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OF THE
STATE OF TEXAS

BEGUN AND HELD AT

THE CITY OF AUSTIN

JANUARY 13, 1987



HR 9 - ADOPTED

The chair laid before the house the following resolution:

By C. Evans, et al.:

HR 9

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 70th 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 four 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.

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 70th Legislature of the State of Texas, and stated that nominations for speaker are now in order.

The secretary of state recognized the Honorable Bill Haley of Shelby County who placed in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 70th Legislature of the State of Texas, the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis of Tarrant County, speaking as follows:

Thank you Madam Secretary. Madam Secretary, members, distinguished guests—and many of you thought Charlie was going to be chairman of calendars.

I should like to take this opportunity to begin by admonishing for a moment, if I may, the distinguished freshman members gathered there today. I hope you thoroughly enjoy your day today, because let me assure you that you are about to be busier than a funeral fan at a July revival. And in what is a most onerous of times, your senior colleagues here today are making it easy for you in this task in that we present you, albeit with some hope that it is as easy as we intend, no alternatives. But then, there is nothing like the absence of alternatives to clear the thinking, marvelously. As I think we're all aware with respect to nominating the next Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, "the coffee is saucered and blowed." There are a number of reasons for that, most of which I think, we all agree are honorable. Each of us, there is no doubt, is gathered here today as members eager to serve, yet anxious about the difficult circumstances of our times. Adlai Stevenson has pointed out to those of use that have found ourselves in the campaign arena, that the hardest thing about any political campaign is how to win without proving that you are unworthy of winning. Yet nonetheless, we are gathered here today for the purpose first of all, of deciding who will be the person to be the speaker, therefore, the leader. The person in ultimate authority in this house, the person whom we elect, not in the light of the person for ultimate authority, but as for one to guide and direct the proceedings, over the next 140 days including the next 30 and the next, and perhaps the next, until we once again assemble for regular session.

Notwithstanding the difficulty which we all expect and anticipate in the next five months, one among us asks with alacrity for the most difficult task. Representative Lewis seeks the position of speaker as we are all very much aware, cognizant of the solitude of the office that brings the ultimate, the final decisions which can be made, only in the solitude of that office. He seeks the position, mindful of the frustrations of performing the duties of a statewide elected official, elected nonetheless by only one district, and representing the state and his district. To me, the significant fact is, not that he has served as speaker the last four years, the last

two terms of this body, but that he continues to seek the highest among us when the most trying of times is yet to come.

Theodore Roosevelt distinguished between the critic and the gladiator of the political arena by saying that it is not the critic who is the significant one, it is the one in the arena. "No es lo mismo hablar de toros que estar en el redondel." That is, "it is not the same to talk of bulls as to be in the bull ring." Unlike the traditionalists who are pessimistic of the future and optimistic of the past, I think we see Gib as a man of the present. A man of the present, one among us one hundred and fifty, not who sees himself something extra-ordinary, being offered up for the service and sacrifice of the state, but as one among us one hundred and fifty ordinary in this democracy, a democracy which cherishes the ordinary man.

It is not for me here today to leather bound and gild Gib Lewis. After all, every dog needs a few fleas. It is rather to point out that in spite of the fact that he is ordinary, it is that he is ordinary and one of us ordinary that makes him worthy to be the speaker. Having been there in what many of us saw as the most arduous of times, yet knowing truly the most arduous of times were yet to come. I rather think as Harry Emerson Fosdick, who said, "democracy is that form where extraordinary things are accomplished by ordinary people." The strength of our democracy is that it draws to service its ordinary citizens, citizens not professing qualities all outstanding and divine but simply feeling a sense of inspiration to serve. How more magnanimous of one among us: one among us 150 ordinary, yet all-seeing in the back of his mind, that little bit of expertise which we all wish to feel from time to time. All, therefore, with our own expert opinions, not having to be the one to tell any one of us, "no," or "yes," the easy, pleasing task. But, all of us, having an expert opinion, and I, over my brief time here, have come to feel about expert opinions, in that, "all" is a matter so relative. To a turkey, for instance, if you ask a turkey, a turkey should be stuffed with grasshoppers, grits, and worms. That, is it not, is the expert opinion.

I nominate Gib Lewis for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives of the 70th Legislature, Regular Session. An ordinary man with an extraordinary zest for life, and an inspired inclination toward achievement and a willingness to accept the ultimate responsibility of saying "yes," and "no," and making all of us feel that, in the final analysis, it was all so wonderful.

The secretary of state then asked if there were further nominations for the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 70th Legislature.

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

Madam Secretary of State, members of the house, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is my great honor, privilege, and pleasure to stand before you today to second the nomination of our friend and colleague, the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis, as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives for the 70th Legislature.

To those who have worked with Speaker Lewis, no long explanation is necessary as to why he should be returned to the post. He has proven himself many times over to be the strong and resourceful leader that we will need during what promises to be two very difficult years that lie ahead for this legislature and this state. He has been a fair leader, an honest leader, a candid leader, a trustworthy leader, a talented leader.

In the more than nine years that I have worked with Gib Lewis in the legislature, we have sometimes agreed, sometimes disagreed. However, I must tell you that I have not, and do not, question his heartfelt desire to serve the people of

Texas—not himself, not simply the members of the house, not just people of his own district or region—but all the people of Texas.

The 150 members of this house represent over 16 million Texans with widely diverse needs and backgrounds, and we reflect that diversity in our political philosophies. Perhaps Gib Lewis' greatest strength as speaker has been and will continue to be his ability to bring those philosophies together for the common good of the state. He has gotten us to work together and to work out our problems, even when it seemed impossible.

Gib Lewis will lead a house faced with enormous problems—the possibility of the largest deficit this state has ever faced combined with a sluggish economy, a prison crisis, mental health-mental retardation facilities and care crisis, the future of public and higher education at a critical point.

Gib Lewis knows the job, knows these tremendous responsibilities.

He does not demand that we always agree with him. He does demand that we work together, that we work diligently, that we work sincerely. And he has the leadership abilities to see our work through to fruition.

It is a credit to the record and character of Gib Lewis that no one opposes him in this speaker's race.

It is with great confidence in his ability to lead us to a successful resolution of the problems we face in the upcoming session (or sessions?) that I recommend to you and am pleased and honored to second the nomination of a proven leader among leaders, the Honorable Gibson D. Lewis, as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 70th Legislature.

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

Madam Secretary, members and friends, it is with great honor and humility that I stand before you today to second the nomination of Gibson D. Lewis as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

It has been 14 years since I first met Gib Lewis in 1973. He was chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. At the time, he was a well-respected chairman and a well-liked member. He was particularly admired for his ability to listen and his commitment to fairness as committee chairman.

It is now 1987 and the same attributes that made Gib Lewis a well-respected chairman 14 years ago have now made him a great leader. A great leader is one who can transcend the environmental limitations of birthplace, home county, age, and upbringing to reach out and understand the concerns and even shortcomings of their fellow man. Not only has Gib Lewis exemplified this ability, but he has made himself an example for others.

The way I figure it, if he can watch a little Bill Cosby, I can listen to a little Waylon Jennings, every now and then. He has shown me that he is truly concerned about the needy and least fortunate in the urban areas of our state. It is the least I can do to be mindful of the terrible plight of our family farmers, even if it means I have to occasionally vote to fund the brucellosis program.

It does not matter whether a member is conservative or liberal; black, brown, or white; male, female, or undecided; Protestant or Catholic; Jew or Gentile; short or tall, plump or thin; humor-full or humorless. Gib Lewis has always made himself accessible to discuss our concerns and those of whom we represent. He is truly a members' speaker.

If he has any fault, it is his loyalty. Gib is one of those rare individuals in politics who has a reputation for not only giving his word, but keeping it. As that great observer of Texas politics and Gib Lewis' most trusted confidante, Sandra Lewis puts it, "if he tells you something, he follows through with it. You always know where he stands."

If Sandra can stay on his program through 29 years, two children and two grandchildren without signing a pledge card, even though I hear he did attempt to get her to sign one but she refused, invoking that well-known constitutional doctrine of separation of home and state, I know we can without hesitation and without reservation reelect our great leader Gibson D. Lewis as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

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

Madam Secretary, members, ladies and gentlemen:

When I first came to the legislature ten years ago, my first and only bill was sent to a committee chaired by Gib Lewis. With that first encounter, I gained a world of knowledge on the legislative process—knowledge that I thought I already had acquired in my government classes in college.

I got my feet wet with the advice and direction of a member who was both patient and fair in his dealings with members of the legislature—freshmen were no exception.

That reputation has remained with Gib Lewis today, both as a member and as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. In the years that I have known him, Gib Lewis has not changed. He is still the same friendly, caring and open-minded individual that I first met ten years ago.

I have been privileged to be in the presence of the speaker during some very tense and difficult moments. After each of these experiences, my confidence in his ability to lead has not wavered. If anything, it has been reinforced.

We all know that difficult times—very difficult times—await us. We, as a body, have tremendous challenges ahead. And, I can think of no other individual better equipped to guide us and direct us through these next five months than Gib Lewis.

As John F. Kennedy once said, "The basis of effective government is public confidence."

Gib Lewis has that. For those individuals fortunate enough to have worked with and known Gib Lewis, our confidence in his ability to lead is unmatched.

Although he is elected by the people of District 89, he does not ignore the needs and interests of all Texans.

Madam Secretary, members, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor and pleasure to second the nomination of my good friend and yours, Gibson D. Lewis, for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

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

Thank you, Madame Secretary.

Honored guests, fellow members.

As Gib Lewis will be the first to tell you, this is a curious body. One hundred fifty politicians, answering to 16 million constituents; 16 million different expectations and only 150 possible answers.

This body is not like an army that moves in sync, like a trained and loyal unit. Here, there is no final battle.

This chamber is chaotic, diverse, and determined. It is a place where ideas and philosophies clash; where tempers can boil, passions flare, egos are dismembered; where your deskmate's greatest hope can be your worst fear.

And yet out of this chaos emerges a cohesion and consensus which in turn evolves into public policy. What is it that facilitates this transformation?

The Speaker of the House. And his task is arduous.

He must be deft at balancing the competing needs of members and the expectations of his own district. He must be conciliatory in his approach and yet

firm in his guidance. He must share the applause but be willing to shoulder the responsibility. And most importantly, he must understand that this legislature is not a melting pot, but a mosaic, creating harmony from differences.

Gib Lewis is this man.

In his four years as speaker, Gib has grown to understand and is comfortable with the demands of diversity. Whether he is in a boardroom in Dallas or a church bake sale in Beaumont; whether he is wearing Tony Lamas or tassel loafers, whether he is hunting the buffalo in Africa or stemming the bull in Austin.

Gib Lewis knows how it works. Gib Lewis makes it work.

But do not think his job is an easy one; with it goes a heavy price: perpetual motion, embarrassment, anticipation, disappointment, criticism, and betrayal.

During these times, our speaker must recall the advice given to another leader at another time under circumstances more different than these.

When Joshua was chosen to succeed Moses in leading his people, the Almighty spoke to him saying "Be strong and of good courage, neither be thou dismayed."

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, after Joshua assumed his position the people responded in unison, saying "All that thou hath commanded us we will do; and wither thou send us, we will go."

I don't think Gib is expecting that kind of miracle.

This is a time of unprecedented demand. We can have our greatest failure or collectively seek our proudest triumph: the choice is ours.

We can do no less than choose a leader who has proven he can take us to this triumph.

Representative Wolens moved that nominations cease, and that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be instructed to cast the vote of all the members of the House of Representatives of the 70th Legislature, and shall cause same to be entered in the House Journal, and that Gib Lewis be unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Representatives by acclamation, with any member being permitted to cast a "present" or "nay" vote by providing such information to the journal clerk.

The motion prevailed without objection.

Chief Clerk Betty Murray cast ballots of all members for Gibson D. Lewis as Speaker of the 70th Legislature of the State of Texas. (P. Moreno, present, not voting.)

The Honorable Myra McDaniel, 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 70th Legislature of the State of Texas.

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 C. Evans, Chair; Millsap, Willis, Carter, C. Harris, Grusendorf, G. Thompson, and Leonard.

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 70th Legislature of the State of Texas, which was administered by the Honorable Joe Spurlock II, Judge, Second Court of Appeals, Tarrant County.

INTRODUCTION OF PLATFORM GUESTS

Secretary of State Myra McDaniel recognized the Honorable Charles Evans who introduced Mrs. Sandra Lewis, wife of Speaker Lewis; Marie Croft, the speaker's mother; Cammie, Cole, and MacKenzie Morvan, the speaker's daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter; Cathy, Berry, and Megan Baker; the speaker's daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter; Dorothy and Billy Merritt, the speaker's stepsister and brother-in-law; Jack Lewis, the speaker's father; Al Majors, the speaker's father-in-law; and Mr. and Mrs. Grover Gibson and grandson, William Maulden.

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER LEWIS

Representative Charles Evans then introduced Speaker Lewis who addressed the house, speaking as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 70th Legislature.

I wish that I could welcome you to a session in which our greatest challenge was to be the management of plenty and the accommodation of growth. Unfortunately, that is not the case. You come from every corner of the state and you know the problems.

These are problems we the members of the 70th Legislature must face with resolve and courage. The elections are behind us, the session is before us, and we must do what the people of Texas have elected us to do: "act."

I hear that these are difficult times. I sense a temptation to focus on only patching together a solution. But I tell you, this is not a time for Texas to retreat but a time for Texas to charge forward. Texans have never waited on the times to change, but have preferred to change the times.

Our agenda will be long, our days will be long, and the pressures we face will be great.

We will be required to ask fundamental questions about the very purpose of state government, about the policies that drive that government, about the structure of that government, and about how we pay for that government. We may find that fundamental changes are required, changes that will break with traditions whose roots lie deep in the Republic.

The state comptroller has told us our current budget will be almost \$1 billion short at the end of the current fiscal year. He has also told us that if we adopt a new budget that simply maintains current spending levels, except for increases mandated by general and constitutional law, our revenues will fall \$4.8 billion short. Now the way I add, that's a \$5.8 billion deficit.

This means our toughest task in the coming weeks will be to construct a state budget which allows state government to meet its responsibilities without overburdening the families and businesses that pay for that government.

To do this we must distinguish between what state government must do and what state government would like to do. That means making tough choices, setting priorities, and on occasion, saying no. I can assure you that before any tax increase is presented to this house, we will have made many tough choices, set many priorities, and said no many times.

I do not accept that we have no choice but to fund business as usual. If we do things differently and do them cheaper we must make changes. If some programs, or institutions, or agencies have outlived their usefulness, we must discard them.

Yes, those who benefit from the status quo will object. But when they object we must remind ourselves, and them, that government is paid for by 15 million hard working Texans living in the midst of hard economic times. If we must ask these Texans to pay more of their hard earned dollars for government, as we may, let's

be able to look them in the eye and say without blinking, "Texas is doing what needs to be done, and we're doing it the best way we know how."

As part of this budget process we will need to examine our system of higher education in detail. We all agree that education is the foundation of Texas' future. However, we may find it difficult to agree on what our system of higher education should look like. It will be our task to define clearly the scope and mission of our universities, and to impose a discipline on the overall system to insure quality and efficiency.

Another part of the budget process will be a thorough rethinking and redesign of our criminal justice and prison system. Our state is under a federal court order to achieve specific standards. Whether we agree or disagree with the court's ruling, we must act to preserve the public safety, and that requires more tough choices.

Still another part of the budget process will be governmental organization. We must look at consolidating state agencies as a way of achieving savings. Understandably agencies and those they serve will resist changes in a structure that has served their interests. But here the interest of the tax payers must come first.

Of course spending is only half the budget process. The unpleasant half is raising revenue. Texas needs a tax system in which each segment of the economy carries its fair share of the tax burden.

That is not the system we have today. However, you don't just sit down and redraw a tax program on a cocktail napkin. To undertake this vital and difficult task I will call for the establishment of a Tax Study Commission to redraw our tax code with the goals of fostering economic growth and opportunity.

Beyond the budget we must look, debate, and adopt policies that will encourage economic growth. Our mission falls into two parts. The first involves affirmative government actions to encourage and facilitate private sector efforts. The second involves the legal framework and environment in which the private sector must operate.

There is much government can do to spark and assist private enterprise in building a new Texas economic base.

Several months ago I invited a group of men and women with a wide range of talents and a deep knowledge of our state's economy to develop recommendations for positive actions by state government. As a result of their hard work, I am endorsing the following initiatives:

First, I am calling for the creation of a State Strategic Economic Policy Commission. It should be created and charged with establishing the state's economic development goals and policies for attaining these goals. As in any business venture, our state government must devise a game plan addressing the current and longer term challenges of Texas' economic growth. This commission would be composed of statewide and elected officials, the chairmen of selected state agencies and a representative membership from the private sector. The commission would transfer responsibility for implementation of this strategic plan to the state Department of Commerce.

Which brings me to my second recommendation. Namely, the consolidation and reorganization of the state's current piecemeal approach to economic development. We can no longer afford duplication of efforts, scattered responsibilities, and a lack of coordination. In that regard a new and revitalized Department of Commerce, structured in a centralized and coordinated fashion should be created.

Third, there is conclusive agreement that the small business sector delivers the lion's share of economic development, where meaningful, long term new employment potential lies.

Texas has provided a fertile environment for the creation and growth of small business. Small independently owned and operated firms form the backbone of our

state's economy. In fact, 80 percent of the Texas workforce is employed by small business.

Small business is responsible for generating nearly 60 percent of all new jobs. The contributions of small business to society are substantial as well. In fact, small business is responsible for more than half of the scientific and technological advances and developments in the 20th century.

As we all know, half of all new small business fails in the first five years. Common reasons for failure include government regulations, poor management, and lack of access to capital and markets.

Addressing these small business needs is the first order of business for the new Department of Commerce including locating adequate capital, training of marketing and managerial skills, and reduction or elimination of regulatory red tape.

Fourth, it is long past time to recognize we are competing in a global marketplace. We can no longer rely on economic windfalls arriving on our doorstep from either the west or east coast of this country. Texans will get results when Texans are world traders.

The potential of foreign countries, both as markets for our state's products and as a source of investment capital and plant relocations, is simply too great to overlook or ignore. The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that one new job is created for every increase of \$40,000 in export sales.

Potential for expansion here is great. My committee estimates at this time that only 20 percent of those Texas products with export potential are actually being exported. We must provide those necessary tools and services, in cooperation with the federal government or through state programs, which will allow our businesses to compete effectively in any foreign country.

Finally, none of these proposals forget that economic development efforts are most successful when managed and spearheaded by local business and political leaders. Final selection of a community for business relocation should be a matter of negotiation between that business and those communities selected by that business. This is a partnership.

We have very capable and experienced local economic development organizations throughout the state. Our role must have the primary purpose of complementing their effort, not competing with these efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen, you are here today because you care about our state and its future. You are here because you care about the world our children and grandchildren will grow up in. You are here because you believe you can make a contribution toward shaping that world, or at least that part we call Texas.

And that part—Texas—is a proud land with a proud heritage. Strong men and women built this state, men and women with the courage to try new things, and the toughness to stand and fight. We the members of the 70th Legislature will need these same qualities of courage and toughness if we are to meet the challenge of shaping a new Texas. I for one believe we will be up to it.