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OF THE
STATE OF TEXAS
BEGUN AND HELD AT
THE CITY OF AUSTIN
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**ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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

The Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Charles H. Jungmichel of Fayette County, who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second Legislature of the State of Texas the name of the Honorable G. F. (Gus) Mutscher of Washington County, speaking as follows:

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

Friendship is born of respect, kindness and appreciation. Often, friendship is matured through mutual goals, and is warmed by success. To me, there are few times, other than in the course of the Legislative process within the walls of this House, which are more fruitful for the making and ripening of lasting friendships. God grant that this 62nd Legislative Session reaps a bountiful harvest of such bonds.

My remarks are first directed to friendship because it is with such esteem that I speak in behalf of a colleague. I rise before the Membership with great pride to place in nomination for the high office of Speaker of the House of Representatives, 62nd Legislature, the name of a friend, my neighbor and distinguished colleague, the Honorable G. F. "Gus" Mutscher of Brenham.

We are of neighboring House Districts—28th and 29th. Our electorates share like concerns for the present, and inspiring hopes for the future. We represent resourceful and resolute people for whom fulfillment of duty and obligation is their motivation day by day. Their word is their bond.

When I came to this House in 1965, I found that a working image of these people and their characteristics had preceded me by four years. The noble attributes of the people he represented were reflected in the earnestness and activity of Gus Mutscher. His industry and efforts, in committee and on the Floor, evidenced a dedication to worthwhile service to enhance the conduct of the living, and to help shape an even greater destiny for generations yet to be. He was—and is—a constructive Member.

We new Members of the House, Fifty-ninth Legislature, found Gus Mutscher ready to extend a helping hand. We learned his opinions were those we could value at once for their justness and their sincerity. He was a knowledgeable Member of unselfish service. To his fellow Members, he gave wholehearted allegiance and stood steadfast to purpose and principle in both the sorrows of defeat and the joys of success.

Understanding and loyalty given bring understanding and loyalty in return. Two brief years ago, the House of Representatives, 61st Legislature, bestowed upon this diligent young man its highest honor—The Speakership. He has held the gavel with an even hand. His first term as Speaker has been one of tireless effort. Gus Mutscher has been one of the most responsive Speakers in the annals of the House of Representatives. He has written a proud record of working with, beside, and for the Membership of this House. He has proved the quality of his leadership, and strong leadership is required at this Session.

I do here and now counsel the Membership that in the best interest of all, Gus Mutscher be elected Speaker, House of Representatives, 62nd Legislature.

The Secretary of State then asked if there were further nominations for

the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second Legislature.

There being none, the Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Bill Braecklein of Dallas County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable G. F. (Gus) Mutscher, speaking as follows:

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

I have been proud to serve under a Speaker whose interests and efforts in behalf of rural and urban populations of our State are equally noteworthy, and I look forward to a second session guided by this persevering fellow Member.

Gus Mutscher's dynamic leadership has brought recognition and esteem to this House. He is a member of the Southern Conference Executive Committee, Council of State Governments. The College of Business Administration, the University of Texas at Austin, honored him as a 1969 Distinguished Alumnus. An active member of his church from boyhood, Gus was chosen, in October, 1970, as a Regent of Texas Lutheran College.

Frankly, I think Gus brought the highest of honors to himself when he won the hand of the charming First Lady of the House, the former Donna Axum—and a former Miss America. Gus scored big in Arkansas. Donna is a delight to all of us.

Two years ago in the order of business of electing a Speaker, Gus Mutscher was described as a Member "mindful of our State's glorious heritage with his eyes wide open to the wonders of its future." I heartily agree. He is an able advocate of action . . . of action to meet the complexities of environmental control . . . an able advocate of action to solve the problems of mass transportation . . . of action to give a helping hand to our youth . . . an able advocate for the preservation of law and order in our streets, in communities of all types and sizes.

He has the courage, convictions and moral sense to work with all of us for the betterment of our state . . . to help uplift our culture at all levels.

I respectfully second the nomination of Gus Mutscher of Brenham, as Speaker, House of Representatives, 62nd Legislature.

INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNOR PRESTON SMITH

The Secretary of State addressed the House briefly and introduced the Honorable Preston Smith, Governor of Texas, who was present in the House Chamber.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

(continued)

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Dean Cobb of Moore County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable G. F. (Gus) Mutscher, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Members and Fellow Texans:

My remarks are those of a freshman Member, one term removed. Since taking my oath of office two years ago, my appreciation of the duties and responsibilities of the Speaker has increased tremendously.

There are daily chores the Speaker performs or directs that, in my opinion, are as essential as any of his Legislative responsibilities. You will learn that the House Administration, of which the Speaker is, so to speak, the Chairman of the Board, can be most helpful. I was afforded a lift whenever and wherever possible by the Speaker who helped me to be fully informed of House operations. This made for better communication with, and better representation of, my district.

From time immemorial, man has sought better tools with which to do his job. Look around you, fellow Members. Improvement in the facilities and accommodations to make for better work conditions in our representative duties are self-evident. Research library facilities and competent staffs are at our disposal. Their beneficial use is up to us.

It is my opinion that Gus Mutscher has upgraded the House in appearance and decorum in immeasurable fashion; but, more importantly, he has maintained contact with the Membership from freshman to senior. Fortunately, he also has maintained his patience, for the needs of the Membership are many and varied. He has fulfilled the not-so-glamorous duties of the Speakership with the same diligence that he has given to interim and study committees and to the duties of the Session. He is, my friends, a year 'round Speaker available to the Membership as friend, counselor, and leader.

As a compliment to the good judgment of the 61st House of Representatives, I second the nomination of Gus Mutscher as Speaker of the House of Representatives, 62nd Legislature.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Raul Longoria of Hidalgo County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable G. F. (Gus) Mutscher, speaking as follows:

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

Ten years ago—January 10, 1961—Gus Mutscher and I came to the House as freshman Members. Our districts were far removed historically and geographically and we were strangers to each other; but, mutual respect and cooperation developed rapidly in the course of a Legislative Session.

To be a Representative in a State like Texas and the spokesman for a people like ours is an opportunity that comes to but a few in this world. We have tremendous opportunities for public service. Our duties and obligations are staggering and the history we write at this Legislature will mark us either as big or little men in public office. To accomplish our task we must have a proven leader whose interests encompass those of all Texans.

Through the ten years I have known Gus Mutscher, my respect for him has continuously grown. He recognizes and respects the position of his fellow Members on all issues. He is as conversant with our plans and projects in the Valley as he is with those of his own and the other areas of Texas. His efforts in behalf of vocational and technical education will make him long appreciated by all of the people of South Texas. I am humbly

grateful that we have a deserving one among us on whom we can rely to fulfill the heavy responsibilities and duties that are commensurate to the Office of Speaker.

The 61st Legislature tested the abilities and perseverance of many Members and none responded as did our Speaker. He met severe challenges and always acted with honor, strength of purpose and concern for the results. He anticipated our needs and provided the guidance to solve the problems.

It is with extreme pleasure and with deep personal pride that I have an opportunity to honor such foresight and leadership. Members, I second the nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 62nd Legislature of the man who has proved by action and hard work that he can lead this House—The Honorable Gus Mutscher of Washington County.

Mr. Longoria moved that G. F. (Gus) Mutscher be unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second Legislature by acclamation.

The motion prevailed unanimously.

The Temporary Chief Clerk, upon direction of the Secretary of State, then cast the entire ballot for the Honorable G. F. (Gus) Mutscher for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second Legislature.

The Honorable Martin Dies, Jr., Secretary of State of the State of Texas, then declared the Honorable G. F. (Gus) Mutscher of Washington County to be the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas of the Sixty-second Legislature.

ESCORT COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The 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 Calhoun, Cruz, Doran, Foreman, Haynes, Zan Holmes, Jr., Hull, Johnson, McAlister, Murray, Nabers, Salem, Santiesteban, Swanson, Uher, Von Dohlen, and Wyatt.

OATH OF OFFICE TAKEN BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable G. F. (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-second Legislature of the State of Texas, which was administered by the Honorable Martin Dies, Jr., Secretary of State.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER G. F. (GUS) MUTSCHER

The Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Cordell Hull of Tarrant County.

Mr. Hull, in turn, introduced Speaker G. F. (Gus) Mutscher to the House of Representatives, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, Members of the House, Distinguished Guests:

At any time it would be a rare privilege to introduce to you our newly-elected Speaker. It is more of an honor to present one of the few men ever chosen to serve a second term in that Office.

But because he has served before, we can welcome him with unshakable confidence in his ability, his character, and his capacity for leadership. And, we can be firm in the conviction that we have acted with wisdom in retaining as our Speaker this most distinguished colleague. I take immense pride and great pleasure in presenting the Speaker of the 62nd Legislature, the Honorable G. F. Mutscher of Washington County.

Speaker Mutscher then addressed the House, speaking as follows:

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

Someone once said, "You must look into people as well as at them." If you were to look into the person standing before you now, you would find a man who is both exceedingly proud and humbly grateful. Today, 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 making me Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

This afternoon, I will name four temporary committees in order that we might move swiftly and appropriately for the Session. Tomorrow I plan to comment on the timetable for our standing committees and give a few personal suggestions towards improving our permanent rules and decorum for the session. While we are all aware of the Legislative problems facing us at this time, within a few days I will present to you some of my ideas on how they might be solved.

This Chamber will see much hard work by all of us in the demanding weeks ahead, for as public servants, we are committed to do our best for the people of Texas.

At this particular moment, however, I can only again express my gratitude to my colleagues in the House . . . to the many wonderful friends and constituents who have assisted me in the past years . . . to a loyal and dedicated staff . . . and to all the people involved in the work of the Legislature.

And then to the members of my family . . . in particular to the person who has brought me so much happiness, my wife, Donna . . . and of course, to the other woman in my life, my daughter, Lisa.

I am also very happy to see my lovely nieces here today, my wife's very wonderful mother, my two sisters, my brother-in-law, and above all, my mother and father, to whom I owe not only my life, but also a tremendous share of the blessings that have gone along with it.

So on this day, I acknowledge a personal debt of thanks to all of you . . . for your support . . . for your trust . . . and for your friendship. It is my greatest hope that through this mutual trust, we might together realize the dreams that we cherish for an ever greater State of Texas.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Hilary Doran,

Jr., of Val Verde County, who addressed the House, presenting members of the family of the Honorable G. F. (Gus) Mutscher, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, Distinguished Guests, Distinguished Representatives of the News Media, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends:

It is with distinct pleasure and personal affection that I have the honor to introduce to this Assemblage the family of our Speaker, the Honorable Gus Mutscher.

Two years ago, less two days, when Gus was first elected our Speaker, he was a single man; but today, seated beside him, is a lady who, as I'm sure everyone who knows her will agree, is evidence of our Speaker's greatest accomplishment, namely the selection of a wife who possesses the warmth, the poise, and the friendliness that Donna Mutscher has in such abundance. It is with great pride that I present the lovely wife of our Speaker, Mrs. Donna Mutscher.

The lovely and gracious lady who is Donna's mother is with us today also, coming from El Dorado, Arkansas, and at this time I would like to recognize Mrs. Hurley Axum.

The Speaker's father, Mr. Gus Mutscher, Sr., of Washington County, is a man who is dedicated to his family, his town, his county, and his state, and his fine qualities can be easily identified in Gus. Our Speaker's mother has provided the strength, the warmth, and the love that every close family must have, a fact which is readily evident to everyone who has the honor of knowing her. It is with great pleasure that I present Mr. and Mrs. Gus Mutscher, Sr., of Brenham, Texas.

The Speaker's sisters are with us today also, and I would now like to introduce Mrs. Betty Boecker and her husband, Fred; and the Speaker's other sister, Mrs. Margie Foelber, from California, where she left her husband, Herb, a teacher by profession, keeping watch on the home front.

Now in closing, I would like to introduce three young ladies who represent what all of us are really here about today, that being to preserve a healthy society and to pass to a younger generation a heritage that will allow them the same opportunity that we, here in this great Hall, have enjoyed.

I would like to ask Gus' two nieces, Julie Boecker and Becky Foelber, to come forward and stand with Gus' and Donna's daughter, Lisa, so that everyone here may see three lovely young ladies.

These wonderful people comprise the major portion of the immediate family of our Speaker.

Before returning the program to Mr. Secretary of State Dies, I would like to also recognize another very important part of our Speaker's "Family": The people of Brenham, Texas, and his 29th District, a constituency in which Gus has always taken tremendous pride.

This concludes the introduction of our Speaker's family. Thank you.

(Speaker in the Chair)