

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

OF THE
STATE OF TEXAS
BEGUN AND HELD AT
THE CITY OF AUSTIN
JANUARY 11, 1983



and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State; and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm), that I have not directly nor indirectly paid, offered, or promised to pay, contributed, nor promised to contribute any money, or valuable thing, or promised any public office or employment, as a reward for the giving or withholding a vote at the election at which I was elected. So help me God.”

HR 14 - ADOPTED

The chair laid before the house the following resolution:

By Danburg and Collazo:

HR 14

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 68th Legislature of the State of Texas, That pending the election of the speaker, all persons other than members of the legislature, members of their families, temporary officers, and approved press representatives be barred from the floor of the house of representatives inside the rail.

The resolution was read and was adopted without objection.

HR 13 - ADOPTED

The chair laid before the house the following resolution:

By B. Gibson and Cain:

HR 13

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 9, of the Texas Constitution requires that the house of representatives elect a speaker of the house from its own membership; now, therefore, 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 68th Legislature and shall 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 five seconding speeches, none to exceed three 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 all votes taken for election of speaker shall be record votes and entered in the House Journal; 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 or her 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 or the other of the two nominees, the member receiving the higher vote being declared elected; 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.

HOUSE NOTIFIED

A committee from the senate was announced at the door of the house and, being admitted, notified the house that the senate is organized and ready to transact business.

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 68th Legislature of the State of Texas, and stated that nominations for speaker are now in order.

The secretary of state recognized the Honorable Charles Evans who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 68th Legislature of the State of Texas the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis of Tarrant County, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, honored guests, fellow members of the Texas House of Representatives, ladies and gentlemen: I rise at this hour to tell you that it is a great privilege for me today, to place into nomination for speaker, a man that I have known personally for over 20 years.

He has long been recognized for his leadership capabilities. During the 6 terms he has been a member of the house he has been chosen and has served in a leadership capacity for 10 of those 12 years. He has been chosen Outstanding Legislator of the Year and recently was recognized as the Best Committee Chairman in the House.

He has long been involved in nationwide organizations concerned with upgrading state legislatures and solving problems of state government. People in the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, and the National Legislative Council know and recognize his abilities. He presently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. He is truly in the forefront of state legislative matters today. This element is indispensable if Texas is to retain its front-runner position in the state governments of our nation.

Being born in Oletha, Texas, and raised in the East Texas town of Mexia, gave this man the characteristics that so many men strive for and so few ever develop. These qualities were inbred as a result of his roots, and his intense desire to make this a better Texas. He uses his energies and capacities to bring all people together. He is a man that through tenacity and hard work has attained goals that most people long ago would have given up on.

I have practically lived with this man for the past three years and have seen him placed in almost every situation imaginable. His critics are appalled when he does not react to their criticisms. His praisers are confused when he does not respond to their praises. He is a man who is in control at all times. He will have a dogmatic, soothing effect as presiding officer of the house of representatives. This characteristic is sorely needed in this next session of the legislature. He will be good for the people of the State of Texas.

He has always been conscious that the citizens of this state expect, and demand, a dollar's worth of services for each tax dollar spent. Yet he has always been compassionate for the people whom fate has cast into a role of needing someone to help with their problems.

This man is industrious. During this next session you will see him burning the midnight oil for the people of this state long after each of us are retired for the

evening. This is the posture he has taken in order to reach this goal. He believes that hard work is the beginning for a brighter Texas.

This man is fair and candid with all who come in his presence. You will not find him telling you one thing to your face and something else behind your back. He is an eternal optimist; negativism is not in his vocabulary. His endorsement by Democrats, Republicans, conservatives, liberals, men, and women of every ethnic background is evidence enough.

This man is at ease with whomever he is in the company of, whether it be chairman of the board of a large corporation or the lowest employee of the smallest company. I think more importantly, however, this man makes those people, regardless of their walk in life, feel at ease.

I hope you will join me in trying to make the efforts of this house one—a single, unified effort, an effort responsive to the people whose trust we carry today.

I know of few men more uniquely qualified to serve in the capacity of presiding officer of the house of representatives than the man whose name I submit for your consideration.

I proudly place in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 68th Legislative Session, my friend and your friend, the Honorable Gibson D. "Gib" Lewis from Tarrant County.

Thank you very much.

The secretary of state then asked if there were further nominations for the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 68th Legislature.

There being none, the secretary of state then recognized the Honorable Bob Simpson, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, my esteemed colleagues in the house of representatives, my fellow Texans whom we are honored to represent:

On this date, January 11th in the year 49 B.C., Julius Caesar and his army approached the River Rubicon on their way to war with Pompey and in crossing that river made their irrevocable commitment to their goals. For over 2,000 years, the phrase, "crossing the Rubicon" has symbolized a time of resolute dedication. It is appropriate as we embark on a new session of the Texas Legislature, that we the members of the house of representatives make our commitment to a course of action to goals and ideals which the people of Texas deserve and which the people of Texas expect. We could make no stronger commitment than by electing to our highest office one among us who exemplifies the highest ideals of legislative leadership; and that's why I'm very proud to second the nomination of Gib Lewis to the office of speaker of the house.

Integrity, I think, is the first and foremost quality which we must demand of any candidate for the office of speaker. Thomas Jefferson said that the whole of government consists of the art of being honest, and Gib Lewis is known as a man whose integrity, whose character, whose honesty is without question. The ability to provide leadership with strength and fairness is another quality essential to the speakership. Gib Lewis has been tested in the crucible of legislative leadership and chairmanship, and has proved his unmatched ability to be fair to all while assuring that the will of the majority will not be thwarted. And, finally, I suggest that it is important that we look for the instincts for excellence. Never before in the history of Texas have the problems which face this legislature been so complex. But never before have our opportunities been so abundant. We cannot be satisfied with superficial solutions. We must hammer out our problems as on an anvil with thorough preparation and we must temper our solutions with thorough deliberation. We must have a speaker who will demand and extract and accept no

less than the finest efforts of this house of representatives. These are some of the qualities which I believe make Gib Lewis eminently qualified to be our speaker. Let this election for speaker of the house of representatives constitute our Rubicon and let the election of Gib Lewis as speaker of the house of representatives constitute our commitment to the highest ideals of legislative leadership. Thank you very much.

The secretary of state then recognized the Honorable Senfronia Thompson, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary of State, Fellow Members, Honored Guests: it is my privilege to second the nomination of our next speaker of the house, the Honorable Gib Lewis.

In 12 years of legislative activism, Gib Lewis has compiled an outstanding record of substantive accomplishments. He has been instrumental in passing legislation to provide quality health care and training, to aid the mentally retarded, to protect our precious natural resources, and to enhance the quality of life in our cities. He has been one of the leaders of the house leadership. Always ready to listen, to serve, and to compromise, he has earned the respect of a broad cross-section of Texans. That is evident here today.

Hardworking. Effective. Fair. Efficient. Honorable. These are the adjectives used to describe our next speaker.

Gib Lewis has been recognized for his achievements by dozens of community organizations, political leaders, and businesses. I remember that Gib Lewis was serving just his second term when he was tapped by former Speaker Price Daniel, Jr., to serve as a committee chair. For three terms, he has served as chair of the prestigious Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, earning praise for running the most efficient committee in the legislature. His own colleagues selected him to chair the Tarrant County delegation for a number of years.

Texas Business magazine named him one of the 10 best legislators. The Texas Municipal League has honored him with the title of Outstanding Legislator of the Year. He has served as president or director of nearly a dozen civic organizations. His recent selection as Sportsman of the Year underscores his even-handed treatment of people and his concern for fairness.

I'd like a minute here to point out the significance of our vote today. Your votes today will elect an urban representative, attuned to the needs of city residents. Gib Lewis well knows that Texas is an urban state and that the needs of urban residents are at critical crossroads. He has represented an urban constituency for more than a decade in the legislature. Previous to that, he served on the Fort Worth City Council. He realizes that the cities of the 80's need aid for mass transit, for flood control, and for quality health care. His experience and his dedication will assure us that urban residents get a fair cut of the pie without the plague of fiscal irresponsibility.

Today, Gib Lewis begins his seventh term in office. I'm inclined to believe this is a lucky omen for us. I know that we are lucky to have a person of Gib Lewis' caliber stand for election as speaker. I hope you'll join me in giving Gib your full support.

The secretary of state then recognized the Honorable Froy Salinas, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis, speaking as follows:

Fellow colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, and honored guests:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I stand before you today to second the nomination of my good friend, Gib Lewis. I got acquainted with Gib by sitting next to him on the floor of the house. I got better acquainted with him by serving on his

committee last year. In that acquaintance, I'm convinced beyond any reasonable doubt that Gib Lewis is a fair man. That committee worked, and that committee heard bills that he personally opposed and that some of the membership opposed, but he gave every member of this body that had a bill in that committee, an opportunity to be heard. And to me, that's important in government. It is very important. Because we heard the bills, we didn't pass all of them, but they all got a hearing. And that's why I stand before you today seconding the next Speaker of the House, The Honorable Gibson Lewis, from Fort Worth, Texas.

The secretary of state then recognized the Honorable Lee Jackson, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, colleagues, Texans, the most important quality of a speaker is fairness. As a representative of Dallas County, I can assure you I wouldn't nominate a representative from Tarrant County, unless I knew he would be fair. And so I researched Gib Lewis' record as committee chairman and talked to the committee members and found that he has been one of the outstanding chairmen in recent legislatures. Fair, knowledgeable of the matters before his committee, able to give direction to the group in its responsibilities without oppressing individual initiative; and I think we recognize that these qualities are the exact things that we want in the office of speaker.

Sam Houston held just about every office that the State of Texas has to convey but he was never speaker of the house. He did, however, say something that I think applies to the office when he spoke about the responsibilities of an elected official. He said, "The veneration for public opinion by which I have measured every act of my official life has taught me to hold no delegated power which would not daily be renewed by my constituents, could the choice be daily submitted to a sensible expression of their will." Now, no one expects that we'll amend the rules of the house to provide that we retake this vote that we'll be taking today every day of our session, but I think that Gib Lewis knows that our support for him is based on our seeing in him someone who will retain our confidence and respect as well as he has earned it initially here today. And I think we have the confidence that he is that kind of person; and besides, it's time for Fort Worth to have its first speaker.

Yes, I did research the history of the Texas House earlier and went through the records and was reminded how proud Dallas has been of its five speakers from the renowned Nicholas Darnell in 1861, down to W. O. Reed in 1947, and found that, indeed, Gib Lewis is our first Tarrant County Speaker of the House. And I think that we in Dallas County join in saying that it's time for Fort Worth to have its due. After all, Fort Worth runs our baseball team; and we're confident that Gib Lewis can do a much better job directing the affairs of our Texas House of Representatives.

We all know this will be a difficult session, but it will only be made a productive one and a satisfying one to us as individual representatives with the kind of quality leadership that Gib Lewis can provide. Thank you very much.

The secretary of state then recognized the Honorable Mike Millsap, who seconded the nomination of the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis, speaking as follows:

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

In the long span of the history of Texas only 59 people have held the office of Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

We, today, have been chosen to elect the 60th.

I believe Gib Lewis is uniquely qualified to be this person.

When I first came to the house in 1977, Gib was chairman of the Tarrant County delegation and of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. His knowledge and leadership guided me through that first difficult session.

Since that time, I have come to know him better and respect him even more. Each member, I know, wants his presiding officer to possess qualities of integrity, fairness, intelligence, and a sense of duty.

Those who have known Gib Lewis very long have seen him demonstrate these traits many times, both in government, business, and private life.

Gib was born in a very small town in Limestone County. From rather humble origins he began to work his way up. After a tour in the Air Force in the late 50's, Gib decided to settle in Fort Worth. There he began to build his reputation and his business, brick by brick.

He became successful the old fashioned way; he earned it.

As a member of this house for 12 years, as a committee chairman since 1973, Gib has become known as a "Man you can count on."

For the last several years, I have had a unique vantage point travelling the state with Gib. What I've seen is a man committed to doing the right thing.

Perhaps no other trait so characterizes Gib Lewis as fairness and determination. He possesses an innate respect for the legislative process and the sovereignty of each member.

Gib Lewis has a special love for the land—a unique compassion for the people and an abiding optimism toward our future.

This chamber has not seen a speaker from an urban area since W.O. Reed of Dallas the year before I was born in 1947. And while we are proud and fortunate Gib Lewis hails from Tarrant County, let the word go out that Gib Lewis is first and foremost a TEXAN.

That is why, Mr. Secretary, it is my great honor to second the nomination of my friend and colleague, Gib Lewis, to be the next Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

The secretary of state recognized the Honorable Mike Millsap, who moved that the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis be elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 68th Legislature of the State of Texas.

A record vote was requested.

The motion prevailed by (Record 1): 144 Yeas, 2 Nays, 2 Present, not voting.

Yeas — Agnich; Armbrister; Arnold; Barrientos; Barton, B.; Barton, E.; Berlanga; Blanton; Bomer; Buchanan; Burnett; Bush; Cain; Carriker; Cary; Cavazos; Ceverha; Clark; Clemons; Colbert; Collazo; Connelly; Coody; Craddick; Criss; Crockett; Danburg; Davis; DeLay; Delco; Denton; Eckels; Edwards; Eikenburg; Emmett; English; Evans, C.; Evans, L.; Finnell; Gamez; Gandy; Garcia, M.; Garcia, T.; Gavin; Geistweidt; Gibson, B.; Gibson, J.; Gilley; Glossbrenner; Granoff; Green; Grisham; Hackney; Haley; Hall, B.; Hall, L.; Hall, T.; Hammond; Hanna; Harrison, B.; Harrison, D.; Heflin; Hernandez; Hightower; Hilbert; Hill, A.; Hill, G.; Hill, P.; Hinojosa; Hollowell; Horn; Hudson, D.; Hudson, S.; Hury; Jackson; Jones; Keller; Kemp; Khoury; Kubiak; Kuempel; Laney; Lee, D.; Leonard; Luna; McKenna; McWilliams; Madla; Mankins; Martinez, R.; Martinez, W.; Messer; Millsap; Moreno, A.; Oliveira; Oliver; Parker; Patrick; Patronella; Patterson; Pennington; Peveto; Pierce; Polk; Polumbo; Presnal; Price; Ragsdale; Robinson; Robnett; Rudd; Russell; Salinas; Saunders; Schlueter; Schoolcraft; Shaw; Shea; Short; Simpson; Smith, A.; Smith, T.; Staniswalis; Stiles; Sutton; Tejada; Thompson, G.; Thompson, S.; Toomey; Tow; Turner; Uher; Valles; Vowell; Waldrop; Wallace; Watson; Whaley; Wieting; Willis; Wilson; Wolens; Word; Wright.

Nays — Fox; Smith, C.

Present, not voting — Lewis; Moreno, P.

Absent, Excused — Rangel.

Absent — Lee, E. F.

The Honorable David Dean, Secretary of State of the State of Texas, then declared the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis of Tarrant County to be the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas of the 68th Legislature.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The secretary of state announced the appointment of the following committee to escort the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis to the speaker's rostrum for the purpose of taking the constitutional oath of office as speaker: Representatives English, chairman; Coody, Willis, Evans, McKenna, Cary, Millsap, Leonard, L. Hall, and B. Gibson.

Speaker-elect Lewis and his party were escorted to the speaker's rostrum.

OATH OF OFFICE TAKEN BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable Gibson D. Lewis of Tarrant County, having been escorted to the speaker's rostrum, took the constitutional oath of office as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 68th Legislature of the State of Texas, which was administered by the Honorable Joe Spurlock II, Judge, 231st District Court, Fort Worth, Texas.

The secretary of state then recognized Representative Polk, who introduced Sandra Lewis, wife of Speaker Lewis.

INTRODUCTION OF PLATFORM GUESTS

The secretary of state then recognized the Honorable Lanny Hall who introduced members of Speaker Lewis' family present on the speaker's rostrum: Cammie Lewis Morvan, Cole Morvan, Cathy Lewis, Mrs. Marie Croft, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Al Majors, Mrs. Dorothy Merritt, Mr. Warner Croft.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER LEWIS

The secretary of state recognized the Honorable W. N. Hall, who introduced Speaker Lewis to the house, speaking as follows:

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

At any one time it would be a rare privilege to introduce to the house of representatives its newly elected speaker.

But today, more so, for I have been privileged to know our new speaker for many years prior to our arrival on the legislative scene.

We, the members of the 68th Legislature of Texas, have called into service today a most capable and talented Texan.

I assure you that our new speaker has sought greater responsibility so that he might give greater service. His ambition in legislative service is one born of love rather than vanity.

Our new speaker decided long ago that Aristotle was right when he said that politics was the highest calling. He strongly believes in the theory that "good people must enter public service or be ruled by others less qualified."

I am confident that our new speaker will continue to bring fairness, openness, and honesty to the all-important deliberations of this house. We can light our candles from his torch.

All of us come to this session with many ideas, with high hopes, and above all with dreams in a quest for excellence.

We are fortunate that we represent a people proud of a unique history, a people eager to write another exciting chapter in the history of Texas.

Our journey begins here—a journey to bring better government and better services to all Texans—whether it be the schoolchildren of Texas, its working people, or its elderly.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together will be progress; and working together will assure success.

We, as members of the Texas House of Representatives, must never fail to realize that we are free to dream what we dare to dream, but more importantly for the future of Texas, we must dream of things that never were and must ask why not.

In designating Gib Lewis as our next speaker, we have chosen a man in whom we can place every confidence—a man who will help us fulfill our dreams, our hopes, and our aspirations—a man who will help us go forth to lead the state we so dearly love.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, it gives me the greatest of pleasure to present to you your speaker—our speaker—the Honorable Gibson (Gib) Lewis.

Mr. Speaker

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER LEWIS

Speaker Lewis then addressed the house, speaking as follows:

Mr. Secretary, Judge Spurlock, Distinguished Former Members, Honored Guests, My Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today, you have honored me with election as your Speaker and presiding officer of the House of Representatives of the 68th Legislature.

But, more than that, you have placed upon me an awesome responsibility—a tremendous challenge—an unequaled opportunity for service to you and to the people of Texas.

I gratefully accept the honor you have seen fit to bestow upon me.

I willingly accept the responsibility.

I welcome the challenge.

I appreciate the opportunity.

When I first decided to actively seek this office, I did so fully aware that it carried with it all of these things—and more.

I knew that I would also have the unique challenge of following in the footsteps of a man whose place in history is already assured; a man who has served in this house—and who has served the people of his district and this state—for 20 years, and who has presided as speaker of the house for an unprecedented four consecutive terms; a man who leaves behind a legacy of service, dedication, fairness and accomplishment; a man who has given new depth and meaning to the title “Mr. Speaker”:

The Honorable Billy Wayne Clayton.

And, as I accept this gavel, which you, “Mr. Speaker”, have wielded with such honor and distinction, let me assure you that the legacy you leave behind will serve us all well as the sturdy building blocks of the future.

And now, it’s to that future which we must address ourselves.

During my campaign for this office, I had the unique opportunity and distinct pleasure of traveling to nearly every district which makes up this house of representatives. I had the pleasure of meeting with most of you on your home ground—of meeting with many of your supporters and constituents.

It was an experience few people are fortunate enough to have. I came away deeply impressed with the wide diversity and vitality of our great state and its people. And I came away with a greater understanding, I think, of their interests, their desires, and their needs. I came away convinced, more than ever before, that we

have every reason to be optimistic about the future of Texas—as long as we are also realistic about the future of Texas.

We would be less than realistic if we didn't face the fact that Texas, like the rest of the nation, is locked in the grips of a recession. We can be optimistic, however, because the economy of Texas has not suffered the full impact of the recession as have so many other states. And I feel we can be optimistic that the economy of Texas will also lead the nation into the recovery which may be slow, but will, I feel, be sure in coming.

I also have a more personal reason for optimism about the future of Texas—the immediate future which begins here—today—with each of us.

It is based on the quality of the membership of this house. I think—no—I am sure, this is the highest caliber of membership—the best combination of new and veteran members—that it has been my privilege to serve with in the 12 years I have been a member of this house. And I am dedicated to seeing that this quality is utilized to its fullest—for the benefit of this entire state as well as the individual districts each of us represents.

To this end, several changes will be proposed to the rules under which this house will operate during this legislative term. These proposed changes—which we will begin to consider tomorrow—are designed for the benefit of each of us individually. And for all of us collectively.

These rule changes are intended to vest more control and responsibility in the individual members and committees of this house. I intend to encourage greater input from the individual members into the decision-making process—to make your vote on the floor of this house the end result of your contributions to the entire process, not just the end in itself.

This same principle will also be applied to the process of committee assignments—assignments which will be announced within the next few days. Seniority will not be the sole, overriding consideration. It is my intention that whenever, and wherever, these assignments will be made in a way that the particular talents and interests of the individual will be used. For it will take the best in each of us—and the best from all of us—to successfully address the issues and challenges of the next 140 days.

A number of these issues are familiar foes with which many of us have done battle before. To name but a few:

The budget: Always the major battleground of every session. We must exercise prudent fiscal management in allocating our limited financial resources to fund the many pressing needs of our state.

Public education: To provide not just a quality system, but also a quality system based on equal educational opportunity for all our children. We must strive to keep good educators in our classrooms, at the same time attracting bright young minds to the field of public education, and the common denominator in this effort is salaries equal to the effort these dedicated people put forth in educating the youth of our state.

Higher education: Finding an equitable method for financing new construction and improvements in our state colleges and universities outside the permanent university fund.

Water: How to address a water shortage today before it becomes a water crisis of tomorrow, and, in doing so, assure our citizens this is not just a West Texas or South Texas problem, but an East Texas and North Texas problem also—a problem of major concern to all Texans.

Highways: How best to fund current and future construction needs, and at the same time stem deterioration and generally revitalize this system so vital to the economic well-being of this state and its citizens.

Prisons: How best to meet the mandates of the federal courts, and at the same time, address the root problems of our entire criminal justice, pardons, and paroles systems.

Energy: Not just in the areas of conservation and the search for new sources, but in regulation and in combating the cost explosion which has become such an overpowering burden on every segment of our economy and population, particularly for our older Texans and the poor.

And, certainly, a major new issue for both houses of the 68th Legislature—how best to meet the justifiable outcry from our citizens for an end to the tragic, senseless loss of lives and property caused on our streets and highways by the drunken driver.

These are but a few of the key issues which will challenge each of us—and all of us—in this session.

But, let me repeat: I have every confidence in the final results of this session based on the quality of this membership.

For my part, I pledge to you an administration dedicated to honesty, fairness, and openness—one in which each of you is now invited, and urged, to become a vital part.

In exchange, I ask your patience and understanding in dealing with your colleagues, particularly at those times when patience and understanding are strained to the limits—those times when they don't agree with you.

For, as the veteran members know—and the new members will learn—the legislative process is a competitive one in which compromise is a vital ingredient, in which the end result is not always the wish of the individual but is always the will of the majority.

I am reminded of a remark by that esteemed 20-year veteran of the legislative wars—my friend, Senator John Traeger of Seguin—who said: “Some of these fine folks will cut your legs out from under you in debate—but then they'll help carry you to the hospital.”

And, finally, for our new members, let me add one more fact of legislative life—one many of the more veteran members have had to learn, sometimes the hard way:

There will be times of great pride ahead of you—pride such as I know you are rightfully experiencing now. There will also be times of great elation and of great deflation. There will be times of boredom—although I hope few and far between. There will be times of frustration and, yes, perhaps even anger. But there should never be a time when you, or any of us, lose sight of the fact that while we are public officials, more important, we are also public servants, and, as such, we will not be judged by what we say here, but only by what we accomplish here.

As we embark on the next 140 days of what I am certain will be solid accomplishment for Texas and all Texans, let me leave you with this challenge voiced by the late Hubert Humphrey to his colleagues on the floor of the United States Senate: “The moral test of government is how it treats those in the dawn of life—the young; those in the twilight of life—the aged; those in the shadows of life—the handicapped and the needy.”

We live in the best of times.

We live in the greatest, freest nation in the world.

And in that nation, Texas' lone star shines brighter than any other state.

Our state government is the envy of all state governments and you members of the house are the best combination of Texans to meet the tremendous challenges of our times and of Texas.

Thank you so very much.