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Journal of the Constitutional Convention, 1967 May 22

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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.

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