

JOURNAL
OF THE
House of Representatives
OF THE
REGULAR SESSION
OF THE
Sixty-seventh Legislature

OF THE
STATE OF TEXAS
BEGUN AND HELD AT
THE CITY OF AUSTIN
JANUARY 13, 1981



HR 11 - ADOPTED

The Chair laid before the House the following resolution:

By Semos:

HR 11

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, That the Secretary of State shall call for nominations from the floor for the election of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 67th 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 or her 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 or her 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 without objection.

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 67th Legislature of the State of Texas, and stated that nominations for Speaker are now in order.

The Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Hamp Atkinson who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 67th Legislature of the State of Texas the Honorable Bill Clayton of Lamb County, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, fellow members, honored guests:

It is my pleasure to stand before you today to place in nomination the name of an outstanding Texan for the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives.

My three terms in the legislature have been served under a Speaker whose ability, dedication, and fairness have been demonstrated time and time again. His leadership and experience have guided me and others through both tranquil and troublesome times. His service to the State of Texas is known to all.

For 18 years he has served the people of Texas as a member of the House. During those years, experience has shaped his knowledge to include every aspect of government.

He has long been an advocate of taxpayers receiving full value for each dollar spent. He is committed to trimming government while insisting on efficiency and quality in its programs and services.

His leadership has produced tax reform legislation, the sunset process, educational upgrading and funding of schools, and human service programs.

He is an able leader not only in his home state but also at the national level. He has served in national and regional legislative groups and been named chairman of several of these.

His being elected to three consecutive terms is evidence of his fairness as a presiding officer, evidence of his consideration for all political philosophies in meting out committee assignments, and evidence of his ability and willingness to transcend partisan politics as a controller of legislative policy.

We can all be proud of the leadership he has provided in the past; and, more importantly, we can depend on this leadership to meet the challenges of the coming session.

It is my great honor to place the name of Bill Clayton of Springlake in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 67th Session of the Texas Legislature.

The Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Ronald Coleman who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 67th Legislature of the State of Texas the Honorable John Bryant of Dallas County, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, I rise to place in nomination the name of the member who should be the next Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. That member is John Bryant. Born in Lake Jackson, Texas, John is the 33-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Bryant of that city. An Eagle Scout, student council leader, and rodeo contestant, he graduated from Brazosport Senior High School before enrolling at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He is a graduate of SMU and the SMU School of Law, where he met and married the former Janet Watts and they are today the parents of two children: Amy, 7, and John, Jr., 4. John is a practicing attorney in the general practice of law in the firm of Bryant and Beaty. He is also a businessman who was named one of the five Outstanding Young Texans in 1979 by the Texas Jaycees.

He was elected to the Legislature from Dallas in 1974 at the age of 26. He was twice named one of the Ten Best Legislators of Texas. His record is that of an outspoken, straightforward, independent legislator. He is a former board member of his local Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Pleasant Grove Rotary Club and the White Rock Methodist Church in Dallas.

But the issue I present here to you today is not one of personality. I submit to each and every one of you members assembled here that the vision for Texas is more important than either Bill Clayton or John Bryant. The issue is the future of this state and our chance to influence it. This could and should be the legislative session that finally gives the people of Texas the best public and higher educational system in the country. We should have the model system of fair taxation for every citizen. With a billion dollar surplus available to us, these goals are attainable.

We should and could be proud of these accomplishments, as could our children and grandchildren.

I am convinced that the people of Texas are watching us now to see if this is going to be another business-as-usual, go-along-to-get-along, special interest session. Who indeed comes first? The public interest or the private interest? John Bryant has campaigned for the office of Speaker for the last two years with the promise that things can be different. He believes that this should be a legislature for the people first in all respects.

We have all heard that Texas has much to be proud of, and indeed it does. But Texas also must admit her shortcomings and each of us who have served here must share in that humility.

Like John Bryant, we must be willing to face things as they are.

Texas ranks 49th among the states in the amount we pay our starving elderly for old age pensions.

Texas now stands 48th among all the states in its support for public libraries.

Texas ranks 48th in average acreage in state parks per person.

Texas is in 48th place in the nation in the allowance per month for a starving, neglected, dependent child, the Texas pittance being less than \$37.00 per child per month while the national average is over \$75.00 per month.

Texas ranks 33rd among the 50 states in the amount of compensation awarded to our public school teachers.

Texas now stands 40th among the states in public education expenditures per student in average daily attendance.

John Bryant is the only candidate for Speaker who has consistently supported issues which will take us away from these kinds of rankings and put Texas first.

We know what to expect from another business-as-usual session because most of us have been there before. John Bryant offers a new approach for this new decade.

Members, you may vote today for the victor, but you will not have voted for the winner unless you cast your vote for John Bryant. He and those of us who have supported him are convinced he represents the beliefs of the majority of the people of this great state.

It will not be enough to go back to your district and say, I voted this way because I had to. Someone, somewhere, will ask you, "What could have been?"

The Secretary of State then asked if there were further nominations for the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 67th Legislature.

There being none, the Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable W. N. Hall who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Bill Clayton, speaking as follows:

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

We are gathered here today on the threshold of a new decade in the history of Texas government, an era in which the membership of this duly summoned legislature will be faced with challenges which will undoubtedly require great decisions.

It is the fate of this generation of Texans to live with struggles we did not start, in a world we did not make. And while no state has ever faced such complex challenges, no state has ever been so ready to accept the burden and seize upon the opportunity for achievement.

I need not remind you that Speaker of the House of Representatives is the highest office within our power to confer and it carries the heaviest of responsibilities. We must select an individual among us who will ably, fairly, and honestly assume the reins of leadership required of the task at hand.

This legislative session will require a Speaker acquainted with public affairs, one acquainted with the present wants of the people and with the future demands and dreams of our citizens. Our success or failure will depend largely on the quality of leader we select for this important place of service.

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

And so, Mr. Secretary of State and ladies and gentlemen of this House, we have an opportunity here today to avail ourselves of the highest calibre of leadership, to avail ourselves of a man of character, a man of deep compassion and understanding, possessed of an acute sense of fairness and a demonstrated ability to get things done with efficiency and firmness of character. More importantly, we can avail ourselves of a leader with a firm grip on the realities of the present.

To you the voting members of this august body, I say without hesitation that we have the opportunity to call into service a proven public servant of high principles, an individual unafraid to assume duties which are above and beyond the call of a public servant, a man who has proven himself as a fair presiding officer, a leader among leaders, a person who will continue to impartially administer the affairs of the House of Representatives.

Cognizant of his extraordinary ability in being able to direct the deliberations of this historic body in the solution of the many challenges facing our state and knowing that he has the desire and the ability to serve Texas well, it is indeed a signal honor for me to second the nomination of the Honorable Bill Clayton for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Smith Gilley who seconded the nomination of the Honorable John Bryant, speaking as follows:

I am pleased to second the nomination of my friend and neighbor, Representative John Bryant for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

Those of us who have been privileged to serve with John Bryant in the Legislature and his working class constituents who have returned him to the House of Representatives five times by overwhelming margins know that John Bryant is a political moderate.

Those who have bothered to inspect the public record know that his commitment to fiscal conservatism has been demonstrated by more than lip service.

Those who have bothered to ascertain the facts recognize that John Bryant has dared to make doing the right thing, as opposed to the politically self-serving thing, his first priority.

He has dared to question what he thought wrong or contrary to the interest of the people of this state.

And John Bryant has dared to say no to the powerful special interest lobbyists when they have sought undue influence in the legislative process.

John Bryant has consistently had the courage to oppose the powerful when they have been wrong and the compassion to support the underrepresented when they have been right.

I honestly believe that, in your hearts, the majority of you understand, as the people of Texas surely do, that John Bryant can provide the kind of balanced, honest, and fair leadership of this House that both the members and the people need and deserve.

In contemplating my remarks in support of John Bryant's nomination for Speaker, I recalled several facts that I believe are worthy of your attention and consideration.

Remember, if you will, the 64th Legislature. John Bryant, almost alone, eloquently called upon his colleagues to address the problems that have so long prevented us from having a system of public education of the highest quality. Unfortunately, the 64th Legislature failed to act positively and responsibly. But, now we know that John Bryant was right.

Then there was the 65th Legislature. Once again, John Bryant asked this House to provide the necessities to make public education a model for all the states. Once again, the legislature failed to follow his advice, granting teachers only a 2.1 percent pay raise in a time of rising inflation. Once again, educational excellence was deferred. Now we all know that John Bryant was right.

When the Governor called the legislature into special session in 1978 ostensibly to provide tax relief to overburdened Texas taxpayers, John Bryant stood up again. He warned his colleagues and the people of Texas that the so-called "Tax Relief Amendment" as written, would not deliver tax relief to those who needed tax relief. He pointed out that both the amendment and the subsequent implementing legislation were shams. He argued rationally and reasonably that we were about to give tax relief not to the average homeowner and taxpayer, but, as it turned out, to the heirs of H. L. Hunt and huge farming, ranching, and timber operations owned by corporations and foreign nationals. Once again, the legislature paid too little attention to his commonsense observations. And now every taxpayer in Texas knows that John Bryant was right.

During the 66th Legislature, John Bryant pleaded that public education should be our first priority, not our last. His words still fell on largely deaf ears. Day after day, special interest lobby legislation came to this floor. Only on the 140th day, just as in the two previous sessions, did we see an education bill. Largely because of John Bryant's unrelenting efforts, we finally passed what was probably the best public

school finance and education bill in the state's history, even though it gave teachers only a 5.1 percent pay raise in another year of double digit inflation. Yet, it was legislation that still did not go far enough in terms of guaranteeing quality education to every Texas child. John Bryant told us so at the time. And now we know that, once again, John Bryant was right.

It would be foolish of us not to consider today that John Bryant was right in 1975, in 1977, in 1978, in 1979. He was right then and he is right today.

That is why I will proudly cast my vote for John Bryant and why I ask you to join with me in doing what we all know is right.

How long? How long must Texas wait? The time is right for John Bryant!

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Bob McFarland who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Bill Clayton, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, distinguished guests, colleagues, and fellow Texans:

It is my unique privilege to rise and second the historic nomination of Bill Clayton to an unprecedented 4th term as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

Bill Clayton is a Democrat from rural Lamb County with a population of approximately 18,000. I am a Republican from Tarrant County with a population in excess of 800,000; a part of the fastest-growing metropolitan area in the entire United States.

Yet, with the striking dissimilarities in our backgrounds and constituencies, I can proudly recommend, without hesitancy, my colleague, Bill Clayton, for nomination to what many properly denote as the most influential office of our great state.

Bill Clayton's prior leadership in this office has transcended the limited bounds of partisan politics and geographic differences. His leadership is characterized by a singleness of purpose that seeks only the best interests of our state's 14 million citizens, without regard to how such citizenry or their representatives are denominated or from whence they hail.

Far too often in a body politic such as ours, partisan politics produce only temporary solutions to pressing state problems. Bill Clayton's unique ability to mold partisan differences into permanent, workable solutions is true evidence of real statesmanship.

It is with this most able statesman, Bill Clayton, whose leadership transcends such differences, that I suggest we cast our lot to lead Texas into the decade of the 80's.

I recommend with confidence and pride our colleague from Springlake to reelection as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER - (continued)

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Gonzalo Barrientos who seconded the nomination of the Honorable John Bryant, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, honored guests, my colleagues:

I come before you to second the nomination of John Bryant for Speaker of the House of Representatives for the State of Texas. I come to you as an independent, a Democrat who is independent. I have been on the other side in the Speaker's race before. I have learned in my six years in the House of Representatives.

I bring to you a man who is 33 years old, young enough to have the energy to provide that leadership that Texas needs and deserves, old enough to have the experience and the wisdom that Texas needs and deserves. I have seen him communicate, really

communicate, with all kinds of people throughout this state, big business men and women, farmers who till the soil and provide us with our food, the Black people of this state, the Mexican-American people of this state, and every other sector of this state. He is sensitive to the needs of Texans. That is what we need today as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

What else is he for? You have read he is committed to limiting the Speakership to two terms only, not four, but two. Whether you are man or woman, whether you are young or old, my colleagues, whether you are Democrats or Republicans, you have seen that he has treated everyone fairly. He is committed to that, to preside with fairness. He is committed to working for legislative redistricting in 1981 which is fair to all citizens: to the minority Republican party, to the Black citizens of Texas, to the Mexican-Americans of Texas, to every other sector, to all of us as Americans in Texas. He is committed also to the rural areas, to the urban areas, and anything which will avoid gerrymandering. He is committed to reforming the House rules and to improving House efficiency by broadening representation on committees.

Why else am I here? I have seen after being on the other side of this particular issue, especially this last session when there were eighteen Mexican-American state representatives in our House of legislators here in Texas, not one single Mexican-American was selected to be a chairman of a committee. I would be just as concerned, my colleagues, if the Republicans, who now have twenty-three, I believe, in this body, had not gotten some representation as chairs of committees, or if Blacks, or if women. John Bryant will bring that fairness, equal treatment to everybody. I say that as representatives of the people of Texas we are here for everybody. For men, for women, for Mexican-Americans, for Blacks, for Republicans, for Democrats, for conservatives, for liberals, for every Texan, and that's what John Bryant brings to the House of Representatives as Speaker. Let it be said, hopefully, of all of us colleagues when we finally leave, that they can say the same thing about us that we can now say about John Bryant. That he is fair and that he is reasonable.

I thank you. I now second the nomination of John Bryant for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Wilhelmina Delco who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Bill Clayton, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, members of the 67th Legislature of the State of Texas, guests, friends, all:

This is an unprecedented time in the history of the State of Texas. It's unprecedented for a variety of reasons. We are now, if the census figures prove accurate, the third largest state in this union of states. Coming to our state are people from the north, from the midwest, from the west, and from the south for a variety of reasons and we here assembled, must address the unprecedented concerns that they have elected us to deal with during these critical 140 days.

This is an unprecedented time in the State of Texas from the perspective of the issues that we will be called upon to address. Many of those issues have been referred to by previous Speakers and I will not belabor that point.

All of those issues must be represented to this body by each of us from the perspective of the people who sent us here during this time. Those issues will include several that we have not faced before or, at least, some of us have not faced before. They will include the issues that we have addressed previously, whether from different perspectives or with different resources. We have an unprecedented wealth in our state. We have the resources if we will avail ourselves to use them for the benefit of all of our citizens here in Texas.

To this new era in the State of Texas, we must bring to the leadership position someone who is familiar with that process, someone who can deal with all of the aspects

of our citizenry, who has the confidence and respect of our citizenry, who will be open, who will be honest, who will be fair. This is what we require of a Speaker. Someone who will be open. Someone who will let the floor address the issues where each one of us will have an opportunity to say what we think is important for the people of our area. We need someone who is honest, who when that person gives his word, he sticks with that word. Someone who will say the same thing from the front and the back, from each side and each corner of this great state as well as the great heart of the state. We need someone who will be fair, who will give just as much voice to the newest member as to the most senior member. We have seen the distribution of leadership in this House shift. This is a political process and most of us recognize the validity of that process. I stand here to tell you that the leadership and the representation of this House has made every effort to reach out and be fair. These are unprecedented times. I have had the privilege of working in this House with its current leadership for three terms. We do not always agree nor would I expect to ever completely agree, not only with the leadership, but with any member on every issue, but I do expect to be treated openly and honestly and fairly for unprecedented times. I am very proud to second the nomination for an unprecedented fourth term a man who will openly, honestly, and fairly lead this state through these times, the Honorable Bill Clayton from Springlake.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Lloyd Criss who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Bill Clayton.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable John Bryant who addressed the House, speaking as follows:

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

It is with a great sense of gratitude and humility that I stand here and say "thank you" to those people who have supported me during the last eighteen months of campaigning for the Office of Speaker of the House. I do not think if I spend a lot of time trying to write it down or else trying to express extemporaneously how I feel, I could ever adequately express to you the sense of responsibility that one obtains when he becomes a standard-bearer for a large number of other people who are in public office who have dreams and who have aspirations and who have reforms they would like to see made in the legislature and in our system of government and entrust in you the responsibility to carry forward their standard. I want to say to those people that I will forever be in your debt. I want to thank my family who put up with my repeated absences and with a great deal of aggravation that only a person who is running for Speaker could ever explain, for the last eighteen months. I want to thank all of those people who supported me at any time along the way.

As you know, this race for Speaker had a number of changes in it as we went along. For a while there, I was running against Speaker Clayton and then for a while there, it looked like it was Tim Von Dohlen and Bennie Bock and Gib Lewis and me. You had to check from one day to the next to find out who the contestants were. I appreciate all those people who supported me at any time along the way and there were some folks who were on sometimes and some folks who were off some of the time. I appreciate the people who pledged the two or three people for putting me on your list at one point in there.

To have brought so many people so far and to stand here today with almost sure knowledge that I am not going to be elected Speaker is a very disappointing feeling and it gives rise to the suggestion that perhaps we ought to just stand aside and be silent and allow a nomination of the incumbent Speaker, allowing him to be reelected without making a statement, without putting the issue to a test. I think we have a much larger issue at stake here today than just who the Speaker is going to be. Whether it is going to be John Bryant or Billy Clayton or any of the other qualified individuals whom I

named earlier, that larger issue is how this House is going to be operated no matter who the Speaker is, whether we are going to have a House that is operated by the members of the House, with decisions made by the members of the House, or whether we are going to have a House that is dominated by, basically, a personality organization.

This contest has been between those who believe, as I do, that the most sacred thing about this House of Representatives is the independence of every individual member to pursue what he believes to be in the best interest of this state as vigorously as he chooses to pursue it as opposed to those who are threatened by a show of that independence. It has been a race between those who believe that the Office of the Speaker of the House is a procedural office, one designed to make it possible for us to express our independence as opposed to an office to which you and I forfeit our individual views and turn over our policymaking authority. The Speaker is not to be a policymaker, he is to be a procedural officer. This race has been between those who believe the Speaker should be a procedural officer and those who believe he ought to be making policy for each of us. I will say quite frankly, it has been a race between those of us who believe that the price of legislative achievement should not be a pledge card for one more term, for me, or for Billy Clayton, or for anybody; that the price of legislative achievement ought to be your individual ability to stand before this House and promote the legislation that you believe is in the best interest of the state.

I think what has characterized our side of this race for a year and a half has been our steadfast belief in a citizens legislature and our belief that a citizens legislature requires citizen leadership and not professional leadership; our belief in limited government and our belief that limited government implies limited tenure and limited power and that no office should hold unlimited power and unlimited tenure.

As we discuss the prospects for a fourth term, for a fifth term, for any individual for Speaker, and we examine the rules that will be presented to us for consideration and recognize that therein lie no reforms, no delivery of any power back to the individual members of the House, I think it must cause us to consider what the cost of that kind of a system is. You know, if you talk to the legislators one by one, you will get almost unanimous agreement on a number of things. I think that they will agree that that particular kind of a system takes away spontaneity, and takes away originality, and takes away the value of independent thinking and value of independent creativity on the part of a hundred and fifty members of the House, not just one. You talk to them one by one and ask them, "Did you think it was a good idea to give the teachers a 2.1 percent pay raise in 1977?" They will tell you, "No, it was not a good idea, I wish we had done it different, but we did not." You ask them if it was a good idea, a hundred legislators, if it was a good idea in 1979 to give the teachers a 5.1 percent pay raise in a year of about 15 percent inflation. They will all tell you, "No, it was not a good idea, but we did it." If you ask them if the Speaker's budget ought to be \$300,000 for payroll and ought to be somewhere in the neighborhood of five times as high as his predecessor, they will tell you, "Why, no, it should not be that way." And you ask them should the Speaker have a budget just like you and I do and they will say, "Why sure it ought to be that way, but he does not have a budget." We're going to consider the rules later this week. An amendment will be offered to require that the Speaker have a budget just like the rest of us. You will be asked to vote against that, instead, to be loyal. We will discuss the seniority system and suggest that perhaps when we exercise our seniority we ought to know what committees are available instead of just turning our request over to the Speaker to take into the back and make his decisions as he sees fit. Everybody will say, "Oh, that is a good idea, I would like to be able to make that choice in the open." But when that amendment is offered you will be asked to vote no and you will be asked to be loyal. I think the question today is, loyalty to what? Our obligation is loyalty to the public. Our obligation is loyalty to the idea that independent House members should be making policies on an independent basis right here in the Texas legislature, right out here in front, in committees and on the floor of the House.

I have a great sense of obligation to those people who supported me all this time and as I said when I first began, I intend to fulfill that obligation in the way that I think is best in their interests and best for the interests of this state. I recognize, as Mrs. Delco said, this is an unprecedented year, only every ten years do we redistrict at the time of the greatest possible political peril. As much as I regret to do so, I believe it is the consensus of those people whom I have met with, who follow me, that I do so. I believe perhaps in view of the perils at hand that it is in their best interest. You know I have never pulled an amendment off that desk that I thought ought to be on a bill. I have never backed down one time and I hate doing what I am going to do right now. I believe that it is in their best interests, recognizing that regardless of whether we put this Speaker's race to a vote or not, that Speaker Clayton would be the winner. And at this time, I offer to Speaker Clayton my very sincere congratulations on a most unusual and impressive victory, in spite of all odds, and withdraw my name from nomination. Thank you very much.

The Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Craig Washington who moved that the Honorable Bill Clayton be elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 67th Legislature of the State of Texas.

A record vote was requested.

The motion prevailed by:
Record No. 1 (Appendix, Jan. 13)

120 Yeas
21 Nays
8 Not Voting

The Honorable George W. Strake, Jr., 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 State of Texas of the 67th Legislature.

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 Rudd, Florence, Blanton, S. Thompson, Davis, G. Hill, Simpson, Messer, McBee, Geistweidt, Laney, Uher, Presnal, Bomer, and Danburg.

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 67th Legislature of the State of Texas, which was administered by the Honorable Joe Spurlock, District Judge of the 231st Judicial District, Tarrant County.

The Secretary of State then recognized the Honorable Jim Rudd who introduced Delma Clayton, wife of Speaker Clayton.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER BILL CLAYTON

The Secretary of State recognized the Honorable Buck Florence who introduced Speaker Clayton to the House, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, distinguished guests, fellow Texans, fellow members of the Texas House of Representatives, within this chamber for almost a hundred years we have watched Texas history progress forward. Today is another milestone in Texas history for an unprecedented thing has occurred today. Bill Clayton becomes the first individual in Texas history to be elected for a fourth term as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. Before I introduce the Speaker of the 67th Legislative Session, I want to make just two or three comments. In the process, I do not want to be resented, but I want to tell our guests here today why we members of the Texas House of Representatives selected Bill Clayton as our Speaker for a fourth term.

First, he is a cotton farmer from West Texas who has a lot of God-given common sense. He is a capitalist who believes in free enterprise and is a shining example of the American dream.

Secondly, he is a hardworking individual. You will see the lights burn late in his office. He is an individual who treats everybody fairly and is noted for his fairness.

And, lastly, I would like to comment that Billy Clayton is an honest individual. Most of us in this room realize that at a time within the past year the integrity and the honesty of Billy Clayton was questioned. You will also recall that a jury in Houston, Harris County, Texas, said of the Brilab charges that this West Texas cotton farmer was not guilty. There were also members of that jury panel who said that they would be happy, pleased, and honored to vote for Bill Clayton to any public office that he might ever wish to offer himself for.

Today, Bill Clayton has been given another great vote of confidence from the House members as he is elected Speaker for an unprecedented fourth term. It is my privilege at this time to present to you the Speaker of the 67th Legislature, the Honorable Billy Wayne Clayton of Lamb County, Texas. Thank you.

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER BILL CLAYTON

Speaker Clayton then addressed the House, speaking as follows:

I have stood three times before you in this spot, but the honor you bestow on me today is truly gratifying. Miraculous as it appears, let me assure you it carries with it a humbling effect, for only by God's grace could I be a participant in this special occasion.

Texas historians will probably note this significant occasion, but the true merits of our actions during this session will be reflected in the benefits to all Texans, both present and future. Personally, I find it incredible but certainly thrilling to be a part of such a historic first, as Texas' only four term Speaker. I hope the history books might one day say it was possible because of fairness and evenhandedness and because of the uncompromising belief that I have in the "Texas Way".

The Texas Way, that is the way in which one believes in his fellowman; the way one strives to do the best job that can be done; the way one works for the future of this great state; and the belief one holds in rights and justice for all citizens, no matter their station, their creed, their religion, or their politics.

I have spoken in this same manner to the last three legislatures. I have told each of them of the great challenges that lay ahead. Some things do not change. I can tell you that we, the members of the 67th Legislature, face even greater challenges. It is a fact of our society that Texas is a state so vital, so vibrant, and so on the move that its government is challenged every day and its lawmakers must seek every way to meet its needs.

Our role is to meet head-on the needs of our society and to build our state for future generations of Texans. To that end, I have dedicated myself and the office with which you have entrusted me to answering and solving problems that confront Texas. In past sessions we have concentrated on strengthening the laws relating to criminal

acts. We have helped provide tax relief to our citizens. We have helped provide a first-class public education system. We have encouraged the Sunset process for government. We have mediated innumerable disputes between opposing factions on issues that concern us all. These issues we must continue to work on.

In our own House, great effort has gone into modernization and streamlining of the processes that we use to transact our legislative business. The House has become cost-efficient, effective, and professional in its daily operations. We have written a record, with the help of many of you and many of your predecessors, of fiscal integrity, innovation, and performance unparalleled.

We will not retreat in any area where headway has been established. We will press forward in other areas where attention is needed and where our ever-changing society makes demands. Some of the proposals, to which I will lend my support and direction, will be an equitable reapportionment of the state population; saving tax dollars for our citizens, present and future; guarding against overregulation by government; orderly, planned water resource development; and guidance for conduct of employees and elected officials.

That is a tall order and there are no easy answers. There is no black and white but there is room for mediation and innovation. I like to think that those have been some of the trademarks of my tenure in this office. I plan no drastic change in direction nor do I plan to change my stance of fairness and openness to all. I pledge to you more than a 100 percent effort so what is accomplished will be for the benefit of you the members and for the greatness of Texas. Thank you.