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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

**JOURNAL OF THE
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

Providence, Rhode Island

February 15, 1965

The Convention was called to order by Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, Chairman, at 2:10 P.M.

INVOCATION

The Chairman presented Rev. Charles H. McKenna, O.P., of Providence College, for the purpose of giving the Invocation. The Invocation was given.

The roll of delegates was called; there were 82 present, 17 absent. A quorum was present.

Absentees were Mr. Appolonia, Mrs. Barber, Mr. Bride, Mr. Chaharyn, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. DeCiantis, Mr. Fontaine, Mr. Gallogly, Mr. Gorham of Scituate, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Kiernan, Mr. LaSalle, Mr. McCabe, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Moon, Mr. Murphy of Coventry and Mr. Pucci.

The names of the absentees were called.

The Journal of the previous day was read in part. Mr. Pickard moved that the further reading of the Journal be dispensed with. Mr. Wexler seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

On suggestion of Mr. Cochran, the delegates extended Fr. McKenna a unanimous rising vote of appreciation for his kindness in giving the Invocation.

Mr. Cochran suggested that the speaker of the day address the Convention. The Chairman by unanimous consent presented Mr. Raymond J. Pettine, United States District Attorney for the District of Rhode Island. Mr. Pettine addressed the Convention.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland for the Committee on Administration of the Convention reported that a survey of delegates had been made for the purpose of determining a schedule of Convention sessions and that the Committee recommended that Mondays at 2:00 P.M. in the House of Representatives be set for regular sessions of the Convention until such time as the General Assembly has adjourned its January Session, A.D. 1965. Mr. Fanning of Cumberland moved that the recommendation of

the Committee be adopted. Mr. Cannon seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Webster reported for the Committee on Executive Department that the Committee met, organized and elected Mr. Gallogly, Chairman; Mrs. Webster, Vice-Chairman and Mrs. Pulner, Secretary.

Mr. Stapleton reported for the Committee on Education that the Committee met, organized and elected Mr. Stapleton, Chairman; Mrs. Pell, Vice-Chairman and Mrs. Barber, Secretary.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman announced receipt of a communication from Mr. William R. Ferrante and ordered that it be read. Mr. Doris objected to the reading of the Communication. The Communication was referred to the Committee on Legislative Department.

INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSALS

The Chairman announced receipt of the following proposals:

Proposal No. 16 offered by Mr. Ricci entitled "Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the State. (State Lotteries for Aid to Education, Public Assistance, Urban Renewal and General Purposes)." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Legislative Department.

Proposal No. 17 offered by Mr. Cochran (no title). The Proposal was referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 18 offered by Mr. Bizier entitled "Abolishment of City and Town Governments". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Local Government.

Proposal No. 19 offered by Mr. Cochran entitled "Election and Term of Office of Members of the Legislature". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 20 offered by Mr. Cochran entitled "Term and Election of General Officers". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 21 offered by Mr. Cochran entitled "Election of General Officers". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 22 offered by Mrs. Pulner entitled "Of the Qualifications of Electors." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 23 offered by Mr. Nathanson entitled "Article VII Of the Executive Power". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Executive Department.

Proposal No. 24 offered by Mr. Nathanson entitled "Article VIII Of Elections." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 25 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Preamble-Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Style and Drafting.

Proposal No. 26 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article I. Declaration of Certain Constitutional Rights and Principles." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Personal Liberties.

Proposal No. 27 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article II Of Suffrage." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 28 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article III. Of the Distribution of Powers." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Executive Department.

Proposal No. 29 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article IV. Of the Legislative Power." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Legislative Department.

Proposal No. 30 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article V. Of the House of Representatives." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Legislative Department.

Proposal No. 31 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article VI. Of the Senate." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Legislative Department.

Proposal No. 32 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article VII. Of the Executive Power." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Executive Department.

Proposal No. 33 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article VIII. Of Elections." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 34 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article IX. Of Qualifications for Office." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 35 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article X. Of the Judicial Power." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Proposal No. 36 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article XI. Of Impeachments." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Proposal No. 37 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article XII. Of Education." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Education.

Proposal No. 38 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article XIII. Of Local Government." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Local Government.

Proposal No. 39 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article XIV. Of Continuity of Government During an Emergency." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Executive Department.

Proposal No. 40 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article XV. Of Amendments." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Legislative Department.

Proposal No. 41 offered by Mr. Cooney entitled "Article XVI. Of the Adoption of this Constitution." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 42 offered by Mr. Murray entitled "Election of Members of General Assembly." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 43 offered by Mrs. Foster entitled "Merit System." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Executive Department.

Proposal No. 44 offered by Mr. Vacca entitled "Article I. Declaration of Certain Constitutional Rights and Principles." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Executive Department.

Proposal No. 45 offered by Mr. Vacca entitled "Article I. Declaration of Certain Constitutional Rights and Principles." The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Personal Liberties.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

The Chairman announced receipt of Resolution No. 6 offered by Mr. Champion. The Resolution was read and referred to the Committee on Administration of the Convention.

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland moved that Rule 58 be suspended for the purpose of consideration of a Resolution to amend Rule 4. Mr. Murray seconded the motion. The Chairman declared that Rule 58 required a roll call vote on the motion. The roll of delegates was called; there were 82 voting in the affirmative, 0 voting in the negative and 17 absentees. The motion to suspend Rule 58 was adopted.

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland offered Resolution No. 7 entitled "Resolution of Amendment of Rule 4 of the Rules of the Convention." The Resolution was read and referred to the Committee on Rules and Credentials.

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland offered Resolution No. 8 entitled "Resolution on the Administration of the Convention." The Resolution was read and referred to the Committee on Administration of the Convention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland announced that the Committee on Administration of the Convention would meet forthwith.

Mr. Coleman announced that the Committee on Local Government would meet forthwith.

Mr. DiLuglio announced that the Committee on Legislative Department would meet at the rising of the Convention.

Mr. Murphy of Tiverton announced that the Committee on Public Information would meet at the rising of the Convention.

Mr. Murray announced that the Committee on Rules and Credentials would meet forthwith.

The Chairman announced that the delegates should indicate their seating preferences as an assistance to the Chairman in assigning seats.

Mr. Foster moved that the Convention be in recess for a period of fifteen (15) minutes. Mr. Cochran seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote and the Convention recessed at 3:11 P.M.

RECESS

The Chairman again called the Convention to order at 3:26 P.M.

Upon suggestion of Mr. Murray, by unanimous consent, the Convention referred back to reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Murray for the Committee on Rules and Credentials reported back, with recommendation for adoption, Resolution No. 7 entitled "Resolution of Amendment of Rule 4 of the Rules of the Convention." Mr. Murray moves the recommendation of the Committee be adopted. Mr. Murphy of Tiverton seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Beauchemin reported for the Committee on Personal Liberties that the Committee had met, organized and elected Mr. Murphy of Warren, Chairman, Mr. Gorham of Scituate, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Beauchemin, Secretary.

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland for the Committee on Administration of the Convention reported back, with recommendation for adoption, Resolution No. 8 entitled "Resolution on the Administration of the Convention." Mr. Fanning of Cumberland moved that the recommendation of the Committee be adopted. Mr. Cannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland announced that the Committee on Administration of the Convention would meet at the rising of the Convention.

Mr. Foster for the Committee on Rules and Credentials reported back that the Committee had elected Mr. Foster, Secretary.

Mrs. Capuano for the Committee on Local Government reported back that the Committee had met, organized and elected Mr. Coleman, Chairman, Mr. Cochran, Vice-Chairman and Mrs. Capuano, Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murray moved that the Convention adjourn to meet on Monday, March 1, 1965 at 2:00 P.M. in the Chamber of the House of Representatives at the State House. Mr. Cochran seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed on a voice vote and at 3:35 P.M. the Convention adjourned to meet on Monday, March 1, 1965 at 2:00 P.M. in the Chamber of the House of Representatives.

August P. LaFrance
Secretary
Constitutional Convention