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LaFrance, August P., "Journal of the Constitutional Convention, 1967 Mar 27" (1967). *Journals of the 1964-1969 Constitutional Convention of Rhode Island*. 12.

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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

**JOURNAL OF THE
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

Providence, Rhode Island

March 27, 1967

The Convention was called to order by Dennis J. Roberts, Chairman, at 2:15 p.m.

INVOCATION

The Chairman presented Rev. Arthur L. Hardge, Pastor of Hood Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church of Providence, for the purpose of giving the Invocation.

The roll of delegates was called; there were 77 present and 22 absent. Absentees were: Mr. Appolonia, Mrs. Barber, Messrs. Canna, Cannon, Mrs. Castiglia, Miss Colaneri, Messrs. DeCiantis, DiLuglio, Dodge, Fanning of Cumberland, Foster, Gallagher, Gammino, Giguere, Jordan, Mrs. Lacroix, Messrs. Lallo, McCabe, Moon, Parrillo, Mrs. Pell and Mr. Willey.

The names of the absentees were called.

On motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, the reading of the Journal of the previous day was dispensed on a voice vote.

On motion of Mr. Wrenn, the delegates extended a rising vote of appreciation to the Reverend Hardge for his kindness in giving the Invocation.

MOTIONS and RESOLUTIONS

Messrs. McKiernan, Cochran, Steere and Pickard offered Resolution No. 36 entitled - "Resolution Expressing Deepest Sympathy at the Passing of Dr. Frederick Alton Webster". The resolution was read.

Mr. McKiernan, seconded by Messrs. Cochran, Steere, Pickard, Viall, Matzner and Mrs. Foster, moved passage of the resolution.

The motion prevailed on a unanimous rising vote.

Mr. Gorham of Scituate offered Resolution No. 37 entitled - "Resolution on Procedure for the Constitution Document".

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Rules and Credentials.

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Messrs. Kenyon, Sherry, Lawrence and Cunningham, moved to take from the table the following proposals:

Proposal No. 155 Substitute D "Of Local Government"

On a division vote, the motion prevailed, 65 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

After reconsideration, the proposal was in order for vote on passage after second reading.

Mr. Gorham of Foster, seconded by Messrs. Vacca, Coleman and Kenyon, offered the following written motion to amend:

"I propose the following amendment to Proposal No. 155 Substitute D: -
"Second Paragraph of Section 6.

"Amend by substituting 'sixty' for 'thirty' in line 10 so that the clause reads as follows:

"Held more than sixty days after the date of the submission of the charter by the commission' ".

Bradford Gorham.

The motion was read.

On a division vote, the motion prevailed, 67 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Mr. Gorham of Foster, seconded by Messrs. Vacca, Kenyon and Coleman offered the following written motion to amend:

"I propose the following amendment to Proposal No. 155 Substitute D: -

"Section 2 to be amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. Every city or town may incur obligations and may issue bonds or other evidence of indebtedness. No obligation for the payment of money for a period of more than one year shall be incurred by any city or town unless it is approved by a majority of those local electors voting thereon. The General Assembly shall by general law provide for the method by which elections for approval of such obligations shall be called and held. The General Assembly may by general law regulate the incurring of obligations for the payment of money and the issuance of bonds and other evidences of indebtedness by cities and towns".

Bradford Gorham

The mtn was read.

The motion was debated. At 3:05 p.m., the Chairman yielded the rostrum to David D. Warren, First Vice-Chairman.

The debate on the motion continued.

On a division vote, the motion to amend did not prevail, 32 delegates voting in the affirmative and 35 delegates voting in the negative.

Mr. LaSalle, secnd by Mr. Nathanson, offered the following written motion to amend: -

"I move to amend Proposal No. 155, Substitute D, by striking out Section 8 thereof".

A. Norman LaSalle

The motion was read.

On a division vote, the motion to amend did not prevail, 17 delegates voting in the affirmative, and 30 delegates voting in the negative.

At 3:45 p.m., the Chairman again took the rostrum.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:55 p.m. on motion of Mr. Doris, seconded by Mr. Cochran, the Convention adjourned to meet on Monday, April 10, 1967, at 1:30 p.m. in the Chamber of the House of Representatives at the State House, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Dr. Webster and of the late Mrs. Corcoran of Middletown, on unanimous rising vote.

August P. LaFrance, Secretary
Constitutional Convention