

Constitutional Convention
Journal/6
Approved 11/16/55

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

JOURNAL OF THE EIGHTH CONVENTION DAY, Tuesday, November 15, 1955

The Convention was called to order by President Egan at 9:30 o'clock A.M.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Mr. Armstrong.

Roll call showed all present except Mr. Buckalew and Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Sundborg moved and asked unanimous consent that the reading of the Journal of the previous day be dispensed with and that the Journal be approved. Mr. Londborg objected. Mr. Johnson seconded.

Mr. Sundborg asked unanimous consent to amend his motion to delete the reference to approving the Journal and to change "dispensed with" to "postponed until later". There being no objection, it was so ordered. Mr. Londborg withdrew his objection to the original motion so it was ordered adopted.

The President stated that in line with this motion when the Journals for the previous days' sessions are available, any delegate will have the right to bring to the attention of the Convention any possible errors.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from Ancil H. Payne, President of Operation Statehood, presenting an Alaska flag to be used at the Convention, was read.

Delegate Barrie M. White, Jr., former President of Operation Statehood, presented the flag.

Mr. Sundborg moved and asked unanimous consent that the Secretary be instructed to write a letter of appreciation to Operation Statehood for the gift of the Alaska flag. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Sundborg to amend his motion to add that the communication from Operation Statehood be spread upon the Journal in its entirety. Mr. Sundborg accepted the amendment. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

November 14, 1955
Anchorage, Alaska

"Honorable William Egan, President
Alaska Constitutional Convention
College, Alaska

Dear Mr. President:

"Operation Statehood presents to the Alaska Constitutional Convention, this, the Alaska Flag.

"To members of Operation Statehood, the Constitutional Convention is an historic and solemn occasion, and it is our objective to, through this presentation, take a small and humble part in your deliberations.

"We rest in the knowledge that yours will be a job well done, and we have abiding faith that your labor will assist measureably in bringing to a happy conclusion our long struggle for full citizenship as the 49th State of the United States of America.

Respectfully,

/s/Ancil H. Payne
Ancil H. Payne
President
Operation Statehood"

Communications from the President of the University of Alaska calling attention to the fact that the facilities of the infirmary were available to delegates and to the American Association of University Women meeting to be held November 21 at which the women delegates and wives of delegates are to be honored guests, were read. Reminder of the Home Economics Department open house, Thursday, was read.

The President reminded the delegates of the no-host dinner to be sponsored by the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.

At the request of Mr. Marston and with the unanimous consent of the Convention, the following letter from Elizabeth Peratrovich, Alaska Representative and Member of Executive Council, National Congress of American Indians, was ordered spread on the Journal:

Alaska Office
644 12th & D
Juneau, Alaska
November 3, 1955

"The Constitutional Convention
Territory of Alaska
P. O. Box 4003
College, Alaska

Gentlemen:

Some years ago the Indians throughout the United States found it necessary to organize in an effort to protect their rights as established by law and treaty. They realized that freedom, even in these United States had to be protected, nurtured and defended against the common enemy of human selfishness.

"Thus the National Congress of American Indians came into being and a proclamation was issued by the organization to the People of the United States to further establish a common bond of understanding.

It seems appropriate at this time, on the eve of Alaska's historical moment, to present the same message to the Constitutional Convention assembled at College, Alaska with the thought that it may influence the members of the convention to a greater responsibility in protecting the lives and liberties of all the citizens of the new state of Alaska and any rights that have been established from time immemorial in the relationship between the people who have settled here in Alaska and the aborigines.

We offer you our unconditional friendship and faith in accomplishment to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty for all.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Elizabeth Peratrovich
ELIZABETH PERATROVICH,
Alaska Representative
and Member of Executive Council
National Congress of American Indians"

Mr. Barr asked unanimous consent that the Secretary be instructed to provide a bulletin board in the convention hall. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

At the request of Mr. McLaughlin and with the unanimous consent of the Convention, the Convention recessed for a few minutes.

AFTER RECESS

Mr. Johnson, as a member of the special committee to purchase a gavel, reported that the committee had purchased an ivory gavel carved from ivory which is 20,000 years old, by Mr. Alexander Retzlaf, an employee of the United States Smelting Refining and Mining Company of Fairbanks. Mr. Retzlaf consented to sell the gavel to be used at the Convention and gave the Convention two ivory letter openers for the President to use.

The President instructed the Secretary to write a letter to Mr. Retzlaf expressing the appreciation of the Convention for the fine gavel.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF PROPOSALS

Proposal No. 1, by Mr. Robertson, entitled COURTS, JUDICIAL, TENURE, AND JURIES was introduced and read the first time. Proposal No. 1 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary Branch.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Sundborg moved and asked unanimous consent that Rule 35 be amended as follows: On the second line strike the words "main question be now put" and substitute in lieu thereof the words "previous question be ordered". Mr. McLaughlin objected. Mr. Johnson seconded. Mr. McLaughlin withdrew his objection. Mr. V. Rivers objected. By voice vote the motion carried and the Rule was changed.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. Fischer moved and asked unanimous consent that the Convention resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of hearing Mr. Emil Sady, representative of the Public Administration Service. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The President appointed Mr. Barr to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

Upon completion of Mr. Sady's statement, Mr. Egan moved and asked unanimous consent that the Committee of the Whole rise and report. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Johnson asked unanimous consent for a ten minute recess. There being no objection it was so ordered.

AFTER RECESS

The President asked that the record show Mr. Buckalew as present.

Mr. Johnson reported that as a supplement to his report on the gavel there would be another gavel available for use donated by the Fairbanks School District.

Mr. V. Rivers asked that the record show that the price of the gavel was satisfactory to the minority half of the Committee.

Mr. Cooper inquired as to the duplicate tape recording of the proceedings being edited.

Mr. V. Rivers explained that he planned to recommend to the Statehood Committee that they use the duplicate tape to take portions of them for broadcasting after the Convention ended.

After discussion the Secretary was instructed to see that the chairs are identified with the Delegates' names.

The President asked the delegates to make reservations for the Chamber of Commerce dinner with the Chief Clerk.

~~Mr. Fischer inquired into the meaning of Special Order of the Day.~~

The President announced that immediately following the next recess there would be a meeting of the Chairmen of all Committees.

Mr. King moved and asked unanimous consent that the Secretary be instructed to write a letter of thanks to the Commanding Officer at Eidsen Air Force Base commending him on the special Colonel Ben Eidsen edition of the Air Force newspaper. Mr. Barr asked that the motion be amended to read that a copy also be sent to the editor of the newspaper. Mr. King accepted Mr. Barr's amendment. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. V. Rivers moved and asked unanimous consent that the Convention recess until 4 o'clock. Mr. Hellenthal objected. Mr. Gray seconded. The President stated that although the motion was not debatable he would allow Mr. Hellenthal's point of information. Mr. Hellenthal pointed out that after the Committee Chairmen met it might be possible to hold committee meetings. Mr. V. Rivers amended his motion to read 1:30 o'clock. There being no objection, the Convention recessed until 1:30 o'clock.

AFTER RECESS

Mr. Johnson asked unanimous consent to revert to Introduction of Proposals. There being no objection, the convention reverted to

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF PROPOSALS

Proposal No. 2 by Mr. Johnson entitled TO BE INTRODUCED IN BILL OF RIGHTS was read and referred to the Committee on Preamble and Bill of Rights.

Mr. Johnson asked unanimous consent to revert to resolutions. There being no objection, the following resolution was introduced:

"RESOLVED, that the Alaska Constitutional Convention formally invite the Honorable William Knowland, U. S. Senator from California, to address the convention sometime during his stay at the University of Alaska.

"RESOLVED further, that the invitation of the convention be issued to Senator Knowland through the President of the Convention."

Mr. Johnson moved and asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended, and that this resolution be acted upon without reference to a committee.

Mr. R. Rivers objected. After discussion Mr. Rivers withdrew his objection. There being no further objection, the President declared the convention would extend an invitation to Senator Knowland to address the convention during his stay at the University.

Mr. Robertson asked unanimous consent that the convention revert to the introduction of proposals. There being no objection, the convention reverted to

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF PROPOSALS

Proposal No. 3 by Mr. Robertson entitled TAXATION was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance and Taxation.

The President announced the following schedule of business to be adhered to as closely as possible:

Convention Schedule

Monday through Saturday

9:00 A. M. to 9:20 A. M. Plenary Session

9:30 A. M. to 10:50 A. M.

- I Rules
- II Administration
- V Rights
- VIII Executive Branch
- XIV Resolutions

11:00 A. M. to 12:20 P. M.

- III Style
- VI Elections
- X Resources

2:00 P. M. to 3:20 P. M.

- VII Legislative Branch
- IX Judiciary
- XI Finance

3:30 P. M. to 4:50 P. M.

- IV Ordinance
- XII Local Government
- XIII Amendment

After discussion the President announced that there would be a plenary session from 1:30 to 2:00 in addition to the morning plenary session.

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

AFTER RECESS

Mr. McMealy announced a meeting of the Committee on Ordinances and Transitional Measures on recess.

Mr. McCutcheon announced a meeting of Legislative Committee on recess.

Mr. McLaughlin announced a meeting of the Judiciary Committee on recess.

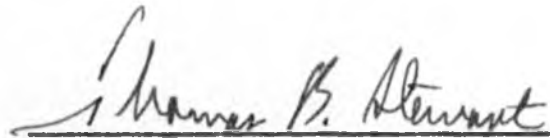
Mr. Merland announced a meeting of the Committee on Finance and Taxation on recess.

Mr. Coghill announced the bus would leave the Wordale Hotel at 8:30 a. m. daily.

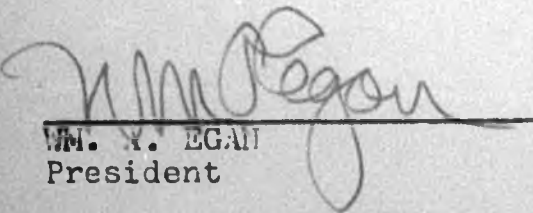
Mr. Rosswog announced a meeting of the Committee on Local Government at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Collins stated that due to the absence of one of his committee members he would delay holding the scheduled meeting today.

Mr. Johnson moved and asked unanimous consent that the Convention stand adjourned until Wednesday morning at 9:00 o'clock. There being no objection, it was so ordered.


THOMAS B. STEWART
Secretary

Attested:


WM. Y. EGAN
President