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May 1967

## Journal of the Constitutional Convention, 1967 May 22

August P. LaFrance

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**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**JOURNAL OF THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

**Providence, Rhode Island**

May 22, 1967

The Convention was called to order by Chairman Dennis J. Roberts at 2:05 p. m.

The roll of delegates was called; there were 74 present and 25 absent.

Absentees were: Messrs. Appolonia, Baccari, Bevilacqua, Mrs. Castiglia, Messrs. Colbert, Crandall, Cunningham, DeCiantis, DiLuglio, Dodge, Fanning of Cumberland, Gallagher, Gammino, Giguere, Jordan, Kenyon, Mrs. Lacroix, Messrs. Martin, McCabe, Merolla, Moon, Murphy of Warren, Pucci, Mrs. Pulner and Mr. Toolin.

The names of the absentees were called.

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

RECONSIDERATION

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Messrs. Wexler, O'Donnell, Lawrence and Kagan, moved that the Convention reconsider the following proposal which failed of passage at the previous session of the Convention.

PROPOSAL NO. 155 SUBSTITUTE D " OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT"

On a division vote, the motion to reconsider prevailed, 58 delegates voting in the affirmative and 6 delegates voting in the negative.

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, offered the following written motion to amend:

" I move to amend 155 D by striking out Section 2 in its entirety and substituting therefor the following:

' a) Every city or town may incur obligations and may issue bonds or other evidences of indebtedness. (b) No indebtedness for a period of more than one year shall be incurred by any city or town unless the purpose or general purpose and amount of maximum amount thereof are approved by a majority of those local electors voting thereon. (c) The General Assembly shall by general law provide for the method by which elections or voters' meetings for approval of such indebtedness shall be called and held. (d) The General Assembly may by general law regulate the authorizing and incurring of indebtedness by cities and towns and prescribe the terms and procedures applicable thereto. (e) Upon the prior

request of a city or town council, or with its subsequent approval, the General Assembly may also by special act permit or regulate the authorizing or incurring of indebtedness by the city or town. (f) Such special legislation may prescribe the applicable terms and procedures, may provide for the exclusion of such indebtedness in computing the remaining borrowing capacity of the city or town, may provide for the method of the required submission to the voters in the case of indebtedness of over one year, and may validate or give effect to any prior approval of such indebtedness by the voters. (g) The General Assembly may enact general and special laws in accordance with this section notwithstanding the provisions of any other section of this article or of any city or town charter."

Kevin K. Coleman

The motion was read .

At 2:14 p.m. the Chairman yielded the rostrum to David D. Warren, First Vice-Chairman.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion to amend prevailed, 49 delegates voting in the affirmative, and 18 delegates voting in the negative .

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Messrs. Viall, Lawrence, and Gorham of Scituate, moved that Proposal No. 155 Substitute D be adopted as amended.

On a roll call vote, the motion to adopt prevailed, 58 delegates voting in the affirmative, 14 delegates voting in the negative and 27 delegates absent or not voting as follows:

A Y E S - 5 8

Mrs. Jane H. Barber-Westerly  
Roger A. Beauchemin-Pawtucket  
Arthur A. Belhumeur-Central Falls  
Norman A. Bizier-Central Falls  
Adrien Bissonnette -Woonsocket  
Domenic C. Canna-Bristol  
Orist D. Chaharyn-Woonsocket  
Eugene F. Cochran- Providence  
Miss Elaine C. Colaneri-Providence  
Kevin K. Coleman-Woonsocket  
John P. Cooney, Jr. -Providence  
Edward B. Corcoran-Middletown  
Osias Cote- Pawtucket  
Robert J. Delehanty-Newport  
Domenic A. DiSandro, Jr. -Narragansett  
Harry J. Dyl - Central Falls  
Edward M. Dolbashian-Portsmouth

John F. Doris-Woonsocket  
Stephen A. Fanning -Cumberland  
Stephen A. Fanning, Jr. -Providence  
William A. Feeney-East Providence  
Paul A. Fontaine -Woonsocket  
Ernest A. Foster- Pawtucket  
Edward P. Gallogly-Providence  
Robert Gates-South Kingstown  
Fulda E. Geoffroy- West Warwick  
Anthony Giangiacomo- Providence  
Bradford Gorham- Foster  
John Gorham-Scituate  
George D. Greenhalgh-Glocester  
Samuel C. Kagan-Providence  
Samuel J. Kanakry- Pawtucket  
August P. LaFrance- Pawtucket  
John F. Lallo - Westerly

AYES - Continued

Mrs. Demetra Lambros- Providence  
John W. Laporte- Burrillville  
Frederick A. Lawrence-Providence  
Edward P. Manning - Cumberland  
Thomas F. McGrath- Providence  
James F. Murphy -Coventry  
William F. Murphy- Tiverton  
Paul F. Murray -Newport  
Francis P. O'Donnell-Providence  
Robert S. Ortoleva- Providence  
John A. Parrillo -Providence  
Mrs. Nuala O'D. Pell- Newport  
Robert F. Pickard-East Greenwich

Antonio Prince-Woonsocket  
Anthony F. Principe - Bristol  
Hugo L. Ricci- Providence  
Augusto W. Sao Bento - East Providence  
Owen V. Sherry - North Smithfield  
Howard R. Smart, Jr. -Lincoln  
Bradley L. Steere- East Providence  
Anthony Vacca- Smithfield  
Charles C. Viall-East Providence  
David Warren- North Providence  
Edmund Wexler -Providence  
John J. Wrenn- Providence

NOES - 14

Thomas H. Bride-Warwick  
Mrs. Millicent S. Foster-No. Kingstown  
William J. Gmelin-Charlestown  
Mrs. A. Marion Hager-Cranston  
A. Norman LaSalle-Warwick  
Epifanio F. Macari- Cranston  
William I. Matzner- Providence

Vincent P. McKinnon-Pawtucket  
Donald E. McKiernan- Providence  
Edward J. Mulligan- Central Falls  
Charles Nathanson- Warwick  
Dennis J. Roberts-Providence  
Alfred B. Stapleton- Little Compton  
Grafton H. Willey, III -Barrington

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING - 24

Felix A. Appolonia-West Warwick  
Vincent J. Baccari-Providence  
Joseph A. Bevilacqua- Providence  
Jeremiah H. Cannon-Providence  
Mrs. Claire Capuano- Woonsocket  
Mrs. Aurora Castiglia- Cranston  
David J. Colbert, Jr. -Cranston  
Lloyd R. Crandall- Hopkinton  
Matthew C. Cunningham-Pawtucket  
Michael DeCiantis - West Warwick  
Thomas R. DiLuglio- Johnston  
John Dodge- New Shoreham  
Stephen A. Fanning - Cumberland  
James A. Gallagher -Jamestown

Michael A. Gammino, Jr. -Providence  
Noel A. Giguere -Woonsocket  
Raymond E. Jordan-Pawtucket  
Bradford H. Kenyon- West Greenwich  
Mrs. Jeannette M. Lacroix- Lincoln  
Frank A. Martin, Jr. -Pawtucket  
Francis H. McCabe- Pawtucket  
Arthur Merolla -Providence  
Edwin J. Moon - Exeter  
James E. Murphy-Warren  
Thomas D. Pucci- Providence  
Mrs. Theresa F. Pulner-Cranston  
John J. Toolin - Richmond

(During the roll call Mr. Vacca explained his vote.)

At 2:55 p. m. , the Chairman again took the rostrum.

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MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Wexler, seconded by Messrs. Doris and Wrenn, moved to take from the table the following proposal:

Proposal No. 165 Substitute B "LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR"

( The Committee on Style and Drafting recommends adoption. )

(The proposal was in order for second reading and vote on passage. ) The proposal was read.

On a division vote the motion to take from the table prevailed, 54 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Mr. Wexler, seconded by Messrs. Wrenn, Doris and Lawrence, moved that the proposal be adopted.

At 3:00 p. m. the Chairman yielded the rostrum to David D. Warren, First Vice-Chairman.

The motion was debated.

On a roll call vote, the motion to adopt did not prevail, 35 delegates voting in the affirmative, 33 delegates voting in the negative and 31 delegates absent or not voting as follows:

A Y E S - 3 5

Roger A. Beauchemin-Pawtucket  
Norman E. Bizier- Central Falls  
Domenic C. Canna-Bristol  
Orist D. Chaharyn-Woonsocket  
Eugene F. Cochran- Providence  
Miss Elaine C. Colaneri-Providence  
Kevin K. Coleman-Woonsocket  
John P. Cooney, Jr. -Providence  
Edward B. Corcoran-Middletown  
Osias Cote-Pawtucket  
Edward M. Dolbashian-Portsmouth  
John F. Doris-Woonsocket  
Stephen A. Fanning, Jr. -Providence  
Paul A. Fontaine- Woonsocket  
Ernest A. Foster-Pawtucket  
Edward P. Gallogly-Providence  
Fulda E. Geoffroy- West Warwick  
Anthony Giangiacomo- Providence

Samuel C. Kagan - Providence  
Samuel J. Kanakry - Pawtucket  
August P. LaFrance-Pawtucket  
John W. Laporte- Burrillville  
Frederick A. Lawrence - Providence  
Edward P. Manning-Cumberland  
Thomas F. McGrath- Providence  
William F. Murphy - Tiverton  
Robert S. Ortoleva - Providence  
Anthony F. Principe - Bristol  
Hugo L. Ricci - Providence  
Augusto SaoBento - East Providence  
Owen V. Sherry- North Smithfield  
Alfred B. Stapleton - Little Compton  
Charles C. Viall - East Providence  
Edmund Wexler- Providence  
John J. Wrenn

NOES - 33

Mrs. Jane H. Barber - Westerly  
Arthur A. Belhumeur - Central Falls  
Thomas H. Bride-Warwick  
Jeremiah H. Cannon - Providence  
Robert J. Delehanty - Newport  
Domenic A. DiSandro, Jr. -Narragansett  
Harry J. Dyl - Central Falls  
William A. Feeney-East Providence  
Mrs. Millicent S. Foster-No. Kingstown  
Robert B. Gates, South Kingstown  
William J. Gmelin - Charlestown  
Bradford Gorham- Foster  
John Gorham- Scituate  
George D. Greenhalgh -Glocester  
Mrs. Marion Hager - Cranston  
Mrs. Demetra Lambros- Providence  
A. Norman LaSalle -Warwick

William I. Matzner- Providence  
Vincent P. McKinnon- Pawtucket  
Donald E. McKiernan- Providence  
Edward J. Mulligan-Central Falls  
James F. Murphy - Coventry  
Paul F. Murray-Newport  
Charles Nathanson - Warwick  
Francis P. O'Donnell - Providence  
John A. Parrillo - Providence  
Mrs. Nuala O'D. Pell- Newport  
Robert F. Pickard - East Greenwich  
Dennis J. Roberts -Providence  
Howard R. Smart, Jr. - Lincoln  
Bradley L. Steere - East Providence  
David D. Warren - North Providence  
Grafton Willey, III - Barrington

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING - 31

Felix A. Appolonia -West Warwick  
Vincent J. Baccari -Providence  
Joseph A. Bevilacqua-Providence  
Adrien Bissonnette-Woonsocket  
Mrs. Claire Capuano - Woonsocket  
Mrs. Aurora Castiglia- Cranston  
David J. Colbert, Jr. -Cranston  
Lloyd R. Crandall- Hopkinton  
Matthew C. Cunningham-Pawtucket  
Michael DeCiantis- West Warwick  
Thomas R. DiLuglio-Johnston  
John C. Dodge- New Shoreham  
Stephen A. Fanning -Cumberland  
James A. Gallagher- Jamestown  
Michael A. Gammino, Jr. -Providence  
Noel A. Giguere - Woonsocket

Raymond E. Jordan -Pawtucket  
Bradford H. Kenyon - West Greenwich  
Mrs. Jeannette M. Lacroix- Lincoln  
John F. Lallo -Westerly  
Epifanio F. Macari - Cranston  
Frank A. Martin, Jr. -Pawtucket  
Francis H. McCabe - Pawtucket  
Arthur Merolla - Providence  
Edwin J. Moon - Exeter  
James E. Murphy -Warren  
Antonio Prince -Woonsocket  
Thomas D. Pucci - Providence  
Mrs. Theresa F. Pulner- Cranston  
John J. Toolin -Richmond  
Anthony Vacca - Smithfield

Mr. Wexler, seconded by Messrs. Roberts, Viall and Cochran, moved to take from the table the following proposal:

Proposal No. 21 "ELECTION OF GENERAL OFFICERS"

(The Committee on Style and Drafting recommends rejection).

(The proposal was in order for second reading and vote on passage.) The proposal was read.

The proposal was read.

The motion was debated.

At 3:15 p.m. the Vice-Chairman declared the Convention to be in recess for a period of two minutes.

At 3:17 p.m., the Convention again was called to order, the Chairman again on the rostrum.

On a division vote the motion to take from the table prevailed, 31 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative with more than 20 delegates present and not voting.

Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. Wrenn, moved that the proposal be rejected.

On a roll call vote the motion prevailed, 39 delegates voting in the affirmative, 21 delegates voting in the negative and 39 delegates absent or not voting as follows:

AYES - 39

Mrs. Jane H. Barber-Westerly  
Thomas H. Bride-Warwick  
Kevin K. Coleman-Woonsocket  
John P. Cooney, Jr. - Providence  
Edward Corcoran - Middletown  
Harry J. Dyl - Central Falls  
Edward M. Dolbashian-Portsmouth  
Paul A. Fontaine - Woonsocket  
Mrs. Millicent S. Foster-No. Kingstown  
Robert B. Gates-South Kingstown  
William J. Gmelin - Charlestown  
Fulda E. Geoffroy - West Warwick  
John Gorham- Scituate  
George D. Greenhalgh - Glocester  
Mrs. A. Marion Hager - Cranston  
Mrs. Demetra Lambros- Providence  
John W. Laporte - Burrillville  
A. Norman LaSalle - Warwick  
Frederick A. Lawrence- Providence  
Grafton H. Willey, III-Barrington

Edward P. Manning - Cumberland  
William I. Matzner - Providence  
Vincent P. McKinnon - Pawtucket  
Donald E. McKiernan-Providence  
Edward J. Mulligan -Central Falls  
James F. Murphy -Coventry  
William F. Murphy - Tiverton  
Paul F. Murray-Newport  
Charles Nathanson - Warwick  
Francis P. O'Donnell - Providence  
John A. Parrillo - Providence  
Mrs. Nuala O'D. Pell - Newport  
Robert F. Pickard -East Greenwich  
Dennis J. Roberts - Providence  
Owen V. Sherry - North Smithfield  
Howard R. Smart, Jr. -Lincoln  
Bradley L. Steere - East Providence  
David D. Warren -North Providence  
Edmund Wexler - Providence

NOES - 21

Roger A. Beauchemin -Pawtucket	Anthony Giangiacomo - Providence
Norman A. Bizier -Central Falls	Samuel C. Kagan -Providence
Jeremiah H. Cannon -Providence	Samuel J. Kanakry - Pawtucket
Orist D. Chaharyn - Woonsocket	August P. LaFrance - Pawtucket
Eugene F. Cochran- Providence	Thomas F. McGrath -Providence
Miss Elaine C. Colaneri-Providence	Anthony F. Principe - Bristol
Osius Cote - Pawtucket	Hugo L. Ricci -Providence
John F. Doris - Woonsocket	Augusto Sao Bento-East Providence
Stephen A. Fanning, Jr. -Providence	Charles C. Viall-East Providence
William A. Feeney-East Providence	John J. Wrenn - Providence
Ernest A. Foster, Pawtucket	

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING - 39

Felix A. Appolonia-West Warwick	Noel A. Giguere - Woonsocket
Vincent J. Baccari -Providence	Bradford Gorham - Foster
Arthur A. Belhumeur-Central Falls	Raymond E. Jordan - Pawtucket
Joseph A. Bevilacqua-Providence	Bradford H. Kenyon-West Greenwich
Adrien Bissonnette-Woonsocket	Mrs. Jeannette M. Lacroix - Lincoln
Deomenic C. Canna -Bristol	John F. Lallo -Westerly
Mrs. Claire Capuano-Woonsocket	Epifanio F. Macari -Cranston
Mrs. Aurora Castiglia- Cranston	Frank A. Martin, Jr. - Pawtucket
David J. Colbert, Jr. -Cranston	Francis H. McCabe - Pawtucket
Lloyd R. Crandall-Hopkinton	Arthur Merolla - Providence
Matthew C. Cunningham-Pawtucket	Edwin J. Moon - Exeter
Robert J. Delehanty -Newport	James E. Murphy -Warren
Michael DeCiantis-West Warwick	Robert S. Ortoleva - Providence
Thomas R. DiLuglio-Johnston	Antonio Prince - Woonsocket
Domenic A. DiSandro, Jr. -Narragansett	Thomas D. Pucci-Providence
John C. Dodge- New Shoreham	Mrs. Theresa F. Pulner-Cranston
Stephen A. Fanning - Cumberland	Alfred B. Stapleton-Little Compton
James A. Gallagher- Jamestown	John J. Toolin -Richmond
Edward P. Gallogly-Providence	Anthony Vacca - Smithfield
Michael A. Gammino, Jr. -Providence	

Mr. Wexler announced that the Committee on Style and Drafting would meet at the rising of the Convention.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:30 p. m. on motion of Wexler, seconded by Mr. Doris, the Convention adjourned to meet on Monday, June 12, 1967, at 1:30 p. m. in the Chamber of the House of Representatives at the State House on a voice vote.

August P. LaFrance, Secretary  
Constitutional Convention