

Providence College

DigitalCommons@Providence

---

Journals of the 1964-1969 Constitutional  
Convention of Rhode Island

Special Collections

---

March 1965

## Journal of the Constitutional Convention, 1965 Mar 29

August P. LaFrance

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.providence.edu/constitution\\_64-69](https://digitalcommons.providence.edu/constitution_64-69)

---

LaFrance, August P., "Journal of the Constitutional Convention, 1965 Mar 29" (1965). *Journals of the 1964-1969 Constitutional Convention of Rhode Island*. 71.

[https://digitalcommons.providence.edu/constitution\\_64-69/71](https://digitalcommons.providence.edu/constitution_64-69/71)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at DigitalCommons@Providence. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journals of the 1964-1969 Constitutional Convention of Rhode Island by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Providence. For more information, please contact [dps@providence.edu](mailto:dps@providence.edu).

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

JOURNAL OF THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Providence, Rhode Island

March 29, 1965

The Convention was called to order by Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, Chairman at 2:00 P.M.

INVOCATION

The Chairman presented Rev. Norman Henry, First Lutheran Church, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, for the purpose of giving the Invocation. The Invocation was given.

The roll of delegates was called; there were 69 present, 30 absent. A quorum was present.

Absentees were Messrs. Appolonia, Baccari, Beauchemin, Belhumeur, Mrs. Capuano, Messrs. Chaharyn, Colbert, Coleman, Cooney, Delehanty, DeCiantis, DiLuglio, DiSandro, Dodge, Gammino, Gates, Giguere, Greenhalgh, Jordan, Kiernan, Laporte, LaSalle, Martin, Merolla, Murphy of Coventry, Murphy of Warren, Mrs. Pell, Messrs. Prince, Smart and Stapleton.

The names of the absentees were called.

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Murray for the Committee on Rules and Credentials reported back the following Resolution with recommendation of indefinite postponement of the original and adoption of "Substitute A".

Resolution No. 12 "Substitute A". "Resolution to require an election for the vacancy in the office of delegate to the Constitutional Convention."

The Resolution was read and the recommendation of the Committee was adopted on motion of Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Foster, on a voice vote.

Mrs. Pulner for the Committee on Executive Department reported back with recommendation of recommittal to the Committee on Resolutions the following Proposal:

Proposal No. 2 (no title)

By unanimous consent, the recommendation of the Committee was adopted.

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland for the Committee on Administration of the Convention reported back that the Committee had established two positions of typist, two positions of research associate and had made the following appointments:

Mrs. Claire Duffy - Stenographer  
Mrs. Aileen T. O'Neil - Stenographer  
Mrs. Shirley N. Russell - Typist  
Mr. Mario DiNunzio - Research Associate  
Mr. Patrick T. Conley - Research Associate  
Mrs. Lorraine Silberthau - Research Associate  
Mr. Roland E. Dufault - Research Associate

By unanimous consent, the report of the Committee was received and placed on file.

On suggestion of Mr. Pickard the delegates extended Rev. Henry a rising vote of appreciation for his kindness in giving the Invocation.

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland for the Committee on Administration of the Convention reported back the following Resolution with recommendation of indefinite postponement of the original and adoption of "Substitute A".

Resolution No. 10 "Substitute A". "Resolution requesting of the General Assembly an additional appropriation of \$154,000. for the support of the Constitutional Convention."

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland, seconded by Mr. Cannon, moved that the recommendation of the Committee be adopted.

Mr. Champion, seconded by Messrs. Doris, Kagan, Bizier, Gallagher and Wrenn, offered the following written motion to amend:

"I move to amend Resolution No. 10, Substitute A by inserting in the proposed budget the item:-

Mileage for delegates \$20,000.

and thus increasing the total budget to \$224,000. and the amount requested of the General Assembly to \$174,000."

Delegate William J. Champion, Jr.  
2nd Rep. Dist. Newport

Messrs. Canna, Mulligan, Gallogly, Fanning of Cumberland, Cochran, Doris, Wrenn, Kanakry and Pickard discussed the motion.

The motion to amend failed of adoption on a voice vote.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted on a voice vote.

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland for the Committee on Administration of the Convention reported back that the Committee had adopted guidelines for the work of the research staff and submitted a written report of such guidelines. By unanimous consent the report was ordered to be appended to the Journal of today's session. (For report see Appendix this Journal)

Mr. Fanning of Cumberland announced that the Committee on Administration of the Convention planned to have duplicated and distributed to the Delegates the opinion of the Supreme Court of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations dated March 12, 1965 to the Honorable, The House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman announced receipt of the following Communications relative to metropolitanization:

From the Town Clerk of the Town of Glocester transmitting a copy of a Resolution of the Town Council;

A copy of a Resolution passed by the Town Council of the Town of West Greenwich; and

A copy of a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Little Compton.

The Communications were placed on file.

#### INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSALS

The Chairman announced receipt of the following Proposals:

Proposal No. 56 offered by Mr. Toolin entitled, "Of Education". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Education.

Proposal No. 57 offered by Mr. Chaharyn entitled, "Of Education". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Education.

Proposal No. 58 offered by Mr. Lawrence entitled, "Of Elections". The Proposal was read by titled and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 59 offered by Mrs. Pulner entitled, "Of Suffrage". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Elections and Right to Vote.

Proposal No. 60 offered by Mrs. Foster entitled, "Of Amendments". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Legislative Department.

Proposal No. 61 offered by Mr. McKiernan entitled, "Of the Legislative Power". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Legislative Department.

Proposal No. 62 offered by Mr. Pickard entitled, "Of the Judicial Power". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Proposal No. 63 offered by Mr. Pickard entitled, "Of Education". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Education.

Proposal No. 64 offered by Mr. Pickard entitled, "Judicial Power". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Proposal No. 10003 offered by a qualified elector, Stanwood A. Demers of West Greenwich, entitled, "Legal Remedy". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Proposal No. 10004 offered by a qualified elector, Stanwood A. Demers of West Greenwich, entitled, "Civil Rights". The Proposal was read by title and referred to the Committee on Personal Liberties.

#### MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Murray offered Resolution No. 13 entitled, "Proposed Amendment to Rules - Limitation on time for Submission of Proposals." The Resolution was read and referred to the Committee on Rules and Credentials.

Mr. Pucci, seconded by Mr. Cochran, moved that the Secretary be directed to obtain the necessary certification when a Qualified Elector's Proposal is submitted. The motion was discussed. Mr. Pucci withdrew his motion.

Mr. Murray, seconded by Messrs. Cochran and Foster, moved that in the future any proposal submitted by a Qualified Elector be referred to the Committee on Rules and Credentials to determine the qualification of the elector. The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

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

#### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Murphy of Tiverton for the Committee on Public Information reported back that the Committee had elected Mr. Lawrence, Secretary.

Mr. Bride announced that the Committee on Judiciary would meet at the rising of the Convention.

Mr. Gallogly announced that the Committee on Executive Department would meet at the rising of the Convention.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:24 P.M. on motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. Vacca, the Convention adjourned to meet on Monday, April 12, 1965 at 2:00 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 XGUIDELINES FOR THE WORK OF THE RESEARCH STAFFStaff Personnel and Compensation

For the period until about June 1, the Staff will probably consist of the Director, the Assistant Director and the four Research Assistants approved to date. Each Research Assistant will average two days per week, or a total of 60 hours of available time. This, in addition to the one day per week which the Director will devote to Convention work, and the two days per week to be spent by the Assistant Director, will represent an average weekly cost of \$320. For the ten-week period starting March 22, the total cost of the Research Staff at this weekly rate, will be \$3,200.

It is, of course, possible that this number of hours of Research Staff time will not prove sufficient, and additional staff may have to be added before June 1. After June 1, it is assumed that the work load will demand a substantial increase in personnel.

Scheduling the Work of the Staff

Requests for research made by the Committees of the Convention should take priority over requests from individual delegates. These latter will, however, be assigned to the Research Assistants as soon as time is available to devote to them.

In addition to work on actual research requests, the Research Assistants will each spend two or three hours a week at Convention Headquarters where they will be available for consultation by delegates, and whatever time is necessary to attend committee meetings upon request of the Chairmen. It will be the responsibility of the Director to allocate tasks as seems appropriate.

A P P E N D I XAVAILABILITY OF RESEARCH STAFF

The Convention Headquarters is now in operation. The Research Staff has been selected and has begun to function. Much of its work will be done for the Committees of the Convention, but its services will also be available to individual delegates. Beginning immediately, there will be one member of the Staff at the Convention Headquarters every weekday as indicated in the schedule below. The staff member on duty will be available for consultation by any delegate who wishes assistance in drafting a proposal or would like to secure other kinds of research assistance.

Monday	10:30 - 12:00 Noon
Tuesday	12:30 - 3:00 P.M.
Wednesday	12:30 - 3:00 P.M.
Thursday	12:30 - 3:00 P.M.
Friday	2:00 - 5:00 P.M.

On Friday, the Assistant Director will be on duty at Headquarters from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M., and the Director will hold office hours from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Generally, all members of the Research Staff will attend all meetings of the Convention and be available for informal consultation there.



Appendix

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Voted, That the research staff assigned to and employed by the Rhode Island Constitutional Convention be and is hereby directed to provide a memorandum of reference for each proposal introduced for consideration of the Convention; said memorandum to include a reference to the sections, articles, and provisions of the present constitution or that body of statutory law directly affected by or related to the proposal under consideration; and be it further,

Voted, That each such memorandum prepared will be forwarded to the appropriate committee within one week following introduction of said proposal to the Convention

Committee on Administration of the Convention approves.

Stephen A. Fanning  
Chairman

Jeremiah H. Cannon  
Secretary

March 29, 1965