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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

JOURNAL OF THE
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Providence, Rhode Island

February 21, 1966

The Convention was called to order by Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, Chairman, at 1:30 P. M.

INVOCATION

The Chairman presented Reverend Frederick K. Jellison, Rector of St. James Episcopal Church, Woonsocket, Rhode Island for the purpose of giving the Invocation. The Invocation was given.

The roll of delegates was called; there were 80 present and 19 absent.

Absentees were Messrs. Appolonia, Bride, Champion, Delehanty, DeCiantis, Dodge, Fontaine, Gmelin, Gorham of Foster, Mmes. Lacroix and Lambros, Messrs. Macari, Martin, McGrath, McKiernan, Moon, Nathanson, Viall, and Mrs. Webster.

The names of the absentees were called.

On motion of Mr. Principe, seconded by Messrs. Belhumeur and Sherry, the reading of the Journal of the previous day was dispensed, on a voice vote.

Mr. Doris, seconded by Messrs. Bizier and Kagan, moved that the Journals of December 2, 1965, and January 24, 1966 be corrected to read that the roll was called, that there was not a quorum present and that a convention session was not held and that there be no record of any absentees.

The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF PROPOSALS

The Chairman announced receipt of the following proposal:

Proposal No. 196, offered by Mr. Fanning of Cumberland, entitled "Permanent Commission on the Constitution."

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Ricci, seconded by Messrs. Bizier and Doris, moved that a verbatim record of the proceedings in the Committee of the Whole be kept for today's session.

The motion prevailed on a division vote, 48 delegates voting in the affirmative and 10 delegates voting in the negative.

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

Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mrs. Foster and Mr. Pickard, moved that when the Convention adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Saturday, February 26, 1966 at 10:00 A.M. in the Chamber of the House of Representatives at the State House.

Mr. Cooney, seconded by Messrs. Gallogly and Dolbashian, moved that the motion be amended to read that a session of the Convention will be held on Saturday, March 5, 1966 at 10:00 A.M.

The motion was debated.

The motion as amended prevailed on a voice vote.

Mr. Cooney, seconded by Messrs. Warren, Doris, Belhumeur, and Wrenn, moved that as a Special Order on the Calendar of General Orders for March 5, 1966, from the calendar of General Orders, there be placed Proposals Nos. 20 -Substitute B, 47, 7, 142, 29-Substitute A, 30-Substitute A, 31-Substitute A, 5, 4, and all other proposals on the General Orders not theretofor disposed of.

The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Chairman announced that he would present the report of the Committee of the Whole for February 7, 1966, a copy of which was on the desk of each delegate.

On motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. Cochran, reading of the report was dispensed and the Convention proceeded to act thereon, on a voice vote.

The Chairman, as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole on February 7, 1966, presented the report of the Committee of the Whole to the Convention and action was taken thereon as follows:

"The Committee of the Whole meeting on February 7, 1966, considered Proposal No. 171, Substitute B, "Of Amendments".

"The Committee on Resolutions recommended adoption. On a division vote, a motion to recommend adoption of the Substitute Proposal, as amended by the Committee of the Whole prevailed."

The proposal was referred to the Committee on Style and Drafting.

Also "The Committee considered Proposal No. 86 "Of Amendments."

"The Committee on Resolutions did not recommend adoption. On a division vote a motion to recommend rejection of the proposal prevailed."

Mrs. Foster, seconded by Messrs. Parrillo and Principe, moved that the proposal be rejected.

On a division vote, the motion prevailed, 64 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Also "The Committee considered Proposal No. 187 "Of Amendments."

"The Committee on Resolutions did not recommend adoption. On a division vote a motion to recommend rejection of Proposal No. 187 prevailed."

Mrs. Foster, seconded by Messrs. Chaharyn, Parrillo, Principe and Cote, moved that the proposal be rejected.

On a division vote, the motion prevailed, 64 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

GENERAL ORDERS

Mr. DiLuglio, seconded by Messrs. Lawrence, Murphy of Warren, and Toolin, moved that the Convention resolve into a Committee of the Whole upon the General Orders of the Day.

The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

(For Journal of the Committee of the Whole, see Appendix, this Journal.) Upon the rising of the Committee of the Whole, the Chairman again called the Convention to order.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Corcoran seconded by Mrs. Foster, moved that the Convention adjourn to meet on Monday, February 28, 1966, at 10:00 A.M. in the Chamber of the House of Representatives at the State House. Mr. Principe, seconded by Messrs. Belhumeur and LaSalle, moved that the motion be amended to read that the Convention adjourn to meet on Monday, February 28, 1966 at 1:00 P.M. in the Chamber of the House of Representatives at the State House.

The motion to amend prevailed on a voice vote.

At 4:45 P.M. pursuant to the motion to adjourn as amended, the Convention adjourned to meet on Monday, February 28, 1966 at 1:00 P.M. in the Chamber of the House of Representatives at the State House on a voice vote.

August P. LaFrance, Secretary
Constitutional Convention

Journal of the Committee of the Whole

February 21, 1966

Upon the resolving of the Convention into a Committee of the Whole, the Chairman called the Committee of the Whole to order.

GENERAL ORDERS

The Committee of the Whole proceeded to consider and act upon the General Orders of the Day.

Proposal No. 183 "Bond Referenda"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. Chaharyn, seconded by Messrs. Cunningham, Doris, DiLuglio and Bizier, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend recommittal of the proposal, to the Committee on the Legislative Department.

On a division vote the motion to recommend recommittal of the proposal prevailed, 46 delegates voting in the affirmative and 15 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 169 "Limiting the Legislative Power of the General Assembly Over Cities and Towns."

(The Committee on Local Government does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. Coleman, seconded by Messrs. Cochran, Belhumeur, Kagan, Chaharyn, Gallogly and Murphy of Coventry, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

On a division vote, the motion prevailed, 62 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 2 "Lotteries"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. Gorham of Scituate, seconded by Messrs. Gates and Pickard, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend adoption of the proposal.

The motion was debated.

At 3:30 P.M. the Chairman yielded the rostrum to Mr. David D. Warren, First Vice-Chairman.

Journal of the Committee of the Whole

February 21, 1966

On a division vote, the motion to recommend adoption of the proposal failed, 31 delegates voting in the affirmative and 40 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 3 "Article IV-Of the Legislative Power"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. Ricci, seconded by Mr. Bizier, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

The motion was discussed.

The motion was withdrawn.

On motion of Mr. Dolbashian, seconded by Mr. Murphy of Warren, the proposal was placed last on the calendar of General Orders on a voice vote.

Proposal No. 156 "State Lotteries"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. Ricci, seconded by Messrs. Doris, Wrenn and Cochran, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

On a division vote, the motion to recommend rejection of the proposal prevailed, 55 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 69 "Legislature"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. DiLuglio, seconded by Messrs. Dolbashian, Doris, Gallogly, and Murphy of Coventry, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

On a division vote, the motion to recommend rejection of the proposal prevailed, 59 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 87 "Sessions of the Legislature"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

Journal of the Committee of the Whole

February 21, 1966

The proposal was read.

Mr. Gorham of Scituate, seconded by Messrs. Corcoran and Greenhalgh, moved that the proposal be placed last on the calendar of General Orders.

The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Proposal No. 94 "Taxation"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. DiLuglio, seconded by Messrs. Wrenn and Cochran, moved that the proposal be placed last on the calendar of General Orders.

The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Proposal No. 114 "Legislative Power"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland, seconded by Mr. Murphy of Warren, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend adoption of the proposal.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion to recommend adoption of the proposal failed, 13 delegates voting in the affirmative and 42 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 125 "The Governor"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland, seconded by Mr. Toolin, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend adoption of the proposal.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion to recommend adoption of the proposal failed, 3 delegates voting in the affirmative and 58 delegates voting in the negative.

Journal of the Committee of the Whole

February 21, 1966

Proposal No. 140 "Legislative Session"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. DiLuglio, seconded by Messrs. Feeney and Toolin, and Mrs. Pulner, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend adoption of the proposal.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion to recommend adoption of the proposal failed, 1 delegate voting in the affirmative and 51 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 141 "Legislative Rules"

(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. DiLuglio, seconded by Messrs. Canna, Dolbashian, Doris and Parrillo, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

On a division vote the motion to recommend rejection of the proposal prevailed, 48 delegates voting in the affirmative and 1 delegate voting in the negative with more than 2 delegates present and not voting.

Mr. LaSalle, seconded by Mr. Bizier, moved that the Committee of the Whole rise.

The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

August P. LaFrance, Secretary
Constitutional Convention