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## Journal of the Constitutional Convention, 1966 May 23

August P. LaFrance

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**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**JOURNAL OF THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

**Providence, Rhode Island**

May 23, 1966

The Convention was called to order by Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, Chairman, at 1:50 P.M.

INVOCATION

The Chairman presented Reverend J. Richard Peck, Protestant Chaplain of Rhode Island College, Providence, for the purpose of giving the Invocation. The Invocation was given.

The roll of delegates was called; there were 71 present and 29 absent.

Absentees were Mrs. Barber, Messrs. Belhumeur, Canna, Crandall, Cunningham, DeCiantis, Dyl; Dodge, Feeney, Gallagher, Gates, Giguere, Gorham of Scituate, Jordan, Mrs. Lacroix, Messrs. LaFrance, Martin, McCabe, Merolla, Moon, Mulligan, Murphy of Warren, Murphy of Coventry, Murphy of Tiverton, Murray, Pucci, SaoBento, Viall and Warren.

The names of the absentees were called.

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

On motion of Mr. DiLuglio, seconded by Messrs. Cochran and Principe, Mr. Ernest A. Foster was elected Secretary Pro Tem in the absence of the Secretary of the Convention unanimously.

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Gallogly, for the Committee on the Executive Department, reported back that, after a duly advertised public hearing was held thereon, by a vote of 9 to 1, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 23 "Article VII-Of the Executive Power"

The proposal and report were accepted, referred to the Committee of the Whole and placed on the General Orders.

Mr. Gallogly, for the Committee on the Executive Department, reported back that, after a duly advertised public hearing was held thereon, by a vote of 10 to 0, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 78 "Of the Executive Power"

The proposal and report were accepted, referred to the Committee of the Whole and placed on the General Orders.

Mr. Gallogly, for the Committee on the Executive Department, reported back that, after a duly advertised public hearing was held thereon, by a vote of 10 to 0, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 162 "Executive Budget"

The proposal and report were accepted, referred to the Committee of the Whole and placed on the General Orders.

Mr. Gallogly, for the Committee on the Executive Department, reported back that, by a vote of 10 to 0, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 189F "Article VII-Of the Executive Power"

The proposal and report were accepted, referred to the Committee of the Whole and placed on the General Orders.

Mr. Gallogly, for the Committee on the Executive Department, reported back that, after a duly advertised public hearing was held thereon, by a vote of 8 to 2, the Committee recommended adoption of the following proposal:

Proposal No. 32, Substitute A "Of the Executive Power"

The proposal and report were accepted, referred to the Committee of the Whole and placed on the General Orders.

Mr. Wexler, for the Committee on Style and Drafting, reported back that, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee recommended adoption of the following proposal:

Proposal No. 26, Substitute B "Declaration of Certain Constitutional Rights and Principles"

The proposal and report were accepted and placed in order for Second Reading of Proposals at the next session of the Convention.

Mr. Wexler, for the Committee on Style and Drafting, reported back that, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee recommended adoption of the following proposal:

Proposal No. 27, Substitute B "Of Suffrage"

The proposal and report were accepted and placed in order for Second Reading of Proposals at the next session of the Convention.

Mr. Wexler, for the Committee on Style and Drafting, reported back that, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 22 "Article II-Of the Qualifications of Electors"

The proposal and report were accepted and placed in order for Second Reading of Proposals at the next session of the Convention.

Mr. Wexler, for the Committee on Style and Drafting, reported back that, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee recommended adoption of the following proposal:

Proposal No. 34, Substitute B "Of Qualifications for Office"

The proposal and report were accepted and placed in order for Second Reading of Proposals at the next session of the Convention.

Mr. Wexler, for the Committee on Style and Drafting, reported back that, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee recommended adoption of the following proposal:

Proposal No. 33, Substitute B "Of Elections"

The proposal and report were accepted and placed in order for Second Reading of Proposals at the next session of the Convention.

Mr. Wexler, for the Committee on Style and Drafting, reported back that, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee recommended adoption of the following proposal:

Proposal No. 35, Substitute B "Of the Judicial Power"

The proposal and report were accepted and placed in order for Second Reading of Proposals at the next session of the Convention.

Mr. Wexler, for the Committee on Style and Drafting, reported back that, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 148 "Of the Judicial Power"

The proposal and report were accepted and placed in order for Second Reading of Proposals at the next session of the Convention.

Mr. Wexler, for the Committee on Style and Drafting, reported back that, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee recommended adoption of the following proposal:

Proposal No. 37 "Of Education"

The proposal and report were accepted and placed in order for Second Reading of Proposals at the next session of the Convention.

Mr. Wexler, for the Committee on Style and Drafting, reported back that, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee recommended adoption of the following proposal:

Proposal No. 171, Substitute C "Of Amendments"

The proposal and report were accepted and placed in order for Second Reading of Proposals at the next session of the Convention.

Mr. Wexler, for the Committee on Style and Drafting, reported back that, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee recommended adoption of the following proposal:

Proposal No. 182 "Interest"

The proposal and report were accepted and placed in order for Second Reading of Proposals at the next session of the Convention.

Mr. Kagan, for the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote, reported back that, by a vote of 9 to 0, the Committee ordered to be reported that by a vote of 7 to 2, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 205 "Term of Office of Representatives"

The proposal and report were accepted, referred to the Committee of the Whole and placed on the General Orders.

Mr. Kagan, for the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote, reported back that, by a vote of 9 to 0, the Committee ordered to be reported that by a vote of 6 to 3, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 204 "Term of Office of Senators"

The proposal and report were accepted, referred to the Committee of the Whole and placed on the General Orders.

Mr. Kagan, for the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote, reported back that, by a vote of 9 to 0, the Committee ordered to be reported that by a vote of 6 to 3, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 202 "Term of Members of the House of Representatives"

The proposal and report were accepted, referred to the Committee of the Whole and placed on the General Orders.

Mr. Kagan, for the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote, reported back that, by a vote of 9 to 0, the Committee ordered to be reported that by a vote of 6 to 3, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 201 "Term of Members of the Senate"

The proposal and report were accepted, referred to the Committee of the Whole and placed on the General Orders.

Mr. Kagan, for the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote, reported back that, after a duly advertised public hearing was held thereon, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Committee ordered to be reported that by a vote of 6 to 2, the Committee did not recommend the following proposal:

Proposal No. 47 "Municipal Elections"

The proposal and report were accepted, referred to the Committee of the Whole and placed on the General Orders.

The Chairman noted the presence of the Honorable Edgar A. Lussier, Mayor of Woonsocket and invited him to occupy a seat on the rostrum.

GENERAL ORDERS

Mr. Cooney, seconded by Mr. Wexler, moved that the Convention resolve into a Committee of the Whole.

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 2:58 P.M., on motion of Mr. LaSalle, seconded by Messrs. Lawrence, Vacca and Toolin, the Convention adjourned to meet on

Tuesday, May 31, 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

May 23, 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. 192 "Article \_\_\_\_, Initiative and Referendum"  
(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. LaSalle, seconded by Messrs. Wexler, Toolin, Gmelin and Baccari, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend adoption of the proposal.

The motion was debated.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 33 delegates voting in the affirmative and 29 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 189M "Article XV-Of Amendments"  
(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

On motion of Mr. Doris, seconded by Messrs. Cote and Dolbashian, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed on a voice vote.

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

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 53 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 189E "Article V-Of the House of Representatives and Article VI-Of the Senate"  
(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

On motion of Mr. Doris, seconded by Messrs. Cote and Bizier, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed on a voice vote.

Mr. Doris, seconded by Messrs. Principe and Cote, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 42 delegates voting in the affirmative, 0 delegates voting in the negative with more than 9 delegates present and not voting.

Proposal No. 189D "Article IV-Of the Legislative Power"  
(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

On motion of Mr. Doris, seconded by Messrs. Cote and Gallogly, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed, on a voice vote.

Mr. Doris, seconded by Messrs. Gallogly and Principe, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 43 delegates voting in the affirmative, 0 delegates voting in the negative with more than 8 delegates present and not voting.

Proposal No. 60 "Of Amendments"  
(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

On motion of Mrs. Foster, seconded by Mr. Gallogly, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed, on a voice vote.

Mrs. Foster, seconded by Mr. Principe, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 45 delegates voting in the affirmative, 0 delegates voting in the negative with more than 6 delegates present and not voting.

Proposal No. 40 "Amendment of Constitution"  
(The Committee on the Legislative Department does not recommend.)

On motion of Dr. Parrillo, seconded by Mr. Fontaine, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed, on a voice vote.

Mr. Cooney, seconded by Messrs. Fontaine and Dolbashian, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

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

Proposal No. 197 "Freedom of the Press"  
(The Committee on Personal Liberties does not recommend.)



On motion of Mr. Dolbashian, seconded by Mr. Principe, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed, on a voice vote.

Mr. Dolbashian, seconded by Dr. Parrillo, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 52 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 189A "Article I, Declaration of Certain Constitutional Rights and Principles"  
(The Committee on Personal Liberties does not recommend.)

On motion of Mr. Dolbashian, seconded by Mr. Principe, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed, on a voice vote.

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

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 51 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 189B "Article II, Of Suffrage"  
(The Committee on Elections and Right to Vote does not recommend.)

On motion of Mr. Kagan, seconded by Messrs. Gallogly, Lawrence and Cote, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed, on a voice vote.

Mr. Kagan, seconded by Mr. Cochran, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 52 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 189G "Article VIII, Of Elections"  
(The Committee on Elections and Right to Vote does not recommend.)

On motion of Mr. Kagan, seconded by Messrs. Cote, Lawrence and Dolbashian, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed, on a voice vote.

Mr. Kagan, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 51 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 189H "Article IX-Of Qualifications for Office"  
(The Committee on Elections and Right to Vote does not recommend.)

On motion of Mr. Kagan, seconded by Messrs. Cote and Lawrence, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed, on a voice vote.

Mr. Kagan, seconded by Messrs. Cote and Lawrence, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend rejection of the proposal.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 51 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

Proposal No. 200 "Term of General Officers"

(The Committee on Elections and Right to Vote does not recommend.)

On motion of Mr. Gallogly, seconded by Mr. Kagan, by unanimous consent, reading of the proposal was dispensed, on a voice vote.

On suggestion of Mr. Gallogly, by unanimous consent, the proposal was placed last on the calendar of General Orders.

Proposal No. 203 "Election of General Officers"

(The Committee on Elections and Right to Vote does not recommend.)

On suggestion of Mr. Gallogly, by unanimous consent, the proposal was placed last on the calendar of General Orders.

Proposal No. 25 "Preamble"

(The Committee on Style and Drafting recommends the adoption.)

The proposal was read.

Mr. Wexler, seconded by Messrs. Dolbashian, Cannon, Vacca and Matzner, moved that the Committee of the Whole recommend adoption of the proposal.

On a division vote the motion prevailed, 56 delegates voting in the affirmative and 0 delegates voting in the negative.

RECONSIDERATION

Mr. Doris, seconded by Messrs. Kagan, Fontain and Cote, moved that the Committee of the Whole reconsider Proposal No. 192, "Article \_\_\_\_\_, Initiative and Referendum."

On a division vote the motion did not prevail, 21 delegates voting in the affirmative and 31 delegates voting in the negative.

Mr. Fontaine, seconded by Mr. Wexler, moved that the Committee of the Whole rise.

The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

August P. LaFrance, Secretary  
Constitutional Convention