

Constitutional Convention  
Journal/62

February 4, 1956

*approved 2/16/56*

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

JOURNAL OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH CONVENTION DAY, Saturday, February 4, 1956

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

The Invocation was given by the Rev. Ralph Disch of the Church of Christ.

Roll call showed all members present except Mr. Robertson. The President declared a quorum to be present.

Mr. White called the attention of the delegates to the presence in the gallery of fifty Anchorage residents who had arrived in Fairbanks by air this morning under the auspices of Operation Statehood, and asked that the President of Operation Statehood, Mr. Ancil Payne, be given the privilege of the floor at this time. There being no objection, Mr. Ancil Payne was granted the privilege of the floor.

Mr. Johnson moved and asked unanimous consent that the speech given by Mr. Payne be spread upon today's journal. There being no objection, it was so ordered. Mr. Payne's address follows:

"Mr. President and delegates, it is a great honor to appear here in behalf of Operation Statehood. Many members of Operation Statehood who cannot be here have watched closely every action that you have taken and regret that they cannot be in attendance with us. As this Convention draws to a close, it is perhaps singularly unlike any other Convention wherein the last few days, everyone comments about 'the words that have been spoken here will soon be forgotten but we will carry the spirit forward'. In this particular instance as you gentlemen are only too well aware, every word that has been spoken here will go into history for study in the future. Perhaps it has seemed difficult for you from time to time, to draw decisions that were free from political impact. Many of you have been aware of the fact that innumerable decisions that perhaps would prejudice people interested in their political future, forever have been made at this point, fairly, unbiased and unselfishly. I say many of us have been aware of this because thousands of people have watched the actions of this convention, on a day in and day out procedure; those people who could not perhaps attend on a regular basis but have watched closely every action that has been taken. For the fact that

we have here delegates who have been unselfish and honest, we can only thank God.

As we landed today, and there were 56 of us coming in, we were greeted by the Fairbanks High School choir which gave a rendition of the Alaska Flag. And I think it was extremely touching that these high school students were singing the Flag in the city where the constitution was being written. These are, after all, students who will live under the laws which you have, in these past days, put into writing. They are the ones who will study the action and words of each of you through many years in the future as to what you have intended to do and what you have meant in the statements you have made. Mr. President, some way it is a touching thing to see those students as they actually stood there singing the Alaska Flag.

Perhaps it is somewhat vain to recognize that in the opening days of your session we presented you with a flag and now in the closing days we have come back to see the completed document which you have written. We intend to stay over until tomorrow for the final signing of it. We recognize that in-between those two acts a tremendous amount has been accomplished, and now you are coming within 24 hours of the completion of your work. But it is this recognition of all the things that have gone between that we want to make today because, after all, following the signing we move on to something else which means that this too is an in-between step. We recognize that it is perhaps another one of those steps that all through history men have fought for, way back in biblical times with the prophets down to modern times with Jeffersons, Hamiltons and the Burkes. You fall into the same category of people who have untiringly given your time and efforts so that you too, might make this a better government under which we might live. For this then is the stepping stone to our next step. This document must be ratified. It must be ratified by the people.

It is a complex thing. We, as members of Operation Statehood, assure each delegate and you, Mr. President, that we will give untiringly of our time and efforts to be sure that this is ratified and understood and that your actions might not go to no good. For this is our objective as one of the very few pressure groups that have only one single pressure to offer and that is the pressure for better government and for the ultimate end for which we seek statehood. So we cannot thank you enough; we cannot thank you enough for your work and your time and we only reassure you that we have been in spirit with you and we will continue with you up to the time your work is fully culminated and we say only this: and I speak for all our group; thank God we have men and women like you to do this splendid work."

Mr. Johnson moved and asked unanimous consent that the following telegram be spread upon the journal:

The White House  
Washington, D. C.

"William A. Egan  
Alaska Constitutional Convention

Thank you for Radiogram concerning the work of the Alaska Constitutional Convention. In the event that the proposed Alaska Constitution is ratified by the voters in April, I am certain that Congress will take cognizance of it in connection with its consideration of any statehood legislation for the Territory. In the meantime, I can assure you that the ratified constitution will receive careful consideration by the Executive Branch.

/s/ Dwight D. Eisenhower"

Mr. McNealy objected. Mr. Rosswog seconded. On voice vote the telegram was ordered spread upon the journal.

Mr. Doogan asked unanimous consent that the journal for the 67th convention day be approved subject to the following correction:

Page 20, paragraph three, second line, change "Kilcher" to "Hellenthal".

There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Doogan asked unanimous consent that the Journal for the 68th Convention day be approved subject to the following correction:

Page 4, paragraph 3, bottom line after Mr. Sundborg strike "and" after Mr. Smith insert a comma and add "and Mr. Hurley."

There being no objection, the Journal for the 68th day was approved as corrected.

Mr. Coghill asked unanimous consent that the Convention be at ease while the delegates were presented with a souvenir pen donated by Mr. Charles R. Griffin at the request of Mr. Knight. At the same time reserve seat requests were entered by the delegates for their immediate families.

AFTER RECESS

Mr. Coghill announced a joint meeting of the Committee on Administration and Rules.

The President declared a twenty-five minute recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

Mr. Sundborg asked on behalf of the committee on Style and Drafting that the Committee have an opportunity to go over the resolutions adopted by the Convention before they are sent out. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Marston presented the resolution entitled Native Land Grants and asked unanimous consent that it be received by the convention. There being no objection, the resolution was read for the first time.

Mr. Marston asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended and the resolution be advanced to second reading. There being no objection, the resolution was read the second time.

Mr. McCutcheon asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended and that the resolution be advanced to third reading, read by resolve only and put upon final passage. There being no objection, the rules were suspended.

After discussion by Mr. Marston, Mr. Doogan and Mr. Kilcher the question was called. The roll was called with the following result:

Yeas : 44 - Armstrong, Awes, Barr, Boswell, Buckalew, Coghill, Collins, Cross, Davis, Emberg, H. Fischer, Gray, Harris, Hellenthal, Hermann, Hilscher, Hinckel, Hurley, Johnson, Kilcher, King, Knight, Lee, Londborg, McCutcheon, McLaughlin, McNealy, McNees, Marston, Metcalf, Nolan, Nordale, Peratrovich, Riley, R. Rivers, V. Rivers, Rosswog, Smith, Stewart, Taylor, VanderLeest, White, Wien and Mr. President.

Nays: 9 - Cooper, Doogan, V. Fischer, Laws, Nerland, Poulsen, Reader, Sweeney and Walsh.

Absent: 2 - Robertson and Sundborg  
And so the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Hellenthal asked unanimous consent that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Style and Drafting. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The President called for the final report of the Committee on

## Style and Drafting on the constitution.

Mr. Davis reported on behalf of the Chairman, Mr. Sundborg, who was at the newspaper plant working on the final format of the constitution checking to see that the changes and amendments made last night were incorporated correctly, that the Committee on Style and Drafting had completed its work and requested approval of the form made in styling the document. Mr. Davis asked unanimous consent for the approval of the committee's report. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Armstrong moved and asked unanimous consent that the President appoint a committee to draft a pledge to Alaska's children which the President would sign on behalf of the delegates. There being no objection, it was so ordered. The President appointed Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Coghill, Mr. Walsh and Mr. V. Rivers. Mr. R. Rivers suggested that it be a bequest rather than a pledge. Mr. Armstrong accepted that suggestion.

A communication from the President of the Fairbanks Women's Club expressing appreciation for the tireless, devoted service of the delegates was read and ordered filed.

Letters and a telegram from Governor Christian L. Herter of Massachusetts, Governor J. Hugo Aronson of Montana and Governor George M. Leader of Pennsylvania expressing regrets at not being able to attend the signing ceremony were read and ordered filed.

Mr. Taylor asked unanimous consent for the suspension of the rules to proceed with the consideration of the resolutions which the committee on administration has ready and bypass the Style and Drafting Committee with the reservation that the committee could look them over and make changes after their adoption. Mr. V. Fischer objected. Mr. Taylor so moved. Mr. Emberg seconded. The roll was called with the following result:

Yeas: 47 - Armstrong, Awes, Barr, Boswell, Coghill, Collins, Cooper, Cross, Davis, Emberg, H. 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, R. Rivers, V. Rivers, Rosswog, Stewart, Smith, Sweeney, Taylor, VanderLeest, Walsh, White, Wien and Mr. President.

Nays: 6 - Buckalew, Doogan, V. Fischer, Poulsen, Reader and Riley.

Absent: 2 - Robertson and Sundborg.

and so the rules were suspended.

#### CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

The resolution regarding the preparation of a memorial following the election of the senators and representative under the Alaska-Tennessee Plan was read.

Mr. Coghill moved and asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended that the first reading be considered the second and third reading and that the resolution be adopted. There being no objection, the resolution was ordered adopted.

The resolution concerning Dr. Moberg was read. Mr. Coghill moved and asked unanimous consent that all rules be suspended and that the resolution be adopted by unanimous consent. There being no objection, the resolution was ordered adopted.

The resolution regarding the Press, Radio and Television was read.

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

The resolution regarding Chaplains was read. Mr. Coghill asked unanimous consent that all rules be suspended and the resolution be adopted by unanimous consent. Mr. Kilcher objected. Mr. Coghill so moved. Mrs. Sweeney seconded. The roll was called with the following result:

Yeas: 51 - Armstrong, Awes, Barr, Boswell, Buckalew, Coghill, Collins, Cooper, Cross, Davis, Doogan, Emberg, H. Fischer, V. Fischer, Gray, Harris, Hellenthal, Hermann, Hilscher, Hinckel, Hurley, Johnson, King, Knight, Laws, Lee, Londborg, McCutcheon, McLaughlin, McNealy, McNees, Marston, Metcalf, Nerland, Nolan, Nordale, Peratrovich, Poulsen, Reader, R. Rivers, V. Rivers, Rosswog, Smith, Stewart, Sweeney, Taylor, VanderLeest, Walsh, White, Wien and Mr. President.

Nays: 1 - Kilcher

Absent: 3 - Riley, Robertson and Sundborg  
and so the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Kilcher explained that the reason he voted no was because he didn't think a resolution was necessary since the chaplains had been paid.

The resolution regarding the students of the University was read. Mr. Coghill asked unanimous consent that all rules be suspended and that the resolution be adopted by unanimous consent. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The resolution concerning the University officials was read. Mr. Coghill asked unanimous consent that all rules be suspended and the resolution be adopted by unanimous consent. There being no objection the resolution was ordered adopted.

The resolution regarding the disposition of the property and records of the convention and other unfinished business, was read.

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

#### AFTER RECESS

Mr. Coghill moved and asked unanimous consent that the rules be suspended and that the resolution be placed in second reading.

Mr. V. Rivers suggested an amendment to section 3 (d) so that more copies of the proceedings would be available.

Mr. Taylor rose to a point of order that there was nothing before the convention.

There being no objection to the unanimous consent request the resolution was advanced to second reading.

Mr. White moved that further consideration of the resolution be deferred until the next day. Mr. Riley seconded. Mr. V. Fischer asked unanimous consent. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. White moved and asked unanimous consent that it be the policy of the convention that at the close of the signing ceremony the proper motion to recess be a motion to recess until the call of the chair. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

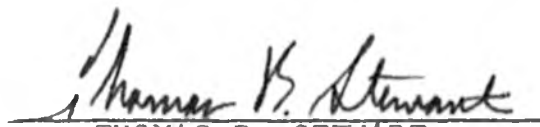
Mr. Collins moved that the convention now consider the adoption of the constitution for the State of Alaska in its present form. Mr. Walsh seconded.

The President stated that the question was "Shall the Convention agree upon the proposed constitution for the State of Alaska in its present form?"

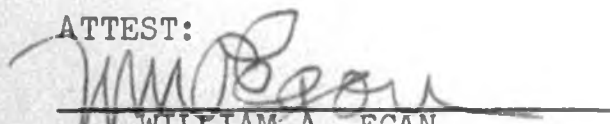
Mr. Davis moved that the previous question be put as previously

agreed upon. Without objection the previous question was ordered.

Mr. White asked unanimous consent that the convention stand adjourned until 2 p.m. Sunday. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

  
THOMAS B. STEWART  
Secretary

ATTEST:

  
WILLIAM A. EGAN  
President