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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

**JOURNAL OF THE
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

Providence, Rhode Island

March 21, 1966

The Convention was called to order by Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, Chairman at 1:45 P.M.

INVOCATION

The Chairman presented Reverend Richard G. Belcher, Pastor of East Greenwich Methodist Church and President of the Rhode Island Council of Churches, for the purpose of giving the Invocation. The Invocation was given.

The roll of delegates was called; there were 82 present and 18 absent.

Absentees were Mrs. Barber, Mr. Belhumeur, Mrs. Capuano, Messrs. Champion, Cunningham, Delehanty, Dodge, Foster, Giguere, Jordan, Kanakry, McCabe, Merolla, Moon, Murphy of Warren, Murphy of Coventry, O'Donnell and Mrs. Webster.

The names of the absentees were called.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman announced receipt of communications relative to unicameral and bicameral legislative systems.

The Chairman announced receipt of a communication from Scituate Junior-Senior High School expressing appreciation for addresses delivered at the school assembly by delegates.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Chairman announced that he would present the report of the Committee of the Whole for February 28, 1966, a copy of which was on the desk of each delegate.

On motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Messrs. Principe and Dolbashian,

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 28, 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 28, 1966, considered Proposal No. 168, "Proposed Amendment to Rhode Island Constitution Outlining Veto Procedure in the General Assembly and Memorandum Concerning Same."

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

Mr. DiLuglio, seconded by Mr. Principe, moved that the proposal be rejected.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 61 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Also "The Committee considered Proposal No. 151, "Legislative Vote on Veto."

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

Mr. DiLuglio, seconded by Messrs. Bizier, Canna and Dolbashian, moved that the proposal be rejected.

At 2:00 P.M. the Chairman yielded the rostrum to Mr. David D. Warren, First Vice Chairman.

On a division vote the motion prevailed 63 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Also "The Committee considered Proposal No. 163, "Appropriation Bills."

"The Committee on the Legislative Department did not recommend the adoption. On a division vote a motion to recommend adoption of the proposal, notwithstanding the recommendation of the Committee, did not prevail."

Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Bride, moved that the proposal be adopted.

On a division vote the motion did not prevail, 23 delegates voting in the affirmative and 39 delegates voting in the negative.

Also "The Committee considered Proposal No. 164, "Special Appropriations."

"The Committee on the Legislative Department did not recommend the adoption. On a division vote a motion to recommend adoption of the proposal, notwithstanding the recommendation of the Committee, did not prevail."

Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Bride, moved that the proposal be adopted.

On a division vote the motion did not prevail, 20 delegates voting in the affirmative and 41 delegates voting in the negative.

At 2:10 P.M. the Chairman again took the rostrum.

GENERAL ORDERS

Mr. Corcoran, seconded by Messrs. Warren and Cochran, 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

At 4:02 P.M. on motion of Mr. Doris, seconded by Mr. Cote, the Convention adjourned to meet on Monday, March 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

A P P E N D I X

Journal of the Committee of the Whole

March 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

Mr. Doris, seconded by Messrs. Cochran, Principe, Wrenn and Bevilacqua, moved that Proposal No.30-Substitute A and Proposal No. 31-Substitute A, in that order, be placed first on the calendar of General Orders.

The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

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

Proposal No. 30-Substitute A "Of the House of Representatives"
(The Committee on the Legislative Department recommends the adoption of the Substitute Proposal.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. Dolbashian, seconded by Messrs. Wrenn, Cochran, Doris and SaoBento, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend adoption of the proposal.

Mr. Gorham of Scituate, seconded by Mr. Gorham of Foster, offered the following written motion to amend:

"I move to amend Proposal No. 30A Sec. 1 as follows: to substitute for the first sentence thereof the following:

"The House of Representatives shall consist of one hundred members and shall be constituted on the basis of the number of electors who have registered and qualified to vote.'

"and in the second sentence thereof to substitute the following:

"Immediately upon the adoption of this Constitution and every ten years thereafter the general assembly shall divide the state into one hundred representatives districts, as nearly equal in the number of electors who have registered and qualified to vote and as compact in territory as is reasonably possible.'

"and to substitute for the language 'following the completion and publication of the census' the following:

"Following the tenth year after the last apportionment or reapportionment.'"

/s/ John Gorham

The motion was read.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion to amend did not prevail, 5 delegates voting in the affirmative and 60 delegates voting in the negative.

Mrs. Foster, seconded by Mr. Toolin, offered the following written motion to amend:

"I move to amend 30-A by substituting the following, after the

first sentence:

"For the purpose of electing members of the House of Representatives the state shall be divided into 100 districts. Each district shall consist, as nearly as possible, of compact and contiguous territory.

"Immediately upon the adoption of this Constitution and thereafter following any new census taken by the authority of the United States or this state, the governor shall appoint a board of seven (7) qualified voters to make recommendations within ninety days of their appointment concerning the redistricting of the state. The governor shall publish the recommendations of the board when received. The governor shall promulgate a redistricting plan within ninety to one hundred and twenty days after appointment of the board, whether or not it has made its recommendations. The governor shall accompany his plan with a message explaining his reasons for any changes from the recommendations of the board. The governor's redistricting plan shall be published in the manner provided for acts of the legislature and shall have the force of law upon such publication. Upon application of any qualified voter, the supreme court, in the exercise of original, exclusive and final jurisdiction, shall review the Governor's redistricting plan and shall have jurisdiction to make orders to amend the plan to comply with the requirements of this constitution or, if the governor has failed to promulgate a redistricting plan within the time provided, to make one or more orders establishing such a plan.

"And keep in the last sentence of 30-A."

/s/ Millicent S. Foster

The motion was read.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion to amend did not prevail, 4 delegates voting in the affirmative and 55 delegates voting in the negative.

The motion to recommend adoption of the proposal prevailed on a division vote, 58 delegates voting in the affirmative and 2 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 31-Substitute A "Article VI, Of the Senate"
(The Committee on the Legislative Department recommends the adoption of the Substitute Proposal.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. Doris, seconded by Messrs. Ricci and Bizier, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend adoption of the proposal.

Mr. Gorham of Scituate, seconded by Mr. Gorham of Foster, offered the following written motion to amend:

"I move to amend Proposal No. 31A as follows: to substitute for the second sentence thereof the following:

"Immediately upon the adoption of this Constitution and every ten years thereafter the general assembly shall divide the state into forty senatorial districts, as nearly equal in the number of electors who have registered and qualified to vote and as compact in territory as is reasonably possible."

"and to substitute for the language 'following the completion and publication of the census' the following:

"'following the tenth year after the last apportionment or reapportionment.'"

/s/ John Gorham

The motion was read.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion to amend did not prevail, 6 delegates voting in the affirmative and 50 delegates voting in the negative.

Mr. LaSalle, seconded by Messrs. Bride and Toolin, offered the following written motion to amend:

"I move to amend by striking out the word forty and inserting the word nineteen in its place."

/s/ A. Norman LaSalle

The motion was read.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion to amend did not prevail, 8 delegates voting in the affirmative and 45 delegates voting in the negative.

Mr. Fanning of Providence, seconded by Messrs. Greenhalgh and Corcoran, offered the following written motion to amend:

"I move to amend Section 1 by substituting the word twenty-five in place of the word forty in line 5."

/s/ Stephen A. Fanning, Jr.

The motion was read.

The motion was debated.

At 3:30 P.M. the Chairman yielded the rostrum to Mr. Wrenn as Chairman pro Tem. The debate continued.

At 3:34 P.M. the Chairman again took the rostrum.

On a division vote the motion to amend did not prevail, 36 delegates voting in the affirmative and 37 delegates voting in the negative.

Mr. LaSalle, seconded by Messrs. Gates and Toolin, offered the following written motion to amend:

"I move to amend by striking out the word forty and inserting the number 33 in its place."

/s/ A. Norman LaSalle

The motion was read.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion to amend did not prevail, 30 delegates voting in the affirmative and 39 delegates voting in the negative.

On a division vote the motion to recommend adoption of the proposal prevailed, 41 delegates voting in the affirmative and 23 delegates voting in the negative.

Mr. Doris, seconded by Messrs. Sherry, Cochran, Bizier, and SaoBento, moved that the Committee of the Whole rise.

The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

August P. LaFrance, Secretary
Constitutional Convention