

Constitutional Convention
Journal '63
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ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

JOURNAL FOR THE SEVENTY-FIFTH CONVENTION DAY, Sunday, February 5, 1956

The Convention session was held in the University Gymnasium and the opening was preceded by the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner" by the University Band.

The Convention was called to order by President Egan at 2 p.m.

The following Invocation was given by the Rev. John C. Stokes:

"Let us pray. Almighty God and Father of all mankind, Thou who doth sit upon the throne of righteousness and dost deal justly with all men, we invoke Thy divine blessing upon this, the signing of the Constitution for the State of Alaska. In doing so, with thanksgiving for those who have prepared it, it is our earnest plea that Thou wilt use it in the affairs of the citizens of this State in the years and ages to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

The Chief Clerk called the roll. All delegates were present except Mr. Robertson. The President declared a quorum to be present.

The following communication from the Hon. E. L. Bartlett, Delegate to Congress from Alaska, was read:

"The seventy-five days which began on November 8 and conclude now will become as meaningful in Alaska's future chronicles as they are now to each of you personally. When Convention began it was with best wishes of all Alaskans. As time passed there was growing comprehension of immensity of task upon which you had started. Today when you sign the document which you have fashioned there is, I believe, general understanding not only that you have worked diligently, faithfully and with civic virtue, but successfully in writing constitution dedicated to best American principles and to furtherance mighty state to be. I thank you for extending invitation to be with you today as constitution is signed. For both Mrs. Bartlett and me it is as hard as can be here when we want to be there. We congratulate you for a job well done. You have earned grateful thanks of your fellow Alaskans. Our congratulations go likewise to loyal members of your staff whose assistance we know has meant so much to you all during Convention."

75th Day, Sunday, Feb. 5, 1956

The President welcomed all guests and called attention to the presence in the audience of Mr. Benny Benson, a resident of Kodiak, who had designed Alaska's flag as a boy.

The President appointed the following committee to escort Governor B. Frank Heintzleman to the rostrum: Mr. Buckalew, Mr. Johnson, Mr. King and Mr. Reader. Governor Heintzleman's address follows:

"President Egan, Delegates to the Constitutional Convention:

The act of affixing your signature to a proposed Constitution for the State of Alaska means to you delegates the closing of a period of extremely hard work in which your time, energies and talents were devoted in full measure to achieving something which you sincerely and earnestly hope will be of lasting value to all Alaskans, present and future.

The object you have brought into being offers a study of a fascinating social process. Fifty-five individuals of varied backgrounds, temperaments and ideas, and representing different regions and vocational groups with diversified interests, were brought together to consider the most complicated of social and political problems and blend them into a harmonious entity. By some wonderful alchemy which defies definition, this has been accomplished.

This marks a great stride toward ultimate self-government and self-determination.

The paper you have drafted will serve to demonstrate to Americans everywhere the character of political and social thinking to be found in Alaskans. We are confident that any comparison that may be made with the people of the several states will show that the plane of our thinking is as high as that of any other unit of the Nation.

This ceremony here today is not so much an ending as it is a beginning--a beginning of a long series of related activities which will be projected into the distant future of Alaska and of our Nation.

When you have affixed your signatures to this document, you will be standing in a similar position to that of the members of the Philadelphia Convention on September 17, 1787, the day they presented the American people with a document entitled "The Constitution of the United States as Agreed upon by the Convention." Like you today, they could look back upon a period of arduous labor during which they devised a means of reconciling the conflict of sectional and other special interests and built a working frame for a vital democracy.

But we remember that, at this point, the product of the Convention was still merely a document, not yet a living Constitution. They faced, as do we, the hurdle of gaining ratification of this document by the people.

The Constitution of the State of Alaska which you have agreed upon, when presented for popular endorsement, will not, I am sure, have to pass through a period of such bitter controversy as did the Constitution of the United States before it was finally ratified.

But as framers of the document, each of you will be expected, and are conscience-bound, to follow the lead of our forefathers and carry to the general public of the area you represented at the Convention, your interpretation of the underlying fundamental principles and the definite terms of this document which you have proposed as the governmental foundation of the State of Alaska.

The task now calls for further public service. I can give you little in the way of advice as to how it should be done, but I can at least refer you to the record of the comparable period in the establishment of our Constitution of the United States, and in particular to that series of essays dealing with the Constitution contained in 'The Federalist.'

Some of you will be called upon to reenact, in some degree, the role of Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison in producing an Alaskan version of 'The Federalist.'

History will serve to point out many of the situations which this Constitution can be expected to face during the next three months, but I wish to comment on one which will probably recur in many guises. In championing the Constitution of the United States during the adoption controversy, the proponents were repeatedly called upon to answer many variations of the charge that it was imperfect.

These who brought these charges were generally viewing the Constitution from the limited vantage place of special interest or sectional prejudices, or looking upon its parts as though they were separate and unrelated. Undoubtedly, the Constitution which you have framed is already being examined for imperfections.

The charges of imperfections can, of course, arise from special interests, regional points of view and the frequent propensity of people to consider one feature of a proposition without reference to how it influences or is influenced by other features of the proposition.

Perhaps you can draw strength and comfort from the words of Alexander Hamilton in 'The Federalists No. 85,' the final essay in the series in which he gives an answer to all criticisms of this nature:

'I never expect to see a perfect work from imperfect man. The result of the deliberations of all collective bodies must necessarily be a compound, as well of the errors and prejudices, as of the good sense and wisdom, of the individuals of whom they are composed. The compacts which are to embrace thirteen distinct States in a common bond of amity and union, must as necessarily be a compromise of as many dissimilar interests and inclinations. How can perfection spring from such materials?'

Speaking for myself, I believe from the reports of this Convention as given currently by the newspapers as the sessions progressed, that this Constitution for the State of Alaska is in its entirety a good work, that it will provide a foundation for a State of Alaska of which we can be proud, and which may cause some existing States to reexamine their basic charters with a view to adopting some of the Alaska features.

If I find myself trying to pick flaws, I reread these words of Hamilton: 'No advocate of the measure can be found, who will not declare as his sentiment, that the system, though it may not be perfect in every part, is upon the whole, a good one; is the best that the present views and circumstances of the country will permit: and is such a one as promises every species of security which a reasonable people can desire.'

The delegates to this Convention are entitled to the commendation of all Alaskans, present and future. They have given careful and reflective study to relevant material obtained from States and other Governmental units that appeared to offer something of value which they might use; they have shown a fine willingness to hear and consider the views of Alaskans of all shades of opinion, and to work for acceptable compromises on impending deadlocks; and, in general and above all, they have worked hard and conscientiously to produce something that will promote the social and economic welfare of Alaska.

I do not doubt that the names of you delegates and your accomplishments here will be featured in histories of Alaska for a long, long, period of time.

I thank you."

The President stated that the proposed constitution for the State of Alaska in its final form was before the Convention, the previous question having been ordered.

The question being "Shall the proposed constitution for the State of Alaska be agreed upon by the Convention?", the roll was called with the following result:

Yeas: 54 - Armstrong, Awes, Barr, Boswell, Buckalew, Coghill, Collins, Cooper, Cross, Davis, Doogan, Emberg, H. Fischer, V. Fischer, Gray, Harris, Hellenthal, Hermann, Hilscher, Hinckel, Hurley, Johnson, Kilcher, King, Knight, Laws, Lee, Londborg, McCutcheon, McLaughlin, McNealy, McNees, Marston, Metcalf, Nerland, Nolan, Nordale, Peratrovich, Poulsen, Reader, Riley, R. Rivers, V. Rivers, Rosswog, Smith, Stewart, Sundborg, Sweeney, Taylor, VanderLeest, Walsh, White, Wien, and Mr. President

Nays: 0 -

Absent: 1 - Robertson

and so the constitution was agreed upon.

The roll was called and each delegate and the secretary came forward and signed the constitution.

The President announced that the proposed constitution in its final form had been signed by the delegates and the secretary.

The President asked Mr. Armstrong to give the prayer of dedication which follows:

"Let us be thankful to Almighty God. Almighty Father, Lover of men, we thank Thee for creating us after Thine image. Thou hast breathed into us the breath of life. Our souls are Thine. We are wholly Thine. Thou has ordained that the delegates of this Convention should be assembled to write a charter of life for Alaska. We bow in humble reverence, for this task has been great, and we have consequently realized the importance of our actions before Thee. Nothing less than a miracle from Thee has kept us together in mind and spirit. We have, under Thy guidance, acted as many facets of thought and passion to mold this one document. The anvil has rung with the hammer of compromise, and there has come forth a statement of our belief. Today we place the work of our hands before Thee. We ask Thy blessing as we dedicate this constitution. We set it apart from any other plan ever ordered in Alaska as the foundation of our State. We ask that it may speak our hearts, that it might find favor before Thee and the people of this great land. The days and nights have been long. The strain has been at times almost too great to bear, but Thy sustaining power has given us strength. We thank Thee

for Thy hand of love, the Everlasting Arms that have kept us within Thy will. Father, we dedicate this document, mindful of the one who has been given to us as our President. We thank Thee for him. We thank Thee for his wisdom; it has been wisdom from above. We cherish his undaunted courage, the courage he has displayed before us as delegates. We thank Thee for him. And now, O Father, Lord of all, within these pages of this Constitution, we pray that the weak might find strength, the name of justice might be upheld, the lands might be preserved, the governed might find liberty, the life of all might be made bearable and workable. We send this statement of faith unto our people, dedicated in Thy presence. Do Thou sanctify it by Thy grace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen."

Mr. Riley asked that the Chair be relinquished to one of the vice-presidents so that the delegates might hear an address from the President.

The President asked First Vice-President Peratrovich to take the Chair.

President Egan's speech follows:

"Governor Heintzleman, other distinguished guests, fellow Alaskans and delegates. In prefacing my remarks this afternoon, it would seem fitting and proper that the Preamble to Alaska's State Constitution be presented to all Alaskans. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Preamble--

'We the people of Alaska, grateful to God and to those who founded our nation and pioneered this great land, in order to secure and transmit to succeeding generations our heritage of political, civil, and religious liberty within the Union of States, do ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Alaska.'

There are those in Alaska who still say, 'What great difference does it make that I, an American citizen, cannot cast my vote for the President and Vice-President of the United States?

What great difference does it make that we are represented by one hard-working, voteless delegate in Congress--a delegate who cannot vote even in committee, on any subject even though that subject might relate solely to the detriment or welfare of our great Territory. What great difference does it make that acts of our Territorial Legislature are governed mainly by two acts of Congress--one dated July 30, 1886, and the other dated August 24, 1912?'

Well, to me, and I know to most of you, it makes a great deal of difference. We want to cast our ballot for our choice for President of the United States every four years. We want to cast our ballot at regular intervals for two United States Senators and for a voting Representative in the United States Congress from the great State of Alaska, in order that we have our proper representation as to the welfare of our nation; and that in order that the tremendous natural resources available to our nation in Alaska can be properly unfolded and utilized. Then, too, we want to vote for representatives to a state government that is not thwarted by a combination of two laws--one of which was enacted specifically for the Territory almost 70 years ago and the other, one which was enacted by the federal Congress almost 44 years ago.

Alaska's fight for the fullest measure of self-government did not have its inception in the time of most of us who are here this afternoon. Alaska was purchased by the United States from Russia on October 18, 1867, at a cost of less than two cents an acre. Alaska has served more than 88 years under the yoke of federal domination. We are now in our 43rd year of having been an organized territory. No other state in the Union had to endure even half this period of time under territorial status before admittance to the Union. During these years, despite federal obstacles placed in the way of development of its natural resources, Alaska has produced more than 400 times the value of the original 7 1/2 million dollars purchase price from these natural resources.

In 1898, the Congress of the United States enacted legislation making it possible to file on a homestead in Alaska,--but only on surveyed lands and there were no surveyed lands in Alaska in those days. This act set the people of Alaska afire with indignation and the cry for some sort of representation rose to one of crescendo proportions. Mass meetings were held in various populated areas of the Territory. Eastern papers picked up the story and Alaska's cause received some attention in Congress. In 1906, after 25 years of petition, Alaska was permitted to elect a voteless delegate to the national Congress. Persistent citizens kept hammering away and on August 24, 1912, the Congress granted incorporated territorial status to Alaska, with the right to have its own legislative assembly, subject to the restrictions contained in the Acts of Congress of 1886 and 1912. The first territorial legislature convened at the capital city of Juneau in 1913.

Ever since that time, Alaskans who were intimately familiar with the intensive handicaps placed upon industrial development of the territory by antiquated federal bureaucratic red tape, have continued the battle for a fuller measure of self-government

with statehood as the ultimate goal. For more than a decade, dedicated Alaskans have carried a direct fight for the inherent right of our citizens to full citizenship as set forth in the Constitution of the United States. In 1946, at a referendum election, Alaskans voted by a majority of 3 to 2 for statehood for our great territory. In these past few years, increasing numbers of Alaskans who had been lukewarm toward statehood, or who had been non-committal, have joined forces in this greatest of common causes. Today, many opponents of statehood admit privately that another referendum on the question would reveal that a majority of from 4-1 to 6-1 now favor immediate statehood for Alaska.

The arguments against admission of Alaska into the Union are identical with those that were advanced against the admission of nearly all the twenty-nine states that were territories prior to their admission into the Union. Alaska has more population than one-third of the states of the Union had at the time of their admission. There are those who will say that our population is relatively smaller in proportion to the total population of the United States than that of those earlier states at the time when they were admitted. The fact is that there were at least five states which had not only less population than Alaska has now, but even less population in relation to the national total.

Distance from the national capital and non-contiguity to the mainland are often advanced in the course of congressional debate as reasons why Alaska should not become a state. Measured in the only true perspective, that of time required to journey between the proposed state and the national capital, Alaska is much nearer Washington today than were most all the states at the time of their admission to the Union. Today one flies from Fairbanks to Washington, D. C., in approximately 20 hours, and even less time, depending on the type of aircraft one secures passage on. Instantaneous communication by telephone adds a factor not in existence when previous states were admitted. All of our principal cities are linked with the national telephone system.

To say that Alaska lacks the resources to support a state is fantastic. Many of the states now in the Union would be happy indeed, if they could be endowed with Alaska's natural resources. Even though our resources are in their present state of under-development,--mainly because of the federal territorial-status yoke, our economy is amply able to support statehood. A prime example of federal bungling in the handling of our great resources is our commercial fishery. It is my very firm conviction that, in the immediate years following the advent of statehood to Alaska, our fisheries conservation problem will be solved. With local

control of our fisheries, the annual pack of salmon taken from territorial waters will quickly take an upturn because conservation policies would then be laid down by Alaskans intimately familiar with the problem. In a few years' time, with no additional increase in tax on the industry, our state treasury would be additionally benefited with several millions of dollars each biennium. It is quite likely that with the rebuilding of our fisheries, which have become so depleted under the yoke of federal stewardship, this increase in revenue to the state treasury could be accomplished and allow for a reasonable decrease in the tax now levied on the industry by the territory. This question would take a considerable length of time for explanation, but it is one of such extreme importance when we are discussing the subject of statehood for Alaska that I do not believe any argument relative to the question could have much merit if it were not brought home to all our citizens that the solving of the problem of perpetuation of our great fisheries resource can only be accomplished with the right to fully govern ourselves. There are those who say that statehood would 'open the door to the poorhouse'. They cite such matters as the recent mental health act, which carried a direct appropriation for construction of facilities by the federal government. To me, these people have missed the point altogether. The compelling reason for insisting upon the direct appropriation is just another example why we need statehood so desperately. The federal government has withheld care of our mentally ill from Alaska over the years. With no appreciable drain on its treasury, the territory could have provided the facilities from the beginning, together with the sympathetic, expert care which means so much to the ultimate recovery of these patients. Other United States Territories cared for their mentally ill from the inception of Territorial status and were thus enabled to gradually build up their facilities.

To those who say, 'this is not 1900--this is 1956,' we repeat that no great industrial expansion came to any of our other twenty-nine territories until after their admittance to the Union of the United States. To this end, there is no difference between 1900 and 1956.

To those who say, 'no one is holding us forcibly in territorial status--we can move out if we choose,' we say, 'no, no one is forcibly holding us here. But, we have built our homes here; we are rearing our children here; a great many of us will die here. We never intend to live anywhere else. We love our great United States of America, and our hearts belong too, to our great Territory of Alaska and we will never have a true peace of mind until we are taken in full membership as one of the great states of the Union.'

In affixing our signatures to this document we did so with the knowledge that each word had been subject to free and lengthy debate in committee and on the floor of this constitutional convention.

I say to each and every Alaskan: If it had been your good fortune, as it has been mine, to have witnessed the abilities, the diligence, the devotion to duty, of these delegates who have drafted the proposed constitution for the State of Alaska in carrying out the task that had been cut out for them, you would say of their labors, 'Well done!'

We have just completed the task for which we were sent here. Your delegates to Alaska's Constitutional Convention have now given to you, the people of Alaska, the proposed constitution for the State of Alaska. We know that you will judge with great care the end result that has been accomplished here. We are exceedingly gratified that none other than the President of the United States, the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, indicated in his message received here yesterday, that the eyes of the Congress of the United States and the eyes of the people of the United States will be upon you on Ratification Day, April 24th, 1956."

The Ladd Choral Group sang "Alaska's Flag".

The following Benediction was given by the Most Reverend Francis D. Gleeson, S.J.:

"Almighty God, our Father in Heaven, Master and Ruler of the universe, Who has planted deep in the spirit of man abiding hunger for freedom and justice, we humbly pray that the long wished-for day may soon dawn when our beloved northland may be recognized as an equal among the states of our nation. Deign this day to bless with Thy divine approval the instrument of government devised by the long and dedicated labors of our chosen representatives. Grant to all who now dwell or shall ever dwell under its protecting mantle the generosity to spend themselves freely, the determination to work together harmoniously, the intelligence to promote wisely the peace and prosperity and the glory of our state."

Mrs. Wien moved and asked unanimous consent that the Convention recess until the call of the Chair. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

AFTER RECESS

The Convention reconvened at 4:35 p.m.

Mr. Johnson moved and asked unanimous consent that the Invocation by Rev. Stokes, the address by Governor Heintzleman, the Prayer of Dedication by the Rev. Armstrong, the Address by President Egan and the Benediction by Bishop Gleeson be spread upon the Journal.

Mr. Buckalew asked that Mr. Johnson's motion include the telegram from Delegate Bartlett. Mr. Johnson agreed.

There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The President stated that the jade lamp which had been on the table where the constitution was signed was the property of Mr. Marston who had loaned it to the Convention for the occasion.

The Convention was at ease while the delegates signed the 60 copies of the constitution.

AFTER RECESS

Mr. Doogan asked unanimous consent that the record show Mr. Kimbrough Owen of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, present at the signing ceremonies as a representative of the Governor of Louisiana. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Marston suggested that Mr. VanderLeest's friend Mr. Louis Middleton of Grand Rapids, Michigan be granted the privilege of the floor as the guest who had traveled the farthest to attend the signing ceremonies. There being no objection, it was so ordered. Mr. Middleton spoke briefly to the Convention.

The resolution of the Committee on Administration relating to immediate statehood was introduced and read.

Mr. Coghill moved and asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended and that the resolution be adopted. Mr. McNees objected. Mr. R. Rivers seconded. Mr. McNees asked unanimous consent that the resolution be amended to include that copies go to all members of Congress. There being no objection, the amendment was adopted. Mr. McNees withdrew his objection and the amended resolution was adopted by unanimous consent.

The resolution by the Committee on Administration on the Alaska Statehood Committee was introduced and read.

Mr. Coghill asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended and that the resolution be adopted. There being no objection, the resolution was ordered adopted by unanimous consent.

The resolution regarding the thanks to Charles R. Griffin was introduced and read.

Mr. Coghill asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended and that the resolution be adopted. Mr. R. Rivers objected temporarily for information purposes. There being no objection, the resolution was ordered adopted.

The resolutions were referred to the Committee on Style and Drafting.

Mr. Hilscher announced that Mr. Earl Wyman, photographer from Fairbanks, had presented the Convention with a copy of the group photograph for the delegates to give to the University.

Mr. Doogan moved and asked unanimous consent that the Convention give Mr. Wymann a vote of thanks. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Coghill stated that the Committee on Administration had no more resolutions at this time, but that the resolution on the orderly disposition of the Convention business was in second reading.

The President declared a short recess.

AFTER RECESS

Mr. Marston asked for the privilege of the floor to tell the story behind the jade lamp.

The resolution regarding the orderly disposition of the business of the Convention was considered in second reading.

Mr. Riley moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the following amendment:

Strike Sections 1 and 2 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

on ~~"The President of the Convention with such assistance as he may require from among the delegates~~ of the staff of the Convention be authorized to conclude the unfinished business of the Convention and to expend such funds from the authorized appropriation as may be necessary to complete the work of and carry out the purposes of the Convention."

Mr. Londborg objected. Mr. White seconded.

Mr. Coghill asked for a one-minute recess. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

AFTER RECESS

Mr. Londborg withdrew his objection. On voice vote the amendment was adopted.

Mr. V. Fischer moved and asked unanimous consent that Section 3 of the resolution be amended to read as follows:

"That the President of the Convention, or a person designated by him, shall carry out the following duties:"

There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Riley asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the following amendment to subsection (d):

Strike the word "two" on the first line and insert the words "and mimeographed" after the word "typed" on the second line.

Mr. Sundborg objected.

The President declared a short recess.

AFTER RECESS

Mr. Riley moved the adoption of the amendment to get it on the floor. Mr. Knight seconded. Mr. Coghill explained the subsection. Mr. Riley stated that after the explanation he could not support the amendment. On voice vote the amendment failed.

Mr. Johnson asked unanimous consent that under subsection (c) it be understood that each delegate be furnished with ten copies of the printed constitution. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. White moved and asked unanimous consent that in subsection (c) the words "at least" be inserted before "5,000".

Discussion of the number of copies to be printed followed and Mrs. Sweeney pointed out that the resolution had been written with the idea that the President and the Secretary and the Chairman of the Administration Committee would decide how many copies were needed.

Discussion regarding the need for the summary followed.

Mr. V. Fischer moved and asked unanimous consent that subsection (c) be amended as follows:

Insert a period after the word "printed" on line 3 and strike the balance of the sentence.

There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Coghill asked unanimous consent that the resolution as amended be adopted. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Johnson moved and asked unanimous consent that the Convention recess until 8 a.m., Monday. Mr. Coghill announced a meeting of the Committee on Administration at 7 a.m., Monday.

There being no objection to the unanimous consent request the Convention recessed at 6:45 p.m. until 8 a.m. Monday.

AFTER RECESS

The Convention reconvened at 8:30 a.m. Monday, February 6, 1956.

The President asked Mr. Londborg to give the Invocation. At the request of Mrs. Hermann and with the unanimous consent of the Convention, the prayer was ordered spread on the journal.

"Our Heavenly Father, we would pause before Thee for a moment this morning as we begin this session. We pray that You would be with us as we conclude the business of this Convention this day. We thank You for Your leading and Your guiding Hand throughout the past days and weeks, that You have brought us to the close of this Convention with what we believe to be a successful constitution. Heavenly Father, we pray that You will be with us now as we bring our deliberations to a close. Bless each of us as we go to our respective homes. We pray that we may look back on this time together with thankfulness in our hearts for having learned to know one another, for having been privileged to work with one another. Bless us we pray as we continue. In Thy name, Amen."

Telegrams from the City of Seward and Will and Anna May Vokacek of Kodiak extending congratulations on a job well done, were read.

Mr. Coghill presented a report on the finances of the Convention.

Mr. Sundborg asked that copies of the financial report be mimeographed and sent to all the delegates. The President stated the report would be mailed.

Mrs. Sweeney reported that the Committee on Administration had authorized the expenditure of funds to supply one large apportionment map to each delegate.

Mr. V. Rivers stated he believed the accounts should be audited before the President closed the records. Mr. Nolan suggested the services of the recently appointed legislative auditor. Mr. Sundborg stated he believed the committee should present a resolution to that effect. The President declared a short recess.

AFTER RECESS

The resolution regarding an audit of the funds expended by the Convention was introduced and read.

Mr. Coghill moved and asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended and the resolution adopted. There being no objection, the resolution was adopted by unanimous consent.

The resolution by the Committee on Administration regarding Operation Statehood was introduced and read.

Mr. Coghill moved and asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended and the resolution be adopted by unanimous consent. Mr. Buckalew objected. Mr. Marston seconded. Mr. Buckalew stated he would object to all resolutions because he felt someone would be forgotten. On voice vote the amendment was adopted. *resolution*

The resolution by the Committee on Administration regarding Convention consultants was introduced and read.

Mr. Coghill asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended and the resolution be adopted. Mr. Buckalew objected. Mr. Gray seconded. On voice vote the amendment was adopted. *resolution*

The resolution by the Committee on Administration concerning the Convention secretariat was introduced and read.

Mr. Coghill moved and asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended and the resolution be adopted. Mr. Buckalew objected. Mr. V. Fischer seconded. On voice vote the resolution was adopted.

The President declared a short recess.

AFTER RECESS

Mr. McCutcheon stated he had a request from the gallery for a resolution regarding the faithful wives of the Convention.

Mr. Sundborg asked unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to Dr. Ernest Patty, President of the University. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

President Egan presented the official gavel and a signed copy of the constitution to Dr. Patty for the University.

Dr. Patty expressed his appreciation for the gifts and for the privilege of having had the delegates at the University during the Convention.

Mr. Sundborg asked unanimous consent to revert to committee reports. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Sundborg reported back to the Convention the Style and Drafting Committee report on the resolution "Friendly Relations with Canada" and the resolution "Orderly Transition from Territorial Status to Statehood".

Mr. Sundborg moved and asked unanimous consent that the resolution "Friendly Relations with Canada" be adopted. There being no objection, the resolution was ordered adopted.

Mr. Sundborg moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the resolution "Orderly Transition from Territorial Status to Statehood". Mr. Buckalew and others objected. Mr. Sundborg so moved. Mrs. Fischer seconded. After discussion by Mr. Riley, Mr. R. Rivers, and Mr. McCutcheon, Mr. V. Fischer moved the previous question and asked unanimous consent. Mr. Kilcher objected. Mr. McLaughlin seconded. On voice vote the previous question was ordered. The question being "Shall the resolution be adopted?", on voice vote the resolution failed.

In accordance with action taken February 3rd, the following resolution was ordered spread upon the journal:

"WHEREAS Fairbanks and the Tanana Valley are known throughout the Territory as the "Golden Heart of Alaska"; and

WHEREAS the unfailing courtesy and hospitality shown by the people of Fairbanks and the Tanana Valley to the out-of-town delegates to the Constitutional Convention clearly indicate that the term "Golden Heart of Alaska" is well deserved; and

WHEREAS their kindness, hospitality, and graciousness have greatly contributed to the success of the deliberation of this Convention; and

WHEREAS these delegates will ever remember the kindness and hospitality of the people of the "Golden Heart of Alaska"

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to this Convention, from other parts of Alaska, hereby tender to the people of Fairbanks and the Tanana Valley our heartfelt thanks to those who have made our stay in the "Golden Heart of Alaska" so enjoyable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the journal of the proceedings of the Convention.

DONE at College Alaska this third day of February, 1956 by direction of the Convention."

Mr. Sundborg reported that the Style and Drafting Committee had reported back other resolutions passed by the Convention and asked unanimous consent that the report be adopted. Mr. Boswell objected temporarily to call attention to an error in the resolution concerning the students of the University. There being no objection, the resolutions as reported by the Style and Drafting Committee were adopted.

Mr. White moved and asked unanimous consent that the Convention express its appreciation to the Committee on Administration for a difficult task well done. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. White asked unanimous consent for the approval of the journal of the 69th day with the following correction: Page 19, third paragraph from the bottom, correct a typographical error in the word "Article". There being no objection, the journal was ordered approved.

Mr. White asked unanimous consent for the approval of the journal of the 70th day subject to the following corrections: Page 1, in the prayer, on the second line capitalize the "t" in "thee"; 6th line, same correction and on the last line capitalize "thy"; third paragraph from the bottom add an "s" to "rule". Page 7, in the first paragraph add "p.m." after "3:30". There being no objection, the journal was ordered approved.

Mr. White asked unanimous consent for the approval of the journals for the 71st and 72nd days as read. There being no objection, the journals were ordered approved.

Mr. White announced that the remaining journals would be mailed to the delegates and the committee moved that the President, with the assistance of Mr. Doogan, be authorized to correct any journals which have not been approved. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mrs. Hermann asked unanimous consent that thanks be extended to the committee that read the journal day after day. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Coghill reported for the Committee on Administration the following recommendation for distribution of the signed copies of the constitution--Secretary of Alaska, Congress, University Museum, Territorial Museum, Territorial Department of Libraries. The Committee also recommended that the copies of the constitution carrying the printed signatures be distributed as follows: the four district courts, the Governor of Alaska, the Delegate in Congress and to the 32 high schools in the Territory.

Mr. Buckalew moved and asked unanimous consent that the President and Mr. Coghill be authorized to distribute the remaining copies of the parchment copies of the constitution.

Mr. Marston suggested that a copy go to the Cook Inlet Historical Society. Mr. R. Rivers suggested that a copy go to each of the consultants. Mr. Harris suggested that the President be authorized to have extra copies printed if necessary.

Mr. V. Fischer asked that Mr. Buckalew amend his motion to include that each high school in Alaska and each public library and the Library of Congress receive a copy of the constitution. Mr. Buckalew accepted the amendment. There being no objection, the amended motion was ordered adopted.

The President declared a five-minute recess.

AFTER RECESS

First Vice-President Peratrovich took the Chair.

Mr. Knight, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Wien and Mr. Hurley brought in the painting to be given President Egan. Mr. Hurley acted as spokesman for the delegates and his remarks follow:

"Mr. President, I have been selected by the Convention to present our final respects of this Convention to our great loved President, William Egan, for a job well done. It seemed a little strange that I should be chosen for this position, and yet when we think about it, I perhaps represent those of us who are new in this field, and for that reason am perhaps best able to express the greatest appreciation which we have for the way in which our President has brought this Convention to a successful closing. He has maintained an academic atmosphere throughout the Convention and yet has been always willing to accept the practical matters which must come before us. He has carried the whole Convention forward in a way that no one else could possibly have done. I think this occasion is somewhat similar to the group that has been through a major battle. We have earned a respect for our leader that can only come from having gone through all of the trials and tribulations of presenting to the future State of Alaska the document that they will live by for many years. And to Bill we have arranged this present which Mrs. Wien will present in the form of a resolution."

Mrs. Wien read the following resolution:

"WHEREAS for seventy-five Convention days, the Honorable William A. Egan has served as presiding officer; and

WHEREAS in this capacity he has demonstrated to all, his parliamentary skill, his unwavering fairness, his personal friendliness, and his untiring devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS the delegates and officers of this Convention desire to express their gratitude for his outstanding leadership, in a form that will endure along with their admiration, and in a form that will enable them to indicate their gratitude to his charming wife and son, as well as to all other Alaskans;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Honorable William A. Egan, President of the Alaska Constitutional Convention of 1955 be asked to accept, as a token of our thanks, admiration, and affection, a portrait of himself, painted by the distinguished artist Christian von Schneidau on commission from the delegates, and that a copy of this resolution properly inscribed be presented to our esteemed President Egan.

DONE at College, Alaska this sixth day of February, 1956."

Mr. Hurley asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the resolution. Mr. Buckalew stated he would not object to this resolution. There being no objection, the resolution was ordered adopted.

The Chairman stated that the Convention would be at recess while the delegates congratulated President Egan.

AFTER RECESS

President Egan resumed the Chair.

Mr. Londborg asked unanimous consent that the remarks of Mr. Hurley be spread upon the journal. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. McNees introduced Christian von Schneidau, the artist who had painted President Egan's picture, who was given the privilege of the floor. Mr. von Schneidau spoke briefly.

Mr. Marston moved and asked unanimous consent that Dr. Patty be asked to take greetings from the Convention to Dr. Bunnell, President-Emeritus of the University, who was ill. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. McNealy asked that the delegates give a standing ovation of thanks to Mr. Stewart, Convention Secretary, for making the Convention a success from its inception.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the committee to write the bequest to Alaska's children had not finished its work and moved and asked unanimous consent that the President be authorized to complete the matter. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Sundborg asked that the privilege of the floor be granted to Mrs. Florence Douthit. There being no objection, it was so ordered. Mr. Sundborg presented Mrs. Douthit with a gift of appreciation for the fine news coverage given by her of the Convention.

Mr. Armstrong asked if the President had received any communication from Mr. Robertson regarding a resignation. The President stated that he had received nothing and that as far as the Convention was concerned Mr. Robertson was merely absent.

Mr. McNealy asked that Mr. Reader take a bow and be acknowledged since he had not spoken one word during the entire Convention.

Mr. Collins spoke briefly and introduced Mrs. Hermann who was asked to make the final motion for adjournment.

Mrs. Hermann moved that pursuant to a motion already made by the Convention, that adjournment be in honor of two great Alaskans who pioneered the statehood movement--Judge James Wickersham and Judge Anthony J. Dimond--that the Convention now adjourn sine die. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

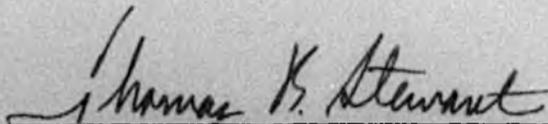
The question being "Shall the Constitutional Convention of Alaska adjourn sine die?", the roll was called with the following result:

Yeas: 54 - Armstrong, Awes, Barr, Boswell, Buckalew, Coghill, Collins, Cooper, Cross, Davis, Doogan, Emberg, H. Fischer, V. Fischer, Gray, Harris, Hellenthal, Hermann, Hilscher, Hinckel, Hurley, Johnson, Kilcher, King, Knight, Laws, Lee, Londborg, McCutcheon, McLaughlin, McNealy, McNees, Marston, Metcalf, Nerland, Nolan, Nordale, Peratrovich, Poulsen, Reader, Riley, R. Rivers, V. Rivers, Rosswog, Smith, Stewart, Sundborg, Sweeney, Taylor, VanderLeest, Walsh, White, Wien, and Mr. President

Nays: 0 -

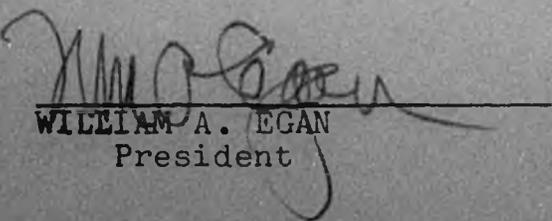
Absent: 1 - Robertson

and so the Constitutional Convention adjourned sine die at 10 a.m. February 6, 1956.



THOMAS B. STEWART
Secretary

Attested:



WILLIAM A. EGAN
President