

JOURNAL
OF THE
House of Representatives
OF THE
REGULAR SESSION
OF THE
Sixty-Fourth Legislature
OF THE
STATE OF TEXAS
BEGUN AND HELD AT
THE CITY OF AUSTIN
JANUARY 14, 1975



HSR 2--ADOPTED

Mr. Hubenak offered the following resolution:

HSR 2

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State shall call for nominations from the floor for the election of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 64th Legislature and recognize every member who desires to make a nomination; that each person recognized shall immediately advance to the front microphone to make his nomination in a nominating speech not to exceed five minutes in length; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That after all nominations have been made, nominations shall be closed; whereupon seconding speeches shall be allowed, one for each nomination, in the order in which the nominations were made; and then other seconding speeches shall be allowed in rotation, with speeches in each round made in the order in which the nominations were made; provided that each nominee shall be allowed a maximum of four seconding speeches, none to exceed five minutes in length, and no person shall be considered a nominee unless his nomination is seconded by at least one member; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That after the election, the oath of office shall be administered under the direction of the Secretary of State to the Speaker-elect and the Speaker shall thereupon take the chair.

The resolution was read and was adopted unanimously.

**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 64th Legislature of the State of Texas, and stated that nominations for Speaker are now in order.

The Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Tom Massey of Tom Green County, who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 64th Legislature of the State of Texas the Honorable Bill Clayton of Lamb County, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, members of the judiciary, honored guests, fellow members of the House, ladies and gentlemen:

I rise today to place in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives a man who represents those things most urgently needed in government today. This

man is a leader, even more, a recognized leader, a man who exemplifies honesty and fairness.

Bill Clayton of Springlake gives new dimension to those adjectives I have just spoken. He has the capacity to bring this House together with firmness and fairness.

I spoke of leadership. On several different occasions, I have been in discussions involving the need for legislation of one kind or another, only to discover that Bill had introduced just such a bill two or three sessions ago. When it comes to keeping up with what's going on and what's needed, this man is as current as tomorrow, and we need that kind of leadership.

An effective leader must be fair. Bill Clayton is fair to all with whom he deals--employees, state officials, fellow members--whether philosophies coincide or differ. A veteran member of this House who doesn't vote like Bill very much told me some time ago that he had never received more fair treatment than when he had legislation before one of Bill's committees. That's a pretty good endorsement. You won't find Bill Clayton telling you one thing to your face and something else to the next person. He doesn't leave any question as to where he stands and no one here can deny that. This is a quality missing in so many of our leaders today. This is a man you can believe. He is one who can bring us together. His endorsement by democrats, republicans, conservatives, liberals, men and women of every ethnic background is evidence enough.

Go to a man's home town and ask about him. You may learn a lot. Go to Bill Clayton's home town and you will find that he is a loving husband, father, successful businessman, a man of great civic pride and accomplishment in his community.

I mentioned recognized leadership. This man, Bill Clayton, has long been involved in nationwide organizations concerned with up-grading state legislatures and solving problems of state government. People in the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Government, and the National Legislative Council, just to name a few, know Bill Clayton well and recognize his ability. He is the 1975 Chairman of the Southern Environmental Resources Conference. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Council of State Governments. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators. Truly, he is in the forefront in state legislative matters today. One time last year, funds were not available for travel, so Bill went on his own to a Washington conference--because he was interested--in fact, he had a place on the agenda--and leaders from other states expected him to be there. It is no surprise then for one of our members to be asked in New York or Washington, "How's my friend Bill Clayton?" That element is indispensable if Texas is to assume and maintain a front-runner position in the state governments of our nation.

I've told you that Bill Clayton is a leader, is candid and fair. Let me add a dimension that will be in great demand this session--hard work. I've always considered myself a hard worker, but frankly, Bill Clayton puts me in the shade. He suffers from a work syndrome. I can remember long subcommittee meetings when everyone else was ready to quit, and when Bill said, "If we will just work a little while longer, we can finish up this bill, and it's badly needed." I have come to admire his steadfastness to purpose and his resolve to firmness. Don't think this is just talk. I've lived with this man much of the last year and know more than a little about his energy and his drive. I promise you this: he will never ask you to do more than he's willing to do, and there will be no one here who will work as hard as Bill Clayton this session.

We have all heard the phrase, "A Man for all Seasons." Bill Clayton is not only a man for all seasons but a man for all Texans--and a man whom all members can introduce with pride as our leader.

Mr. Secretary, it is my honor to place in nomination the name of the gentleman from Springlake, the Honorable Bill Clayton.

The Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Neil Caldwell of Brazoria County, who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 64th Legislature of the State of Texas the Honorable Carl Parker of Jefferson County, speaking as follows:

I place in nomination for the office of Speaker of the House, Carl A. Parker of Jefferson County. I also hope for peace on earth, and recognize that aspiration is not likely to be achieved today. However, in suggesting you would better serve the people of this state by voting for Carl Parker, I don't consider this a futile effort, even though the majority of you are not likely to be persuaded. Nor am I motivated by a masochistic personality. I would so much enjoy nominating the apparent winner. If what I say has validity, and you so believe, and have the courage in the days and months ahead to require the House to be conducted thusly, then I will not have imposed on your time.

We might all agree there are others among us capable of serving well as Speaker. At this time, our choices are limited to two, and your judgment hopefully will reflect which has the greater abundance of such qualities as integrity, courage, and industry--which of the two has the capacity to exercise the restraint so as not to abuse the considerable power vested in the speakership--who will lead, and not rule.

I have known Carl well for 20 years. I think I know him as well as any of you, and better than most. I know his assets and his liabilities. I believe him to have that essential quality of a good politician--caring. Caring that what we do here makes a difference for the better.

I have been a member since January 9, 1960, and I have witnessed, and occasionally participated in this institution which has changed profoundly over those years. I served in a House that became increasingly servile to the Speaker, in which the Speaker, under the then rules, enjoyed life or death power over diverse issues--and exercised that power. During those years, we could as well have met for 30 days, and passed our local bills, gone home, and let the Speaker and his lieutenants get on with the business at hand. Those sessions were dominated by lobbyists for special interest groups with a large economic stake in our work product. They owned a great deal more than the Speaker's ear. They owned a great deal more than their legitimate right to be heard, and their arguments as to the impact of legislation on their clients and ultimately on the state, be carefully considered.

Then came Sharpstown. Thirty were dirty. The people, who are not stupid, but ordinarily not interested, reacted to the abuses of the system belatedly revealed to them, by throwing most of the rascals out. That session and subsequent called sessions were unique in our history. We, who opposed the Speaker, were understood by the majority as trouble makers whose sole motive was to make headlines, or to the more thoughtful among them, to educate the electorate and restructure, thereby destroying a House found most comfortable by them.

For me it was painful. I threw the first brick, a rather innocuous resolution read today, and was called a demagogue by one who had been my friend from the front microphone. I like to be liked as much as any of you, but could not suffer in silence any longer--not after the Speaker had been revealed accepting large financial favors from a man he soon thereafter assisted in passing legislation.

The last legislature did two things it will be appreciated for. Most important, it diminished the power of the Speaker, with the support of Speaker Price Daniel, Jr. Second, it passed legislation, although certainly not perfect, which brought lobbying under tighter control, and brought government and politicians out into the open--where they belong.

My candidate for Speaker voted to require public officials to file a financial statement open to public scrutiny, for an ethics commission rather than giving its duties to the Secretary of State, to reject the Senate's watered down version of an ethics bill, and send it to conference. The other candidate voted opposite Carl on these issues.

My candidate was the principal author, and carried the Open Meetings Act and the Consumer Protection Act, which has and will protect countless Texans, particularly those preyed upon by the unscrupulous for years, the economically disadvantaged.

My candidate would name the committees by Monday at the very latest, because he knows how precious time is, how much is to be done, and how, if time is made more precious by its waste, the Speaker's power is enhanced by his influence on the calendar. My candidate would not solicit, nor permit others, to seek pledges during a session for the legislature. That's not a fair fight.

My candidate could not, and would not, under any circumstances, suggest we enlarge the number of committees because that would enlarge the power of the Speaker, and subtract from the reforms of the immediate past so bravely fought for, and won.

The issue actually involves the structure, over the long haul, more than the personality elected today. The person elected may indeed influence that structure as expressed in the rules under which we work. The issue is no different today than it was in 1971. Then it was easier to articulate. But it still, and always will, involve the respective roles played by the Speaker, and the other 149 of us. Without sufficient power in the Speaker, anarchy would result. With too much power, corruption will inevitably come to the fore. The people should not have to wait for a Frank Sharp or a Watergate to cleanse the body politic.

If we have enough courage to stand up and say "not one step back" to whomever is elected Speaker, we will do no less than we should. Henry Kissinger said, "Power is the greatest aphrodisiac." Theodore White has been inspired by "The romantic glow of men who are transfixed by their participation in power." It is an easy step from these breathless incantations to the immortal words of Vince Lombardi on a poster at the headquarters of the committee to reelect the president, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing."

Let us recognize in both candidates, as in all who seek this office in the future, a desire to win, to exercise power. Power can satisfy ego needs, open many kinds of doors or achieve the public good.

What is important is that we recognize that the baser passions exist in all of us. The Speaker who got into trouble was not evil; he just yielded to temptation. If we really care about this state, and its people, we will subordinate our ambitions if necessary, stand up to the Speaker to be elected if we must. This House can't belong to Carl Parker or Billy Clayton and to the people as well. And the people have no one, on the House side, to speak for them but us. Think about it; just think about it.

The Secretary of State then asked if there were further nominations for the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 64th Legislature.

There being none, the Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Chris Semos of Dallas County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Bill Clayton, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, members of the House of Representatives, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I rise to second the nomination of Bill Clayton for the office of Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. He is a member of the House who for 12 years has stood tall in leadership, in fairness, for his long hours of work in this capitol, and for his openness in dealing with his fellow-members and in serving his constituents. He will be a Speaker who can and will work with all members of this House.

As you know, he is a member who already has the public endorsement of a very broad spectrum of this House. He has the support of liberals and conservatives, of republicans and democrats, of both male and female members, of those from the urban areas and the rural plains, black, white, and Mexican-Americans. He has this broad

base support because we know he will deal with all of us openly and fairly.

Much has been said concerning Billy Clayton's fairness. This trait has been proven by his outstanding service to the people of his district and the citizens of Texas during his 12 years in this House of Representatives. One is known as fair by his deeds and in the way he lives and works. I have known Bill Clayton for eight years. When I arrived in Austin in 1967, my first major committee assignment was the Committee on Counties, whose chairman that year was Bill Clayton. I was impressed with the open-mindedness and great fairness exemplified by the chairman of that committee. He was patient with those of us who were new; he was helpful with those of us who needed his assistance; and above all, he was conscientious in his responsibilities toward all Texans. When, in 1967, we in Dallas sought assistance with the passage of a bill allowing the construction of the Kennedy Memorial Plaza, including a parking facility, and I as a freshman member was sponsor of this legislation, the chairman of the Counties Committee, Billy Clayton, supported me, and the other members of our delegation in its passage. He has worked endless hours with the members from many urban areas in achieving passage of the permissive legislation needed in these growing areas. He understands the problems of our metropolitan centers as well as he knows the problems of the rural areas of Texas. Bill Clayton will be fair to the needs of all sections of this state. His political philosophy boils down to wanting to do what is right--and getting it done. This asset has made him a friend to all Texans.

I believe in the principle that one can always deal with the truth. We can deal with Billy Clayton.

It is for these reasons, Mr. Secretary of State, and my fellow members, that I am proud and honored to second the nomination of Billy Clayton for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Anthony Hall of Harris County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Carl Parker, speaking as follows:

Fellow members and chamber guests:

It is with a great deal of pride that I stand before you today to second the nomination of the Honorable Carl Parker for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

For twelve years, Carl Parker has served the people of Texas as a member of the House of Representatives. I have had the privilege of serving with him for two of those years. Carl Parker's record in the House has proven his interest in and support of legislation and issues which are commonly termed "people-oriented." He has been the leader in many struggles on the floor of this chamber and in the committee rooms in this building to provide a better way of life for all Texans.

Representative Carl Parker was instrumental in passing the first increase in workmen's compensation in this state in 20 years. He sponsored the consumer protection bill in the 63rd Legislative Session. Carl Parker has been a champion of the Equal Rights Amendment, increases in the state minimum wage, increases in retirement benefits for state employees, homestead exemptions for senior citizens, and the list goes on and on. This hall has been graced by the presence of few persons who can say that they have done more for the average Texan than Carl Parker.

The 64th Session of the Texas Legislature holds the promise of being one of the most significant in the history of our state. The people of Texas have given the members of this body an awesome responsibility. The task before us requires the kind of leadership that will insure that the interests of all Texans are treated with equality and fairness.

When you cast your vote today for the person you wish to be Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, you are casting a vote on behalf of the finest group of people in this land--the people of Texas. The people who elected you have placed the

responsibility for making this decision in your hands. Ultimately, this decision is a question of judgment. Ultimately, your conscience will tell you whether or not you made the best decision based on your best judgment.

I have heard it said by some that a person's legislative record is unimportant and does not matter. I would suggest to you that for a member of the legislature, it is the most important factor in making the decision we must make today. We who are incidentally members of the minority community have had long experience with those who say they are with us, but whose words eventually have no meaning. Carl Parker's record as a member of the legislature indicates indisputably that he is with us. Carl Parker's record has proven himself to me.

The man whose nomination I second today is not a perfect man. He, like all of us, has his faults. Unfortunately, Carl Parker has been victimized by rumor and innuendo. But no one has ever been able to prove to me that Carl Parker is any other than a decent guy who has already made his mark on the history books of this state as a champion of human rights and dignity. I hope that the members of this body do not cast their votes today on the basis of rumors and innuendos but on the basis of the past accomplishments of the nominee of their choice.

I respect Carl Parker, and I admire him. I feel that he can provide the kind of leadership the task before us demands. It is with pride and a deep sense of gratitude for his past accomplishments that I second the nomination of Carl Parker for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Kay Bailey of Harris County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Bill Clayton, speaking as follows:

Bill Clayton is a democrat from Springlake, a town in West Texas with a population of 209. I am a republican from Houston, a sprawling metropolis in East Texas with a population of two million--and it is with full confidence and great enthusiasm that I rise on his behalf.

I know personally that he has worked hard in past sessions to solve urban problems.

Bill Clayton has made the effort in this last year to visit every member of this House in his own hometown. When he was invited to our districts, he came. This personal interest in each one of us, from all parts of Texas, of all political philosophies and from both political parties, is indicative of the kind of Speaker this man will be.

Not enough has been said about experience, but it is one of the strongest reasons this man is best for the job. In his tenure in the House he has served on 17 different committees, working as chairman or vice-chairman of 7. So, he knows the problems and duties of most committees from first-hand experience.

As one of the seven women in the House, I know we can deal fairly with Bill Clayton. All members can. He is an honorable, compassionate, and levelheaded individual who cares about people at a time when these characteristics are in the greatest demand.

He will not be a partisan Speaker, nor will he be a regional Speaker.

Finally, it is most important to all of us that the person we elect to lead us is strong enough to do what is best for this state, not only for the present, but for the future. That will be especially difficult this session, but Bill Clayton has the strength to make the tough decisions.

It is for all these reasons that I second the nomination of the Honorable Bill Clayton for Speaker of the House of Representatives this 64th Legislative Session. Thank you.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable John Bigham of Bell County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Carl Parker, speaking as

follows:

Mr. Chairman, the Honorable Mark White, Secretary of State, distinguished and honorable guests, members of the 64th Session of the Texas Legislature:

It is an honor and a privilege (one which I requested) to close the seconding speeches to the nomination of Representative Carl Parker as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 64th Legislature.

It seems a lifetime ago that I sat and watched from the gallery, as a nonoffice holding citizen, the legislature at work. In reality, it was only eight years ago. Some of the leaders have changed since then. Some of the players, too, but some are still among us.

Carl Parker was in his second term then. He was already a recognized leader. His ready wit, his oratorical skills, and his ability to think on his feet when the debate was hot, when the going was rough, made him sought after to carry, to aid, or to defeat passage of legislation, on the behalf of the people of the State of Texas.

Carl Parker in particular has sponsored and supported legislation to aid the senior citizens of this state. Year after legislative year he has seen the needs of our senior citizens and worked to assist them.

Carl Parker in particular has always been found on the side of the children of this state, be it educational, public assistance, or judicial protection. Business people, consumers, environmentalists, educators, farmers, ranchers, the working men and women of this state all have cause to support and seek your support for the choice of Representative Carl Parker as Speaker, because he has championed and led legislative battle both on the floor in debate and behind the scenes in committee caucuses in their interest.

The people of this state have never found Carl Parker to be a shirker or afraid to rise to their defense when their rights as citizens and tax payers of this state were in jeopardy.

Time and time again Carl has been the leading force as well as the power behind the scenes, working to move this state of Texas forward, moving it into the areas of need, working to provide answers for today's and tomorrow's problems.

Last, but far from least, Carl Parker has been a member's member. He has always been the first to assist a fellow member where his political life blood or legislation which was imperative to his district was in need of Carl's help.

Without Carl Parker many of the reforms which were passed by the last legislative session would not have been brought to fruition. The reforms which saw this legislative body, for the first time in many years, pass or defeat legislation on its merit or lack of merit. A legislative reform-minded session that opened state government and sought to make it more responsive to the needs of the grass roots people of this state.

For these and more reasons, I am proud to second and support the nomination of Representative Carl Parker of Jefferson County as candidate for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, 64th Legislative Session.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable G. J. Sutton of Bexar County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Bill Clayton, speaking as follows:

We Texans, whether our skin is white, black, or brown, and our futures are intertwined inescapably. We are faced with great questions of public policy which test not only our sincerity but our intelligence and we can not turn away hoping somehow that they will fade away.

But what of the man who should be Speaker of this House? Do the times demand an ideologue, an inflexible, strident man, one whose rhetoric outstrips his ability to accomplish, one whose ambitions are poorly disguised, and one who attempts to be all things to all people? The answer is no.

We must have a Speaker who understands fully the nature of this system of advocacy and who will listen to often opposing views and yet be able to move forward on the course of action which is in the best interest of all Texans. That man is Bill Clayton.

We must end the bitter and self-defeating battle between so-called liberalism and conservatism--terms which are meaningless to most Texans. There are not now, nor have there ever been "absolutes"; and those who persist in believing that because they wear a "label" they have been given a fool-proof vision of right and wrong, are deluding themselves.

We must devote our minds and total energies to the great tasks which lie ahead in the next one hundred and forty days with vision and commitment to hard work. Bill Clayton has made such a commitment.

No man can emerge from the race for the speakership without a certain toughness and political pragmatism; so it is with Bill Clayton. He has not emerged a weak man and he has not emerged as a political novice. He has been subjected to all the political pressures imaginable and the fire of partisanship. I believe he has stood the test unmarred and uncompromised.

I second the nomination of Bill Clayton because he has recognized the need to consider many and varied views and because he understands the limits as well as the powers of the speakership.

And so, let us join today to begin the tedious affairs which lie ahead, let us move beyond easy rhetoric and let us set aside the narrowness of "labels" lest we become prisoners of those very same labels.

Today, I second the nomination of a great Texan and an able leader, Bill Clayton, the distinguished representative from Springlake.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Felix McDonald of Hidalgo County, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Bill Clayton, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, fellow members of the House of Representatives:

In spite of all the sacrifices in time and money that a member of the Legislature makes, in spite of thankless efforts, long hours and many miles travelled at one's own expense between Austin and home, and in spite of unjustified and unreasonable criticisms received at the hands of a seemingly never satisfied constituency--the one redeeming feature of it all and the thing that makes legislative service worthwhile is the opportunity to work with and to become friends with some mighty fine people.

It's more than 750 miles from Hidalgo County to Lamb County, but in spite of the distance, during my ten years of service in the House of Representatives, there has grown a common bond of friendship and respect between a cotton farmer from the Panhandle and a country lawyer from the Lower Rio Grande Valley--between the high plains bordering on New Mexico and the mesquite and cactus country bordering on old Mexico.

My colleague, whose nomination as Speaker I am honored to second, over the years has proven to be more than just a friend. He has proven himself to have the ability to be a modest and gracious winner, as well as a good loser; one who has and will lend an understanding ear to the problems, hopes, and aspirations of the people of South Texas, although they may be far different, in many cases, from the problems, hopes, and aspirations of the people of his area; one who will give you an even break and fair consideration in whatever you seriously set out to do on behalf of your people, whether urban or rural, rich or poor, black or white, anglo or mexicano, liberal or conservative, and above all, a man of his word, a man one can trust, whose only ambition in seeking this high office is to better serve all of the people of Texas.

Mr. Secretary, I am honored to have the opportunity to second the nomination, as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 64th Legislature of the State of

Texas, of my good friend and our distinguished colleague from Springlake, the Honorable Bill Clayton.

HSR 3--ADOPTED

Mr. Von Dohlen offered the following resolution:

HSR 3

WHEREAS, The presiding officer or Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas is elected at the earliest possible time following the convening of each regular session, and it is imperative that the conduct of this essential business proceed without delay in order that this official may be elected and qualified to assume his duties of office; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State cause to be distributed to the members ballots to be used in the election of the Speaker; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each member write thereon the name of the nominee for whom he votes and sign the ballot; 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 after all ballots have been cast, the reading clerk shall call from each ballot the name of the member whose signature appears on the ballot and the nominee for whom he voted and shall record the vote with the assistance of the chief clerk; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State shall announce the results of the election; and if one nominee has received a majority of the votes cast, the Secretary of State shall declare him to be elected to the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives; but if no nominee has received such a majority, the two nominees receiving the largest number of votes in the first ballot shall be in a runoff election and the procedure shall be repeated a second time with votes being cast for one of the two nominees, the member receiving the highest vote being declared to be elected; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all votes taken shall be record votes and entered in the House Journal.

The resolution was read and was adopted.

VOTES RECORDED

Representatives Nichols and Watson requested to be recorded as voting no on the adoption of HSR 3.

The Secretary of State announced the appointment of the following tellers to count the votes: Representatives Short, Washington, G. Jones, Whitmire, Harris, Brown, Gaston, and Rucker.

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 HSR 3, previously adopted by the House.

The roll of the House was called in alphabetical order and votes were cast, as follows:

For the Honorable Bill Clayton — 112

Adams	Donaldson	Jones, L.	Reyes
Agnich	Dramberger	Kaster	Reynolds
Allen	Earle	Korioth	Ribak
Allred	Evans	Laney	Rucker
Atkinson	Ezzell	Lary	Schieffer
Bailey	Finney	Leland	Semos
Barrientos	Florence	Lewis	Sherman
Bird	Fox	McAlister	Short
Blake	Garcia, A.	McBee	Simpson
Bock	Gaston	McDonald, F.	Slack
Boone	Geiger	McDonald, T.	Smith
Brown	Grant	Madla	Spurlock
Bryant	Green, F.	Maloney	Stubbeman
Bynum	Green, R.	Mankins	Sullivant
Canales	Hale	Martin	Sutton
Caraway	Hall, W.	Massey	Tanner
Cartledge	Hanna	Mayes	Tarbox
Cartwright	Hartung	Miller	Thompson
Cates	Head	Montoya	Uher
Chavez	Heatly	Munson	Vaughan
Clark, B.	Henderson	Nabers	Von Dohlen
Clayton	Hendricks	Newton	Washington
Close	Hilliard	Nowlin	Whitehead
Coody	Hoestenbach	Nugent	Whitmire
Craddick	Hollowell	Olson	Wieting
Davis	Hubenak	Pentony	Willis
Delco	Hutchison	Presnal	Wilson
Denton	Johnson	Rains	Wyatt

For the Honorable Carl Parker — 33

Baker	Hall, A.	Moreno	Slay
Bigham	Harris	O'Kelley	Temple
Caldwell	Hernandez	Parker, C.	Torres
Clark, J.	Hudson	Peveto	Truan
Coleman	Jones, G.	Powers	Vale
Denson	Kubiak	Preston	Waters
Edwards	Lauhoff	Ragsdale	Watson
Garcia, M.	Mattox	Salem	Weddington
Gilley			

Present — Not Voting

Blythe	Nichols	Vick
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Absent-Excused

Parker, W.

The votes being cast and counted, the temporary chief clerk certified the following result:

The Honorable Bill Clayton received 112 votes.

The Honorable Carl Parker received 33 votes.

Present-Not Voting 3.

The Honorable Mark White, Secretary of State of the State of Texas, then declared the Honorable Bill Clayton of Lamb County to be the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 64th Legislature of the State of Texas.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The Secretary of State announced the appointment of the following committee to escort the Honorable Bill Clayton to the Speaker's rostrum for the purpose of taking the constitutional oath of office as Speaker: Representatives Whitehead, Thompson, Miller, Close, Atkinson, Tarbox, Hilliard, Cartlidge, Uher, Fox, R. Green, Mankins, Wyatt, Munson, Laney, Mayes, Geiger, Leland, McBee, and Chavez.

OATH OF OFFICE TAKEN BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable Bill Clayton of Lamb County, having been escorted to the Speaker's rostrum, took the constitutional oath of office as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 64th Legislature of the State of Texas, which was administered by the Honorable Pat Boone, District Judge of Lamb County.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable D. R. "Tom" Uher of Matagorda County, who introduced to the House the following members of the family and platform guests of the Honorable Bill Clayton: Mrs. Bill Clayton; Mrs. Myrtle Clayton, the Speaker's mother; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kelley, sister and brother-in-law of the Speaker; Miss Anita Kelley and Mrs. Donita Clark, nieces of the Speaker; Mr. Don Clayton, brother of the Speaker; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dennis, sister-in-law and brother-in-law of the Speaker; the Reverend Glen Smith, pastor, First Baptist Church, Springlake; and District Judge Pat Boone of Lamb County.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER BILL CLAYTON

The Secretary of State introduced the Honorable James E. "Pete" Laney of Hale County who addressed the House, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, ladies and gentlemen of the House, distinguished guests:

It is always a privilege and an honor to be able to present a new Speaker of the House. It is a particular pleasure for me to present to you a man who is the very spirit of what must be the hallmark of this 64th Legislative Session. And that spirit is teamwork.

Bill Clayton has pledged to have as his goal the betterment of Texas as a whole. Under his leadership, we all can share the satisfaction of working as a part of an all-Texas team to reach that goal.

And teamwork must be the goal of this session. We must rise above the differences that for a short time have been magnified by the political process and get on with the real work before us.

Knowing the years of service he has given this state, we can welcome our new Speaker with unshakable confidence in his ability, character, and capacity for leadership.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the citizens of the 74th District for having the wisdom to send our distinguished colleague to us for the past 12 years to help carry out,

and now again to lead in carrying out, the increasingly complex duties of state government.

And the real winner this day is not just Bill Clayton but the people of Texas.

I take great pride and pleasure in presenting to you the Speaker of the Texas House for the 64th Session, the Honorable Bill Clayton.

Speaker Clayton then addressed the House, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, Judge Boone, fellow members of the House, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is with a sense of profound gratitude and deep humility that I stand here before you. Being chosen Speaker by my peers in this House is perhaps one of the greatest moments of my life. It has been a long, hard race, and believe me, I'm glad it is over. I gained a lot of experience from this venture and have been impressed by the fact that people are concerned about the future of our government.

One of our great political leaders, Franklin D. Roosevelt, once said, "The future lies with those wise political leaders who realize that the public is interested more in good government than in just politics."

Perhaps as never before in our legislative history, we, as members of this House, have an opportunity and a duty to prove ourselves as providers of good government.

From the smallest local board to the highest national officer, we face unprecedented dilemmas--scandals, hints of scandals, charges, countercharges. All have caused the most severe case of apathy among our citizens. As we approach our nation's 200th birthday, many are losing faith in our system.

At such times it is perhaps wise to draw upon the strength of our founding fathers--the great desire they had to see this country build herself into the greatest of all nations.

It was Jefferson who offered our infant nation the ideals of faith: faith in progress, faith in reason, faith in education, faith in the concept of government as the servant rather than the master of the individual, and most of all, the unbounded faith in America's future.

This legislative body, a part of that belief, has a duty to renew that spirit of Jefferson. We must not forget that we are elected by the people--to work for the people. Their cause is our cause. President Lincoln put it another way when he wrote: "The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people what they cannot do for themselves."

However, to do this job, it takes the active involvement of the people. We must encourage their involvement. We need participation from every part of our economy and from every part of our society.

Within that participation, even within our own body, we must realize we have a common goal for this state. We are all Texans, whether we are poor, rich, black, white, chicano, man, or woman. To function, we must respect varying backgrounds among us.

It is with this spirit, this faith, that we, the legislators of this 64th Legislative Session, must meet the challenges of today head on. The news media has predicted this session to be "one of the toughest legislative sessions in history."

They list a number of problems that we must face, such as school finance, property tax reform, and energy conservation. We also have a large surplus to zealously guard.

As we read in the eleventh chapter of Proverbs, "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight." I believe this is what Texans want from their state government. With a surplus in the treasury, we will be called upon to exemplify this attitude. We must weigh the priorities and then exercise prudence in handling the taxpayer's dollar.

I am optimistic we can meet this challenge. However, we cannot fool around till the waning moments of the session to act decisively. It is said "man is known by the enemies he makes." Let us then make enemies of waste, duplication, apathy, and cynicism in government.

As your Speaker, I will dedicate all the time and effort needed to do my part of the job. There has been much speculation about the problems Bill Clayton will have in holding this House together: speculation that we'll return to the days when decisions were made behind closed doors in smoke-filled rooms; speculations that I will be insensitive to the needs of urban areas; speculation that there will be division among our state officials.

But I stand before you today to say the days of iron-hand rule are gone. The public won't stand for it, the members won't stand for it, and most of all I won't stand for it.

If our democratic system is to work, it must be achieved through public forum and debate. And I want to stress that my door is open to you, to the media, and to the people. I am hopeful that you will call on me in the days ahead, that we might be able to work together for the betterment of all Texans.

We can no longer afford to divide ourselves into urban and rural factions. The problems we face affect all Texans. I may be a "country boy," but I pledge to you that I will try to do what is best for all Texans, both rural and urban.

Obviously, I will not turn my back on the district I represent, but neither will I turn a deaf ear to the problems facing Texas.

I will work with Governor Briscoe and Lieutenant Governor Hobby and other state officials to obtain the best government possible. Too often in recent political history, there have been bitterness and division among our top state officials because of personalities or politics. There should be no reason for personal feuding and fighting when the public's business is at hand.

Perhaps my remarks today are not exactly what you expected from a newly-elected Speaker. I realize I have not put forth any "platform" nor have I offered any solutions to the many problems ahead.

But, by expressing myself to the issue of confidence, hopefully I have struck at the very heart of what must be accomplished before other issues can be tackled and solved.

Recapturing the spirit of our founding fathers will not come easy. It will take work, dedication, and long hours. This, jointly, is our responsibility. I repeat those words so often spoken, yet so rarely put into action, "Let us work together." More eloquently put almost 200 years ago by the statesman Edmund Burke, "It is when a great nation is in great difficulty that minds must exalt themselves to the occasion."

This occasion calls for service, not red tape and bureaucracy; intelligent debate, not meaningless rhetoric; a conscience of the people, not public neglect. The people of this state sent us to do a job, and not to joke about it.

Let us begin to restore that confidence. Let's be heroes of today, not villains of tomorrow.

It is a challenge equal to none other. Even greater than that of our forefathers who tamed the frontiers, the problems of our complex society demand our every effort.

It's a big job ahead of us, but I am confident that working together we can accomplish the task. I think the late President Lyndon Johnson summed it up best when he said: "Faced with a task of such great dimension, we have no time for melancholy. We have work to do. The greatest work any generation has faced. Believing that, let's be on with our labors."