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City of Austin Texas, Friday March 8th 1861.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Roll called *Quorum* present. Prayer by the chaplain.

The President announced the following standing committee on *Frontier Protection*, viz: Messrs. Obenchain, Nelson, Cox, Hoyl and Smith of Fannin.

Mr. Stockdale presented the petition of Chas. W. Winn.<sup>28</sup> Referred to the committee of Public Safety.

Mr. Hall presented a communication from George Nathan, business director of the European and Southern direct trading company at New Orleans.<sup>29</sup> Referred to the committee on Public Safety.

On motion of Mr. Maxey, Mr. Shepard was added to the committee on *Citizenship*.

Mr. Johnson of Lamar presented the petition and muster roll of Capt. Milton Webb's company, the Lamar Cavalry.<sup>30</sup> Referred to the committee on Public Safety.

The President submitted a communication from our delegates at Montgomery, Alabama,<sup>31</sup> in reference to commerce and navigation. On motion of Mr. Shepard referred to the committee on Commerce and Navigation.

The President submitted a letter from Capt. Jno. J. Good.<sup>31</sup> Referred to the committee on Public Safety.

On motion of Mr. Cleveland, secrecy was removed from the proceedings of the Convention in relation to all matters concerning the committee on Public Safety.

Mr. Robertson of Smith, chairman of the committee on Public Safety, submitted a report to the Convention from said committee.<sup>32</sup>

"An ordinance to provide for the protection of the Frontier.['']"  
Read 1st time.

On motion of Mr. Nelson the rules were suspended, the ordinance read the 2nd time and 200 copies of the ordinance and 500 copies of the report ordered to be printed.<sup>33</sup>

Mr. Flournoy, chairman of the committee on the Constitution, made the following report

The committee on the Constitution, to whom was referred the several ordinances introduced relating to "an official oath," have had

<sup>28</sup>Charles W. Winn wrote from San Antonio, March 5, asking to be appointed lieutenant in the Texas army. (A. L. S. in Miscellaneous Papers of the Secession Convention.)

<sup>29</sup>Mr. Nathan's communication has not been found.

<sup>30</sup>Capt. Webb's petition and the muster roll have not been found.

<sup>31</sup>This communication has not been found.

<sup>32</sup>See Appendix to Journal page 262 for full reports of the Committee of Safety, touching all matter acted upon by it, where they appear in regular succession and connected order."

<sup>33</sup>The original draft of the ordinance and report have not been found.

the same under consideration and have instructed me to report the enclosed ordinances entitled "An ordinance to amend the 1st section of the 7th article of the constitution of the State of Texas," and "An ordinance to provide for the continuance of the existing State government" as substitutes for the proposed ordinances, and recommend their adoption and passage.

"An ordinance to amend the 1st section of the 7th article of the constitution of the State of Texas.[''] Read 1st time.

"An ordinance to provide for the continuance of the existing State government."<sup>34</sup> Read 1st time.

On motion of Mr. Shepard 200 copies of the foregoing ordinances were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Campbell chairman of the committee on Commerce and Navigation made the following report.

The committee on Commerce and Navigation to whom was referred an ordinance entitled "An ordinance relating to commerce" beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration and inasmuch as a few simple provisions which cannot exist but for a very brief period seem to be necessary they have prepared and now recommend as a substitute for the original bill an ordinance herewith reported, entitled ["an ordinance in relation to custom house officers and customs revenue"<sup>35</sup> and ask that the same be adopted. Which was read 1st time.

On motion of Mr. Wiley the rules were suspended and the ordinance read a 2nd time.

On motion of Mr. Brown the ordinance was amended by inserting after the word "State" in the 2nd line of the 1st section the following, viz: "including all such as may have resigned in consequence of the anticipated secession of this State from the Federal Union."

The ordinance was then ordered to be engrossed

On motion of Mr. Brown the ordinance was read a 3rd time. under a suspension of the rules, and adopted.

Mr. T. J. Chambers, chairman of the committee on Federal Relations, made the following report.

"The committee on Federal Relations, to whom was referred the communication of the 23d of Feby. from the Hon John Gregg and Wm. B. Ochiltree, two of our members in the congress of the Confederate States of America, have had it under consideration and instruct me to report it back to the Convention and recommend that a copy be furnished to the Secretary for publication in order that the people

<sup>34</sup>The drafts of these ordinances prepared by the committee have not been found.

<sup>35</sup>The ordinance was adopted as introduced, with the amendment by Mr. Brown noted above.

may be informed of the auspicious prospect of our speedy union with a new government under which our institutions will be cherished, more favorable relations with other nations be established, our hitherto neglected and exposed frontier will be amply and fully protected, and abolitionism and treason suppressed if it should become necessary."<sup>35</sup>

Montgomery Ala  
23d Feby 1861<sup>36</sup>

To Hon O M Roberts  
President of Texas Convention

Sir

The undersigned take great pleasure in making known through you to the delegates in Convention assembled that the reception given by the Congress of Confederate States now in session at this place to the representatives of the Sovereign People of Texas has been of the most gratifying character. Your delegates were admitted to seats upon the floor of the Congress and invited to freely and unreservedly participate in all the discussions of the body in both open and secret session.

The Government of the Confederate States of America is in full operation. Texas we are satisfied will most heartily approve of the selections made by the Congress of President and Vice President of the Provisional Government. We enclose a copy of the inaugural address of President Davis.<sup>37</sup> It is a document worthy of the primitive days of the Old Republic calculated to nerve the hearts of our friends and to strike terror to the hearts of our oppressors.

The President has appointed the Hon. Robert Toombs of Georgia Secretary of State, C. G. Meminger of S. Carolina Secretary of the Treasury and L. Pope Walker Esq. of Alabama Secretary of War. The Navy, Post Office, and Department of Justice have not been filled.

The Congress have adopted a postal system the only alterations in which from the old system material to be related is that they have established the minimum rate of postage at 5 cents on letters carried five hundred miles, 10 cents on all single letters carried over five hundred miles, all other postages double the present rates, with an entire *abolishment* of the franking privilege. The mail service to be as far as possible in the nature of "Star bids." We are happy to say that if Texas by her vote this day has seceded from the Union of States, that ample provision has been made for the continuous transportation of our mails without the slightest jar.

The Treasury department has been established and will go into immediate operation. All articles of Western produce, provisions of

<sup>35</sup>A. L. S. in Miscellaneous Papers of the Secession Convention.

<sup>36</sup>The inaugural address of President Davis is printed in Richardson's *Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Confederacy*, I, 32-36.

every kind, munitions of war arms etc. are free of duty. A general exemption from the operation of the tariff laws has been extended to the State of Texas. This will be dependent of course upon her action at the ballot box this day. if she refuses to secede of course she can fare no better than other States not embraced in the Confederacy

The War department is under the auspices of a gentleman whom we think will pursue a liberal and enlightened course toward our State so vitally interested in the proper management of that department. the peculiar position which has been and is now occupied by Texas with regard to this Government will of course forbid any direct action on the part of the War department until such time as we may have notice of the adoption of the Secession ordinance. We feel assured, however, that so soon as we have that notice that we will have no cause to complain of the administration of the Provisional Government for want of energy in regard to the proper military defense of our State.

The Committee to whom was referred the preparation of a permanent Constitution to be submitted to the States for approval has not yet reported. We can therefore say nothing of its provisions but feel well assured from the tone of the Congress that when put in a shape to be submitted to the people it will be eminently preservative of the great rights which have been so ruthlessly attempted to be seized from us by our former allies.

We will enclose to you by mail copies of as many of the acts of Congress as can be procured.

Truly your ob'dt serv'ts,

John Gregg,  
Wm. B. Ochiltree.

On motion of Mr. Jennings the rule was suspended, the report taken up, read and adopted.

Mr. Graham introduced an ordinance in reference to the several ordinances passed by the Convention in relation to federal affairs.<sup>37</sup> Read 1st and 2nd times and referred to the committee on the Constitution.

Mr. Shepard introduced "an ordinance to amend the constitution of the State of Texas" Read 1st and 2nd times and referred to the committee on the Constitution.

Mr. Rogers of Harris introduced "An ordinance to raise money for the use and defence of the State of Texas.['']"<sup>37</sup> Read 1st and 2nd times and referred to the committee on Finance.

Mr. Rogers of Harris offered the following resolution which was adopted.

**"The original draft of this ordinance has not been found.**

“Resolved that the Secretary be authorized to employ an engrossing and an enrolling clerk.”

Mr. Scott, chairman of the committee on Credentials, made the following report.

“The committee on Credentials, to whom was referred the certificate of the election of J. H. Wilcox as a delegate from the county of Denton, have had the same under consideration and find it regular, and that the said J. H. Wilcox is entitled to a seat in this Convention.”

Read and adopted.

Mr. Roberts (President) offered the following resolution.

“Whereas a letter bearing date March the 6th, 1861, has been read before this Convention, written by the Executive of the State, addressed to a committee of this body, calling in question the power of this Convention to do more than submit the ordinance of secession to the people of Texas for their ratification or rejection, and whereas it is important that there should be no misunderstanding upon this subject, therefore,

“Resolved that this Convention do now declare that it not only had power to pass and submit the ordinance of secession, but that also it possesses and will exercise the right, on behalf of the people of Texas, to do whatever may be incidental to the same, and that may be necessary and proper for the protection of the rights of the people and the defence of the State in the present emergency, and that it will as speedily as practicable consummate the connection of Texas with the provisional government of the Confederate States of America, whose constitution has already been ratified by an ordinance of this Convention

“Resolved further that this resolution be communicated by the Secretary of this Convention to the respective Departments of the State Government”

Adopted unanimously by the following vote.

Yeas, Messrs. President, Adams, Allen, Anderson of Colorado, Armstrong, Askew, Baxter, Bagby, Brahan, Beazley, Box, Black, Blythe, Broadbuss, Brown, Burditt, Campbell, Wm. Chambers, T. J. Chambers, Chambers of Red River, Chambers of Titus, Chilton, Chisum, Clark, Clayton, Cleveland, Coke, Cook, Cox, Dancy, Davenport, Davidson, Devine, Dunham, Earley, Fall, Feeney, Flournoy, Ford of Caldwell, Ganahl, Gould, Graham of Rusk, Green, Hall, Hardeman, Hays, Henry, Henderson, Hicks, Hill, Hobby, Hogg, Hooker, Howard, Hoyt, Hughes, Hunt, Hutcheson, Ireland, Jennings, Johnson of Lamar, Jones, Kelly, Koester, Lesueur, Lea, Lester, Locke, Lubbock, Maltby, Mattox, Maxey, McCraw, McIntosh, Miller, Montgomery, Moore of Burnet, Moore of Fayette, Moore of Henderson, Montel, Moss, Nash of Dallas, Nash of Kaufman, Nauendorf, Neel, Nelson, Newsom, Nichol-

son of Dallas, Nicholson of Fannin, Norris, Obenchain, Palmer, Payne of Hopkins, Peek, Poag, Portis, Preston, Rainey, Rhome, Robertson of Bell, Robertson of Smith, Robertson of Washington, Rogers of Harris, Rogers of Marion, Ross, Rugeley, Runnels, Russell, Scott, Scurry, Shepard, Smith of Bexar, Smith of Fanuin, Stapp, Stell, Stewart of Anderson, Stewart of Falls, Stewart of Gonzales, Stockdale, Taylor, Terry of Tarrant, Thompson, Todd, Waller, Walworth, Warren, Watkins, Wharton, Wier, Wilcox of Bexar, Wilcox of Denton, Wiley, Wilson and Wright, 126.

On motion of Mr. Maxey the Convention adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

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City of Austin, Texas, Saturday, March 9th/61.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Roll called. Quorum present. Prayer by the chaplain. The Journals of the preceding sessions, not heretofore acted upon, were read and adopted.

By leave Mr. Hicks was allowed to record his vote in favor of the adoption of the ordinance in relation to the union of the State of Texas with the Confederate States of America and in favor of the resolution offered by Mr. Roberts on yesterday declaring the sense of this Convention as to its powers and duties, in response to the communication of the Executive of the State to the committee of the Convention.

Mr. Hicks presented the credentials of J. S. Holland delegate elect from the county of Jasper, which were referred to the committee on Credentials and the Secretary ordered to enroll his name.

The President submitted the following communication from the Hon. Geo. Williamson, commissioner from the State of Louisiana to the State of Texas and the accompanying correspondence which occurred during the recess of the Convention, viz:

City of Austin Feby 11th 1861.

Dear Sir,

The Convention of which you have the honor to be President having adjourned to meet on a day too distant to permit my awaiting its re-assemblage. I beg leave to ask you to lay before that honorable body at its next session the accompanying credentials, ordinances and official communication. I trust that the views contained in the last may not be deemed intrusive. Allow me to assure you personally of my profound respect and regard

Your obdt. servt.

Geo. Williamson,  
Comr of the State of Louisiana.

To the Hon. O. M. Roberts,

President of the convention of the people of Texas.