Convention met pursuant to adjournment.
Roll called.
Quorum present.
Prayer by the Chaplain.
Journal of yesterday read and adopted.
Mr. Burnett made the following report:

CONVENTION HALL,
December 14, 1868.

Hon. E. J. DAVIS,
President of the Convention:

Sir: The special committee to whom was referred the resolution in regard to per diem pay due the late Hon. W. H. Mullins and others, and who were instructed to report the names of members of this Convention who may be entitled to back pay, etc., have duly considered the matter, and instruct me to report as follows:

That on the 6th of August last a resolution was adopted by this Convention, which declared that "The per diem pay of members who are now absent or who may hereafter absent themselves from the regular sessions of the Convention, unless on the business of this Convention, or by reason of sickness, shall cease during the term of their absence;" to which was added, "that nothing contained in the resolution shall stop the pay of any member who shall be excused to wait on a sick colleague;" and that, from a careful examination of the journals of the Convention and the pay account of the members, we find that every member who was excused on business of the Convention, or by reason of sickness, or to wait on a sick colleague, had drawn his per diem pay up to the time of his absence from the Convention and including the time for which he was excused; and that, under the rules of the Convention, no back pay is due to any delegate.

But we find that the late Hon. Mr. Mullins was excused on account of sickness of his family, and left the Convention on the 5th of August, just twenty-five (25) days prior to adjournment; and inasmuch as Mr. Mullins was called home to attend his sick family, and excused before the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution, a majority of the committee instruct me to report the accompanying
Resolved, That the Secretary draw and the President approve a certificate on the treasury of the State for the sum of two hundred dollars ($200), for the use and benefit of the widow of the Hon. W. H. Mullins, deceased, and that Hon. L. D. Evans is hereby authorized to receive and receipt for the same.

Mr. M. C. Hamilton offered the following report:

COMMITTEE ROOM,
December 15, 1868.

Hon. E. J. Davis,
President of the Convention:

SIR: The special committee appointed to “consider and report, without delay, upon the propriety of reducing the daily expenses of the Convention, by the discharge of the reporter, a portion of the under officers and employes, and the wages or per diem of those retained, together with the newspapers ordered to be furnished to the delegates,” have had the matters given in charge under careful consideration.

Your committee observe, in the first place, that deliberative bodies throughout the United States, down to comparatively a recent period, managed to conduct business with a much smaller corps of officers than are here employed. During the first fifteen years of our existence as a government no such extravagance was indulged in. The habit grew up while our treasury was full of money, when all felt rich and generous. Many, in fact, were under the delusion that we should never be able to employ or dispose of the vast surplus on hand. Similar abuses have grown up in some of the other States, especially of the South, and in the national government.

There are always persons wanting place and employment, who rarely fail to find friends on the floor or in the lobby to insist upon making places where none were vacant, upon the plea that such additional officers were necessary to the dignity and respectability of the body, if for no other purpose. However members may feel in regard to such propositions, as a rule they dislike to disoblige friends by interposing objections, and hence, in this way, constant additions
are made to the staff of officers employed, in the hope and belief that they are but temporary. But when concessions are once made, those who profit by a division of the necessary labor to be done never fail to take advantage of it, and insist upon making the office permanent. Not only so, but it invites encroachments, until, after awhile, none of the duties would be performed by the officers originally designed for the duty.

While your committee disclaim any intention of reflecting upon any member of the Convention, it will not be denied that the body, as a whole, has, by inattention, fallen into the extravagance of employing many more persons, in one capacity or another, than are found to be needful for the comfort or convenience of members, or for the dispatch of business.

In early days—in fact, until a recent period—a sergeant-at-arms and a doorkeeper, at the full per diem of a member, with one assistant each, at half the pay of the principal, were considered amply sufficient to keep the hall in order, and to wait upon the House while in session. Of course, these officers could not perform the whole of the duties themselves. They were expected to employ porters and a page or two if necessary. It was for this reason and this alone that their pay was made equal to a member of the body. Gradually, however, these necessary helps were imposed upon the public treasury. First, additional assistants, called second assistants, were demanded and conceded; then pages, and a little later messengers, and finally porters, postmasters, etc. Thus a body of under officers have grown up upon the floor, who perform the most of the work which ought to be under the supervision of the sergeant-at-arms or the doorkeeper; yet they appear to be independent of both, and are paid, not the ordinary wages which individuals pay for the like character of service, but from four dollars to eight dollars per diem.

From the best information accessible to your committee, the opinion is hazarded that no deliberative body in Europe employ one-half the officers, pages, messengers, etc., etc., which this body have now under pay. We have followed former bodies, who copied after the Congress at Washington—the most extravagant body in the world.

The Sergeant-at-Arms at full pay of a delegate, and his two assistants at half pay of the principal, with two active messengers at two dollars per day; another door-keeper at full pay and his assistant at half, with two pages at two dollars per day, constitute a force quite ample, in the judgment of your committee, to perform all the duties incumbent upon the officers of this Convention. Of course, they will have to work, but this is expected. It is clearly the duty of the door-keeper and his assistant to keep the Hall in order, and,
if they cannot do the work themselves, they must employ porters to assist them; this is the rule everywhere, or was once the rule.

As to whether a reporter should be employed, your committee deem it a useless expenditure of money. When the proposition was made, at the beginning of the former session, to employ such an officer, it is in the recollection of all of us that those who urged his application promised for him that, for the sum of fifteen dollars per day, he would furnish the debates for the daily press. It was important, the gentlemen said, that the debates should be preserved for future reference, and as valuable material for history. We all know how much of the promise then made has been fulfilled. If, as is contended, it was impossible (as your committee can well conceive) for the reporter to take down and write out the debates without assistants, he should have employed the needful help. His compensation was sufficient to justify him in doing so. Inasmuch, however, as the debates were of little worth, it is matter of small consequence whether they are preserved or not; and it is still less important for the remainder of the sitting. Certainly, it would be unwise in the Convention to expend fifteen hundred dollars more for the notes of the very few speeches of which members are willing to pay for copies for the press.

The subject of subscribing for newspapers for the delegates to send to their respective constituents has been a fruitful source of contention and ill-feeling, besides being a very heavy item in the list of expenses—not much under $10,000—without any adequate benefits resulting from such an expenditure. When it is considered that every enterprising journal in the State will publish, if not the full daily proceedings, a synopsis which will be more readable, while it will contain sufficient information; and when many of these journals have three or four times the circulation of any of the papers of this place, we should not be distressed about the proceedings of the body going out to the public. Your committee entertain the opinion that however many papers may be ordered for the use of the Delegates, that it will not, in any appreciable degree, facilitate the transmission of the doings of this body through the country. Private enterprise is always in advance of the government. The papers purchased by the latter are sure to be behind those sent directly from the office to subscribers, and this—the rapidity of dispatch—is the only argument in favor of subscribing for papers. Your committee consider that one copy for each member of the Daily Austin Republican, to be laid upon the desks of members by the hour of meeting, and containing the full proceedings of the day previous, is all that would be of any real service to the public. If, however, the Convention think differently, then your committee beg leave to suggest weekly papers.
instead of dailies. The former will better subserve the wants of the people. They will have a whole week's proceedings in a body, and a longer portion of reading matter; and you only have mail facilities, as a general thing, to transmit weeklies. Dailies will reach no one daily, except the Delegates themselves; while the expense of the dailies will be three times greater than the weeklies.

If the foregoing recommendations be adopted, your committee calculate that the expenses of the body, if in session ninety days, will be reduced, by comparison with the summer session, in a sum not under fifteen to eighteen thousand dollars; besides the nett value of the example to bodies which may hereafter meet.

Your committee report the accompanying resolution, and recommend its passage.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. C. HAMILTON, Chairman.

RESOLUTION.

Resolved, That the officers on the floor other than the Sergeant-at-Arms and Door-keeper, and their respective assistants, are hereby discharged; and it shall be the duty of the President to re-appoint two active boys as pages and two as messengers, whose per diem pay shall not exceed two dollars per day.

Resolved, Second. That the per diem pay of the Assistant Door-keeper and First and Second Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms shall hereafter be four dollars.

Resolved, Third. That the Secretary be instructed by the President to order one copy of the Daily Austin Republican to be furnished to each member of this body by the hour of nine A. M., on the day of its issue, which shall contain the full proceedings of the Convention of the preceding day, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to check out of the account presented for his approval the daily price for every day which the paper be delivered after the hour specified, the price of which shall be eight cents per copy.

Mr. Thomas offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That this body shall hold morning and evening sessions, the morning session to commence at nine o'clock, A. M., and close at twelve, M.; the evening session to commence at three and
close at five P. M.; and that the evening session be devoted exclusively to the formation of a constitution.

Laid over under the rules.

Mr. Smith of Galveston, rose to a privileged question, and called up a resolution previously offered requiring a committee of three be appointed to inquire into the right of the delegate from Leon to a seat upon the floor.

Mr. W. Flanagan moved to lay the resolution upon the table:

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


Nays—Messrs. President, Bryant of Harris, Buffington, Carter, Curtis, Degener, Goddin, Hamilton of Bastrop, Kendal, Lippard, Mullins, Newcomb, Patten, Ruby, Scott, Slaughter, Smith, Sumner, Williams, Wilson of Milam—20.

So the resolution was laid on the table.

The President announced the business in order was upon the resolution of Mr. Newcomb to repeal the rule of the Convention passed at the first session respecting the division of the State.

The question recurred upon the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Thomas moved a call of the House.

Call sustained.


The President directed that Messrs. Evans of Titus, Glenn and Horne, being absent from the House after the call thereof, forfeit their per diem pay for this day.

Messrs. Evans of Titus and Horne explained that the cause of their absence was sickness, and were excused by the Convention.

Mr. Caldwell moved the Convention adjourn until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

Upon which the yeas and nays were called, and resulted thus:
So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Lippard moved that the call of the House be suspended.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the House refused to suspend the call.

Mr. Armstrong, of Jasper, moved that Mr. Glenn be excused indefinitely, on account of sickness.

Excused.

Mr. Hamilton, of Travis, moved the Convention adjourn until tomorrow morning at ten o’clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:

Yeas—Messrs. Adams, Armstrong of Jasper, Bryant of Grayson, Burnett, Caldwell, Cole, Glenn, Hamilton of Travis, Johnson of Harrison, Keigwin, Mackey, McCormick, McWashington, Morse,


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Hamilton, of Travis, moved the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning, at ten o’clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:

Yeas—Messrs. Bellinger, Bryant of Grayson, Burnett, Caldwell, Cole, Fleming, Glenn, Hamilton of Travis, Johnson of Harrison, Keigwin, Lindsay, Mackey, McWashington, Morse, Mundine, Rogers, Stockbridge, Sumner, Thomas, Watrous, Williams, Wilson of Brazoria, Wilson of Milam—23.


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Hamilton, of Travis, moved that the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o’clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Slaughter moved the Convention take a recess for thirty minutes.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted thus:

Yeas—Messrs. Armstrong of Lamar, Bledsoe, Burnett, Caldwell, Lindsay, Slaughter—6.


So the Convention refused to take a recess.

Mr. Hamilton of Travis, moved that the Convention adjourn until to-morrow morning at ten o’clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.
Mr. Armstrong, of Lamar, moved to adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.
Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.
Mr. Goddin moved that the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.
Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


Nays—Messrs. President, Adams, Armstrong of Jasper, Bledsoe, Board, Brown, Bryant of Harris, Buffaloing, Burnett, Carter, Curtis, Degener, Downing, Flanagan, Flanagan W., Hamilton of Bastrop, Harris, Horne, Johnson, Jordan, Keigwin, Keuchler, Kirk, Lindsay, Lippard, Mackey, Mallins, Munroe, Newcomb, Patten, Phillips of San Augustine, Scott, Slaughter, Smith, Stockbridge, Varnell—36.

So the Convention refused to adjourn.
Mr. Horne moved the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.
Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted thus:

Yeas—Messrs. Bellinger, Burnett, Caldwell, Fleming, Goddin,
So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Munroe excused on account of sickness.

Mr. Horne moved that the Convention adjourn until to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted thus:


Nays—Messrs. President, Adams, Armstrong of Jasper, Bledsoe, Board, Brown, Bryant of Harris, Buffington, Carter, Curtis, Degener, Downing, Evans of Titus, Fayle, Flanagan, Flanagan W., Gaston, Goddin, Hamilton of Bastrop, Harris, Jordan, Kendal, Keuchler, Lindsay, Lippard, Long, Morse, Mullins, Munro, Newcomb, Patten, Phillips of San Augustine, Ruby, Slaughter, Smith, Sumner, Varnell—34.

So the Convention refuse to adjourn.

Mr. Hamilton, of Travis, moved to adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted thus:


Nays—Messrs. President, Adams, Armstrong of Jasper, Armstrong of Lamar, Bledsoe, Board, Brown, Bryant of Harris, Buffing-

So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Bryant, of Grayson, moved that the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o’clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. W. Flanagan moved that the call of the House be suspended.

Upon which, the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


Nays—Messrs. Armstrong of Jasper, Bledsoe, Bryant of Grayson, Bryant of Harris, Buffington, Caldwell, Cole, Curtis, Degener, Downing, Fleming, Hamilton of Bastrop, Hamilton of Travis, Johnson of Harrison, Kealy, Keigwin, Kendal, Lindsay, Mackey, Mullins, Patten, Phillips of San Augustine, Rogers, Stockbridge, Sumner, Thomas, Watrous, Williams, Wilson of Brazoria—29.

Call of the House suspended.

Mr. Sumner moved a call of the House.
Call sustained.


Mr. Smith, of Galveston, asked that Mr. Kirk be excused on account of sickness.

Excused.

Mr. Burnett moved that the Convention adjourn till to-morrow at ten o'clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Horne moved that the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Burnett asked to be excused on account of sickness.

Excused.

Mr. Patten moved that the Convention take a recess till the 4th day of January, 1869.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted thus:

Yeas—Messrs. Degener, Hamilton of Bastrop, Patten—3.


So the Convention refused to take a recess.

Mr. Sumner moved that the Convention adjourn till seven o'clock P. M.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Carter moved that the call of the House be suspended.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:

Yeas—Messrs. President, Adams, Armstrong of Jasper, Bellinger,

Nays—Messrs. Armstrong of Lamar, Bledsoe, Bryant of Harris, Buffington, Caldwell, Cole, Curtis, Degener, Downing, Fleming, Hamilton of Bastrop, Hamilton of Travis, Horne, Keigwin, Kendal, Lindsay, Lippard, Mackey, Mullins, Morse, Phillips of San Augustine, Rogers, Ruby, Smith, Stockbridge, Sumner, Thomas, Varnell, Williams, Wilson of Brazoria—29.

So the Convention refused to suspend the call.

Mr. Hamilton, of Travis, moved that the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Armstrong moved that the Convention take a recess until eight o'clock this evening.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


Nays—Messrs. President, Adams, Board, Brown, Bryant of Grayson, Bryant of Harris, Buffington, Burnett, Caldwell, Carter, Cole, Curtis, Degener, Evans of Titus, Fayle, Flanagan, Fleming, Hamilton of Bastrop, Harris, Johnson of Harrison, Jordan, Keigwin, Kendal, Kuechler, Lindsay, Lippard, Long, Mackey, McWashington, Morse, Mullins, Mundine, Newcomb, Patten, Phillips of
San Augustine, Ruby, Scott, Smith, Stockbridge, Sumner, Thomas, Varnell, Watrous, Wilson of Brazoria, Wilson of Milam—47.

So the Convention refused to take a recess.

Mr. W. Flanagan moved to adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Horne moved the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Morgan Hamilton was excused on account of sickness.

Mr. Hamilton, of Travis, moved the Convention adjourn until to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.
Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Hamilton moved the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o’clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.

Mr. Bryant moved the call of the House be suspended.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded and resulted thus:

So the call of the House was sustained.
Mr. Smith moved the previous question.
Previous question seconded.
Mr. Thomas moved a call of the House.
Call sustained.


Mr. Armstrong, of Jasper, asked to be excused from attendance on the Convention.
Not excused.
Mr. Armstrong, of Jasper, moved the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock.
Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.
Mr. Patten moved a suspension of the call.
Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:

Yeas—Messrs. President, Adams, Armstrong of Jasper, Bledsoe, Board, Brown, Buffington, Carter, Curtis, Degener, Downing,


So the call of the House was suspended.
Mr. Hamilton, of Travis, moved a call of the House.
Call sustained.


Mr. Hamilton, of Travis, moved to adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.
Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention refused to adjourn.
Mr. Degener moved a suspension of the call of the House.
Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:

Yea—Messrs. President, Adams, Armstrong of Jasper, Armstrong of Lamar, Bledsoe, Board, Buffington, Carter, Cole, Curtis, Degener, Downing, Evans of Titus, Fayle; Flanagan, W. Flanagan, Gaston, Goddin, Harris, Keuchler, Lindsay, Lippard, Mullins,
Newcomb, Patten, Ruby, Scott, Slaughter, Smith, Varnell, Wilson of Milam, Wright—32.


So the call of the House was suspended.

Mr. Degener moved that the Convention adjourn till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Upon which the yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted thus:


So the Convention adjourned till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.