Honorable Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Dick McKissack of Dallas County.

Mr. McKissack, in turn, introduced Speaker Gus Mutscher to the House

of Representatives, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Members of the House, distinguished guests:

It is my most sincere privilege and pleasure to present to you today the distinguished Speaker of the House of the 61st Legislature.

It is gratifying to reflect on the caliber and on the character of the man on whom we bestow this great responsibility for we all know him to be a leader of unsurpassed capacity, and we can be assured that he will chart the course of this Body dynamically, and with great vision.

But it is even more gratifying to reflect that, in him all of us in the House, and indeed, all of the citizens of the State of Texas have a sincere and true friend. I remember quite clearly that he was one of the first to introduce himself and offer help during my freshman term as a Representative. I know that many others of you have the same recollection.

The idea of friendship may seem to be somewhat out of context in this situation, and even a little old-fashioned, but let me submit to you that a person who can indeed be a friend has achieved the highest possible degree of social responsibility.

For in the final analysis, a friend is one on whom we can rely, both during good times and bad, and I now present to you just such a man, Speaker of the House of the 61st Legislature, the Honorable Gus Mutscher.

Speaker Mutscher then addressed the House, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, distinguished colleagues of the Texas House of Representatives, my fellow Texans:

I must really confess that I probably sweated more this morning than I have in the past two years. I think it is also appropriate to acknowledge the fact that I have been under medical attention for the past three days. This certainly makes me feel great to be here today. At this moment I can only extend to you, the Members of this great Legislative Body, a very warm, a very cordial, and a very personal word of thanks. You have truly honored me by electing me as your Speaker.

As I pause for just a few minutes and try to radiate this feeling for our hopes and our aspirations for this Session, I think it will encompass all to say that we will not be conscious of honor and award, but we will be conscious of meeting our responsibilities, that we will try to furnish the leadership for this great Body, and that we will try to accept the challenges in order that we might render a service for all people.

So on this day I am extremely grateful to all of my very fine colleagues, the Members of this Texas House of Representatives. I am also very grateful to your wives, to your sweethearts, and to your families, because you, too, have joined me in cooperative efforts during the past number of years. I am also very grateful and thankful to the fine array of friends who have assisted me in guiding this ship over the past course. I am also extremely grateful to that fine array of constituents of mine who have guided me with knowledge, with cooperation, and with understanding in the governmental field. I am also extremely grateful and thankful to that very fine, loyal and dedicated staff that has so ably assisted me during these past years, to all the fine Members of this Texas House, these department heads who have been so cooperative. Yes, and then to the members of our family. Of course, I am very happy to see my lovely nieces here today, who have traveled some distance, my little nephew, my brother, my sisters, and above all, my mother and dad.

You know, when you are kind of running a low-ebb type campaign, the

phone rings at all hours. But never at one time did I ever hear a complaint voiced by either my mother or dad, but they were always elated at the thought that, Gus, here was one of your colleagues calling you about something pertaining to legislation, or friendship, or whatever it might be.

So on this day, let me just say a personal word of thanks to all of you, and I hope that through this background, through this friendship, we might radiate all of these elements for greater service for Texas.

Thank you very much.

The Chair then recognized the Honorable W. S. (Bill) Heatly, Jr., of Cottle County, who addressed the House, presenting the following members of the family of the Honorable Gus Mutscher, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, Mr. Speaker, Ladies, Gentlemen and Members of the House and friends:

It is with pleasure and considerable honor that I have the opportunity to introduce to you the family of our Speaker, the Honorable Gus Mutscher:

His father, Mr. Gus Mutscher, Sr., who is a resident of Washington County, Texas, is one of the finest citizens of that county and State. It is citizens like Mr. Gus Mutscher, Sr., who was a student of the school of hard knocks, that make for a proud town, county and State in which to live.

Mrs. Gus Mutscher, the mother of our Speaker, is the center pole of the tent in that home that gave so much encouragement to our new Speaker. She always extended a loving arm of affection that benefited so much the young man in his tender years. Mrs. Mutscher could have been likened unto the great woman of Shunammite, kind to strangers, affectionate to friends and loving to her entire family.

This heritage has been passed on to our new Speaker and will again enure to the Members of this House. It is with privilege, pleasure, honor and pride that I present to you, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Mutscher, Sr., of Brenham, Texas.

Gus is also blessed with a brother and two sisters, a close and loving family and he has enjoyed his home-life. It is my pleasure to introduce Goeke Mutscher, affectionately known as "Butch," his wife Jo Ann and their daughter Laura Mae and son Glenn Charles. Next I'd like to introduce Mrs. Betty Boecker, sister of our Speaker, her husband, Fred, and their daughter Julie Beth; another sister, Margie Foelber and her husband, Herbert L., and their daughter, Rebecca. They are the immediate family of our beloved Speaker.

Before returning this program to Mr. Secretary, I would like to recognize the people of Brenham, Washington County. I would like to recognize them individually but time prohibits this. At this time I would like all the people from the 29th District to please rise. Mr. Speaker, I believe you have 51 percent of your constituents here and a safe margin. Thank you for this privilege.

The Secretary of State then presented the Honorable Charles Jungmichel of Fayette County who addressed the House and presented Speaker Mutscher with a gavel, speaking as follows:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Secretary, Distinguished Guests, my Fellow Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great honor and a personal privilege for me to be a part of this wonderful occasion.

Mr. Speaker, will you please come forward. It is a real honor for me to present to my good friend and neighbor this gavel, the symbol of authority. I know you will wield it well and may God bless you.

The Chair then introduced the Honorable Gus Mutscher as the presiding officer of the House of Representatives.

(Speaker in the Chair)