

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Beginning of the twenty-sixth Biennial Session of the Legislature of the State of Florida, under the Constitution of the State, A. D. 1885, begun and held at the Capitol, in the City of Tallahassee, Florida, on Tuesday, the sixth day of April, A. D. 1937, at 12:00 o'clock noon, being the day fixed by the Constitution of the State of Florida for the convening of the Legislature.

Tuesday, April 6, 1937

The Senate convened at 12:00 o'clock noon, and was called to order by Honorable Wm. C. Hodges, President of the Senate.

The Secretary of the Senate, by the direction of the President, called the roll of the hold-over members of the Senate and the following answered to their names:

Hon. Phillip D. Beall—2nd District.
Hon. R. L. Sweger—6th District.
Hon. William C. Hodges—8th District.
Hon. Herbert C. Harper—10th District.
Hon. F. P. Parker—12th District.
Hon. S. C. Smith—14th District.
Hon. A. G. McArthur—16th District.
Hon. J. Turner Butler—18th District.
Hon. Chas. A. Savage—20th District.
Hon. S. D. Clarke—22nd District.
Hon. Arthur Gomez—24th District.
Hon. H. S. McKenzie—26th District.
Hon. Ferd B. Nordman, Jr.—28th District.
Hon. R. Stanley Adams—30th District.
Hon. R. Lucas Black—32nd District.
Hon. Henry Tillman—34th District.
Hon. Wallace Tervin—36th District.
Hon. Fred L. Touchton—38th District.

The Secretary of the Senate announced that the Secretary of State had certified to the election of certain State Senators at the general election on November 3rd, 1936, and that the same had been filed.

The Secretary of the Senate, by the direction of the President, called the roll of the newly elected Senators and the following answered to their names:

Hon. W. H. Mapoles—1st District.
Hon. D. Stuart Gillis—3rd District.
Hon. John C. Wynn—4th District.
Hon. H. N. Walker—5th District.
Hon. S. L. Holland—7th District.
Hon. George A. Dame—9th District.
Hon. J. Locke Kelly—11th District.
Hon. E. R. Graham—13th District.
Hon. Charley E. Johns—15th District.
Hon. S. A. Hinely—17th District.
Hon. Walter W. Rose—19th District.
Hon. Henry B. Coulter—21st District.
Hon. George F. Westbrook—23rd District.
Hon. Joe Sharit—25th District.
Hon. H. G. Murphy—27th District.
Hon. J. D. Dugger—29th District.
Hon. Peter Kendrick—31st District.
Hon. A. O. Kanner—33rd District.
Hon. John R. Beacham—35th District.
Hon. J. J. Parrish—37th District.

The oath of office was then administered to the newly elected Senators by the Honorable W. H. Ellis, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida.

The roll was then called of the Senate as now constituted, and the following Senators answered to their names:

Senators: Mr. President; Adams, Beacham, Beall, Black, Butler, Clarke, Coulter, Dame, Dugger, Gomez, Graham, Harper, Hinely, Hodges, Holland, Johns, Kanner, Kelly, Kendrick, McArthur, McKenzie, Mapoles, Murphy, Nordman, Parker, Parrish, Rose, Savage, Sharit, Smith, Sweger, Tervin, Tillman, Touchton, Walker, Westbrook, Wynn—38.

A quorum of the Senate was announced.

Prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend E. D. Brooks.

The Senate then proceeded to the organization of the body.

Senator R. S. Adams presented the name of Honorable D. Stuart Gillis of the Third Senatorial District to be President of the Senate for the ensuing two years.

There being no other nominations, Hon. D. Stuart Gillis was elected by a rising vote and was declared the President of the Senate.

Senator Adams of the 30th Senatorial District moved that a committee of three be appointed to escort the newly elected President to the rostrum.

Which was agreed to.

Senators Adams, Gomez and Butler were appointed.

Honorable W. C. Hodges, former President of the Senate, received the newly chosen President and introduced him to the Senate.

The Honorable W. H. Ellis, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, administered the oath of office to the Honorable D. Stuart Gillis as President of the Senate.

The Honorable D. Stuart Gillis, newly elected President of the Senate, addressed the Senate as follows:
"My Fellow Senators:

Of course I feel deeply honored in being chosen as your presiding officer. It is my purpose to so conduct myself in this position as to give none of you cause for regret.

We have had able men in the chair heretofore. I shall do my best to measure up to the high standards they have set. I hope that when my term of office is over, I may still enjoy your respect and confidence.

The rules you adopt for this session will be my guide and compass. If I should misinterpret them I want you to rest assured that the error will be unintentional. If they seem to work a hardship they may be changed in an orderly way.

In the matter of attaches, may I suggest that in the interests of economy—whatever its correct definition or however varied our ideas of that principle may be—we get along with as few employees as is consistent with the prompt and efficient discharge of our duties. I am aware that each of us has many requests from those who desire to work and that we would like to satisfy all of them, but we are dealing with public funds gathered from the taxpayers of this State of whom there are many and very vocal. In order that we may consistently urge the practice of economy in the executive and administrative departments of government, we must ourselves set the example by refraining from wasteful and extravagant practice in this body.

Without anticipating any recommendations that may be made to us in regular course and with due regard to any general or specific program that may be proposed, I venture to express the hope that our committees who will in large part have the primary consideration of appropriations and of raising revenue to meet them will work in complete harmony and co-operation to the end that the one will not exceed the other—in other words, that we so legislate as to balance the budget and keep it balanced with all departments, and agencies of the State government essential to the welfare and happiness of our citizenship and the economic growth and development of the commonwealth adequately financed, but with the thought constantly in mind that every dollar we make available comes from the pocket book of the tax payer in one form or another.

I venture also to express the hope that all committees will work diligently so that all proposed legislation may be given prompt and full consideration and that all persons legitimately concerned may be given a hearing.

In making up committee assignments, I have found it im-

possible under the rules to utilize the wealth of material available. I have tried to accomplish what you must realize is a practical impossibility, that is, to assign the several members who have made requests to the committees of their choice. I hope that the difficulty of my position will be fully appreciated by each of my colleagues.

And now, in my own behalf and speaking for the membership, may I express our appreciation of the beautiful flowers which decorate the chamber. The organization and individuals who are responsible for this courtesy have again demonstrated the kind and cordial attitude of our capitol city toward the Legislature. I may be forgiven, I'm sure, if I make special mention of the flowers from my own district composed of Holmes and Walton Counties. The continued and repeated kindnesses of my own people to me touch me very deeply.

So far as my authority may extend, provision will be made for the members of the press to report our proceedings. Certain daily newspapers of the State and the news gathering associations, whose representatives are in regular attendance, will be provided a place in the chamber to the left of the rostrum, the weekly representatives to the right.

Again I assure you of my deep appreciation of the honor you have conferred upon me."

Senator Hodges moved that the foregoing address of the President be spread upon the Journal.

Which was agreed to and it was so ordered.

Senator Adams placed in nomination the name of Honorable F. P. Parker of the 12th Senatorial District to be President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

There being no other nominations, Honorable F. P. Parker was elected to be President Pro Tempore of the Senate by a rising vote, and was escorted to a seat by the President's side by a committee composed of Senators Adams, Kendrick and Mapoles.

Senator Adams then presented the name of Robt. W. Davis to be Secretary of the Senate.

There being no other nominations Robt. W. Davis was elected Secretary of the Senate by acclamation.

Honorable W. H. Ellis, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, administered the oath of office to Robt. W. Davis, Secretary of the Senate.

Senator Adams then presented the name of J. W. Kelly to be Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate.

There being no other nominations J. W. Kelly was elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate by acclamation.

Honorable W. H. Ellis, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, administered the oath of office to J. W. Kelly, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate.

Senator Adams moved in pursuance to the action of the hold-over Caucus of the Senators that:

Mrs. Ruth Roberts be named as Head Stenographer of the Senate;

Miss Kate Inman be named as Reading Secretary;

Rev. Ray Y. Walden be named as Assistant Reading Secretary; and

T. J. Faulkner be named as Janitor.

Which was agreed to and it was so ordered.

Senator Adams moved that the remaining attaches, nominated and named by the hold-over Senators be presented and voted on en bloc.

And the Secretary presented the following list of attaches:

Chaplain—Reverend E. D. Brooks.
 Stenographer—William McChesney.
 Bill Messenger—Clyde B. Seckinger.
 Journal Mailing Secretary—Chas. J. Harris.
 Assistant Journal Mailing Secretary—Mrs. Anna Stanton.
 Stenographer—Miss Ruth Hall.
 Stenographer—Miss Doria Markham.
 Stenographer—Miss Agnes Zetrouer.
 Stenographer—Mrs. Dahlia Dowling.
 Stenographer—Miss Blanche Pickles.
 Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms—J. W. Watford.
 Senate Postmaster—W. J. Williams.
 Doorkeeper—Robert W. Pinder.
 Page—Fred L. Touchton, Jr.
 Page—Billie McCrainte.
 Page—Jack Colbert.
 Assistant Head Stenographer—Mrs. Bill Wilson.

Page—Edgar Lamb.

Stenographer—Pansy Mattair.

Stenographer—Mrs. Nan Powell.

Assistant Bill Secretary—Mrs. W. M. Barco.

Senator Hodges moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast the vote of the Senate for the above named attaches.

Which was agreed to and it was so ordered.

Senator McArthur moved that a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the Governor and inform him that the Senate is now organized and ready to proceed to the business of the session, awaiting any message he may wish to convey to the Senate.

Which was agreed to.

The President appointed Senators McArthur, Coulter and Dugger as said committee.

The committee withdrew.

Senator McKenzie moved that a committee of three be appointed to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate is now organized and ready to proceed with the business of the session, awaiting any communication they may wish to convey.

Which was agreed to.

The President appointed Senators McKenzie, Graham and Black as said committee.

The committee withdrew.

Senator McKenzie moved that the rules of the 1935 session be adopted to govern the Senate until such time as the Committee on Rules may report.

Which was agreed to and it was so ordered.

The committee appointed to notify the House of Representatives of the organization of the Senate appeared at the bar of the Senate and reported to the President that its duty had been performed.

The committee was discharged.

The committee appointed to wait upon the Governor and notify him of the organization of the Senate appeared at the bar of the Senate and reported that their duty had been performed.

The committee was discharged.

The following communication from the Governor was received:

STATE OF FLORIDA
 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
 TALLAHASSEE

April 6, 1937.

Honorable D. Stuart Gillis,
 President of the Senate,
 Tallahassee, Florida.

Sir:

I desire to address your Honorable Body in joint session with the House of Representatives this afternoon, April 6th, A. D. 1937, at two-thirty o'clock.

Very respectfully,
 FRED P. CONE, Governor.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

By permission the following Concurrent Resolution was introduced:

By Senator Hinely—
 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CONCURRING:

That the Senate of the State of Florida respectfully advised and concurs with the House of Representatives in advising the Governor that the legislature by his request will be assembled in the House of Representatives at 2:30 o'clock P. M. on April 6, A. D. 1937, for the purpose of receiving His Excellency's message to be delivered to the Senate and to the House of Representatives sitting in joint assembly.

Which was read the first time in full.

Senator Hinely moved that the rules be waived and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 be read the second time in full.

Which was agreed to by a two-thirds vote.

And Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 was read the second time in full.

The question was put on the adoption of the Concurrent Resolution.

Which was agreed to.

And Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 was adopted and ordered to be immediately certified to the House of Representatives by waiver of the rules.

Senator Hodges moved that WHEREAS, The Holdover Caucus omitted the drawing for the positions of Secretary of the Enrolling Committee and Secretary of the Engrossing Committee, it is moved that the Chairman of each Committee be authorized to name the secretary of his respective Committee.

Which was agreed to and it was so ordered.

Senator Hodges moved that the President of the Senate be empowered to appoint a messenger and bailiff for the use of his office as President of the Senate.

Which was agreed to and it was so ordered.

Senator Westbrook moved that the Committee on Rules and Calendar be appointed at this time.

Which was agreed to.

And the President appointed Senators Westbrook, McKenzie, Tervin, Parrish and McArthur as the Committee.

Senator Hodges moved that the Secretary of the Senate have the selection, direction and control of the desk force working under his supervision, and that the desk force be in number as approved by the Senate at the 1935 session, and have the appointment of the Bill Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Index Secretary.

Which was agreed to.

A Committee from the House of Representatives composed of Messrs. Bryant of Alachua, Wood of Lee and Dekle of Hillsborough appeared at the bar of the Senate and notified the Senate that the House of Representatives was duly organized and ready to proceed to the business of the session.

Senator Hodges moved that the Senate do now take a recess until 2:15 o'clock P. M., this day.

Which was agreed to.

And the Senate took a recess at 1:04 o'clock P. M., until 2:15 o'clock P. M. this day.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Senate reconvened at 2:15 o'clock P. M., pursuant to recess order.

The President in the chair.

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President; Senators Adams, Beacham, Beall, Black, Butler, Clarke, Coulter, Dame, Dugger, Gomez, Graham, Harper, Hinely, Hodges, Holland, Johns, Kanner, Kelly, Kendrick, McArthur, McKenzie, Mapoles, Murphy, Nordman, Parker, Parrish, Rose, Savage, Sharit, Smith, Sweger, Tervin, Tillman, Touchton, Walker, Westbrook, Wynn—38.

A quorum present.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

Tallahassee, Florida, April 6, 1937.

Hon. D. Stuart Gillis,
President of the Senate.

Sir:

I am directed by the House of Representatives to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted.

By Senator Hinely—

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ASSEMBLING WITH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN JOINT SESSION TO RECEIVE THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING:

That the Senate of the State of Florida respectively advised and concurs with the House of Representatives in advising the Governor that the Legislature by his request will be assembled

in the House of Representatives at 2:30 o'clock P. M. on April 6, A. D. 1937, for the purpose of receiving His Excellency's message to be delivered to the Senate and to the House of Representatives sitting in joint assembly.

And respectfully requests the concurrence of the Senate therein.

Very respectfully,

J. A. CAWTHON,
Chief Clerk House of Representatives.

Senator Parrish moved that the Senate do now proceed to the hall of the House of Representatives to unite with that body for the purpose of receiving the Governor of the State.

Which was agreed to.

The senate formed in processional order and marched in a body to the hall of the House of Representatives in the order of their services as Senators, preceded by the President and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate who were preceded by the Secretary of the Senate carrying the roll call of the Senators and the minutes of the Senate, the way being opened to the hall of the House of Representatives for the Senators by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate carrying the gavel of the Senate's authority.

The House of Representatives received the Senate in due form.

By direction of President of the Senate the Secretary of the Senate called the roll of the Senate and the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President; Senators Adams, Beacham, Beall, Black, Butler, Clarke, Coulter, Dame, Dugger, Gomez, Graham, Harper, Hinely, Hodges, Holland, Johns, Kanner, Kelly, Kendrick, McArthur, McKenzie, Mapoles, Murphy, Nordman, Parker, Parrish, Rose, Savage, Sharit, Smith, Sweger, Tervin, Tillman, Touchton, Walker, Westbrook, Wynn—38.

A quorum of the Senate was declared present.

By direction of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives called the roll of the House and the following members answered to their names:

Mr. Speaker: Messrs. Adams, Alford, Barnett, Bryant, Buie, Burks, Butt, Byington, Chavous, Clement, Cole, Collins, Coogler, Cook, Cooley, Crary, Crocker, Davis, Dekle, Dendy, Dishong, Douglas, Drummond, Early, Eide, Fahs, Fraser, Fulkerson, Fuller, Fuqua, Gaston, Getzen, Godwin, Gray, Hale, Harrell, Harris, Hatch, Hazen, Hendry, Hewitt, Hodges, Holt, Ives, Jernigan, Kelly, King, Lanier, Leedy, Lehman, Lewis, Lindsey, Marchant, Martin (Hillsborough), Martin (Polk), Mays, Morrison, Morrow, Moore, Motes, McCarty, McLeod, Outman, Overstreet, Papy, Peacock, Peeples, Platt, Potter, Preacher, Rardin, Ray, Rogers, Rose, Saunders, Scales, Sheldon, Sikes, Sinclair, Slappey, Smith (Clay), Smith (Marion), Stanly, Stewart, Studduth, Turner, Walker, Walters, West, Williams, Winburn, Wood (Lee), Wood (Liberty)—94.

A quorum of the House of Representatives was declared present.

The Speaker then declared a quorum of the joint assembly present.

Mr. Collins of Leon moved that the President of the Senate preside over the joint assembly.

Which was agreed to.

The President of the Senate in the Chair.

Senator Parker moved that a committee be appointed to wait upon the Governor and notify him that the joint assembly is now organized and awaits his pleasure, and to escort the Governor to the rostrum of the House of Representatives sitting with the Senate in joint assembly.

Which was agreed to.

The President appointed Senators Parker and Sharit on the part of the Senate and Messrs. Burks, Smith and Mays on the part of the House of Representatives as the committee.

The committee withdrew.

The committee appointed to wait upon the Governor returned escorting the Governor, who was received by the joint assembly standing.

Governor Fred P. Cone was duly escorted to the rostrum.

The President introduced the Governor to the joint assembly, and the Governor delivered his biennial message to the Legislature sitting in joint assembly, as follows:

MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR FRED P. CONE

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE:

"The Constitution of the State of Florida requires that the Governor at the beginning of the session of each Legislature communicate by message to them about the general condition of the state, and to recommend for their consideration what he may deem necessary and expedient such laws as may be for the best interests of the State of Florida and its citizens.

We live at this time under a democratic form of government which is managed and controlled by representatives elected by a direct vote of the people. The controlling power of the government in this democracy of ours is under three departments, the Legislative, Executive and Judicial. They are all responsible to the people under our form of government and each department is a separate department created by our Constitution.

It is with pleasure that I have the privilege to-day to appear before you and give you my ideas which in my feeble judgment I believe to be for the best interests of our state.

I want to assure you, one and all, that I appear before you as your Chief Executive in a co-operative spirit and what I recommend to you for your consideration is what I honestly believe for the best interests of the citizenship of this state, and for the upbuilding and protection of our government. The State of Florida is a great state; it is a growing state; we have natural resources and soils that very few other states are fortunate in possessing both as to abundance and fertility. We are blessed indeed in having so many things that nature has bestowed upon us that we should be happy and grateful to be citizens and representatives of this great state and a part of its government.

The crying need of our state to-day, as I see it, is economy and business-like management of our finances. The two most important agencies in any democratic form of government is finances and taxation. All governments must be supported by finances and all finances must be raised by taxation. The two run hand in hand and they are so interlocked that they cannot be separated. Our state is now a growing state in businesses of all kinds: agriculture, mining, and fruit growing are all in a prosperous condition. Every department of this state that has anything to do with collecting taxes shows a healthy increase in the income of our state government. On the other hand all finances of the state and all income in the different departments of the state are raised by taxation which is a burden upon the backs of the people, and unless the state is economically managed and controlled the expenses of the state government will keep pace with the income and there will be no relief from the tax burdens which now rest upon the people. It seems that in the history of all governments that the people can stand so much taxes and they cannot stand any more. Our state ad valorem tax is very low, but some of the counties and municipalities are so high it is a real burden upon the people. The hidden and indirect taxes have been added from time to time and have grown to such an extent that if our state is to grow and prosper something must be done to relieve the people of so many kinds of indirect taxes that are now so burdensome and so excessive that business and industry cannot stand them much longer. If our state is to grow and prosper it must be relieved of some of these tax burdens for no tax ridden, debt burdened country on earth can ever remain prosperous. The future of this state and our whole financial structure, the prosperity and happiness of our people must depend upon sound, safe, business policies in the management of the affairs of this great state.

All selfish, personal and political considerations must be cast aside. You and I as direct representatives of the people with an unselfish motive and with an eye single to the financial condition of the state, taking into consideration the taxes that we now already pay, both directly and indirectly, and with a patriotic desire to do something for the benefit of the people by passing such legislation as will not increase the burdens upon the taxpayers of our state.

We are in a different position now to what we were in when the Legislature met two years ago. The general election in November 1936 voted a constitutional amendment by a large majority of the people of this state demanding that the Legislature provide for old age pensions and assist the blind and dependent children of this state. This is a mandate

from the people and it must be carried out according to the will of the electorate of Florida.

The question now arises and it is a very important question as to whether we can adequately provide this extra expense which has been given to us as a mandate from the people without levying additional taxes upon the tax payers of this state.

I have given a great deal of study to the financial condition of this state, its resources, its income and its expenses, and if all the departments of the state are placed upon a sound financial, economical basis, and all unnecessary expenditures eliminated, and business management placed in these departments we can provide for this additional expense that has been voted by the people without placing more taxes upon the taxpaying public.

Florida's income, taking into consideration the increase of the income of the last two years, and the prospective income for the year 1937, will increase in an amount sufficient to care for all departments of the government including the so-called Social Security old age pensions, and assistance for the blind and dependent children, without putting any additional tax burden upon the people. As evidence of my sincerity in this I pledge you my earnest co-operation in every way possible, and with this co-operative spirit between all departments of our government for the public good we can accomplish this single policy which will redound to the benefit of the citizens of our great state, if we do this one with the other for this definite purpose.

I have contended that we can take the amount of the expenses for the year 1934, and I believe since going more carefully into the finances of this state, we can even take the expenses of 1935 as our guide and hold the expenses down to this figure, that the natural increase of this state's revenue if the departments are willing to co-operate and even sacrifice for the interests of the tax payers this problem can be solved without decreasing the efficiency of any department of the state government and without raising additional taxes.

1. We should have a definite purpose in carrying out this program. I believe all continuing appropriations should be abolished so that all moneys still in these appropriations shall revert to the general revenue fund of the State Treasury.

2. That all moneys collected by tax collecting of license collecting agencies of every kind and description connected with the state government should first be put in the state treasury, and the Legislature, exercising its constitutional privilege, should budget all departments, boards and commissions of this state, and appropriate what the amount each of them shall need to operate with efficient management.

3. That all boards and commissions that have been created in the past should be closely analyzed and considered, and those that are not necessary to the operation of this government should be abolished, and all others where possible be consolidated with other departments that are in your opinion necessary, and eliminate overlapping agencies, and in that way the Legislature will have an insight to every tax collecting and money spending department and agency of the government.

4. That all safe-guards should be placed against debts and obligations that may be contracted in the future by any department of this government.

5. That our public money should be conserved and directed in the proper channels so that nothing can be used except by direction of the Legislature by lawful appropriation.

6. All license taxes on all business whatsoever should be assessed by the County Tax Assessor at least every three months and charged to the tax collectors of the respective counties, and sufficient fees and penalties should be provided, and that they should be collected in an orderly manner and not delegated to boards and commissions. These things will strengthen our financial structure, reduce the burden of taxation and hasten our state towards permanent prosperity.

ECONOMY

Economy in public expenditures is necessary for the safety of our financial structure. Too often we have disregarded the value of a public dollar until a public office in some cases has ceased to be a public trust. I do not believe in niggardly salaries, and I do not believe in useless employees, but only those that are necessary to carry on the business of the government's affairs in an efficient manner. Many economies have been started by this administration and we are now safely on the way to saving a considerable sum of money in the management of the departments under the control of this

administration without impairment of the efficiency of any department.

I believe I will be able to save to the people of Florida this year in the management of the State Road Department \$500,000.00 without impairing the efficiency of road building or maintenance; \$50,000 in the Tag Department; \$50,000.00 in the Beverage Department; \$50,000.00 in the Hotel Department; \$50,000.00 in the Milk Control Board; \$75,000.00 in the management of the State Racing Commission, and like sums in other departments when I have had an opportunity to re-organize them. I can safely say that I will save this year practically one million dollars in the management of all departments under my supervision without effecting the efficiency of these departments. With like economy other departments of the state government which are not under my control or supervision can save a considerable sum if they will. With these savings to the state by using reasonable business-like management and efficiency together with the natural increase of our income of the state, a sufficient amount will be in hand to take care of all departments without any impairment of the efficiency of any department and without raising any additional money by increased taxation of any kind.

Our increased income on gasoline for the last two years has been practically twenty-per cent. The Tag Department has shown an increase of ten per cent. Practically every income producing agency of the state has increased on an average of ten per cent. We can reasonably expect for the year 1937 that the income of the State of Florida from all sources will amount to at least \$48,000,000.00 which is an increase of about four million dollars over the year 1936 together with a reasonable business management of our state will show a saving of about one and one-half million dollars increase, and with all reasonable reductions accounted for with efficient and careful management of our state, there is no real reason why we cannot take care of all expenses of every state department including the social security without additional tax burdens at this time. I ask that the Legislature co-operate with me in my efforts to this end.

AUDITING DEPARTMENT

The auditing department is one of the most important departments of this government. I recommend that the auditing department be given a small increase in number that they may audit at least annually all the different sub-divisions of the state, including all boards, commissions and departments for the purpose of preventing defaults and to establish efficiency in the operation of the various departments. Many times the cost can be saved in this department each year by preventing defaults and waste methods. A rigid budget should be required of every department, board and commission, and also the various funds; the merging of current expenses into future obligations should be rigidly prohibited.

TAX COLLECTING

I recommend that our system of tax collecting be made more simple and the results more certain, and the returns upon personal property be made compulsory. It is too often that real estate can be found easier by the tax assessor but often large blocks of personal property remain untouched by taxation. The assessment of taxes should be simplified so that they could be made valid without so many technicalities connected therewith.

We should restrict the duties to the particular business for which boards and commissions were created and not permit or allow them to branch off into other lines of business or activities.

AGRICULTURE

We should give every aid to agriculture that our financial ability will permit as the prosperity of our state depends a great deal upon the future of our agricultural development and we should lend our aid to this enterprise.

I recommend all reasonable and sufficient laws for the protection of the citrus industry, including a strict green fruit law, and every possible aid be given to this industry.

The development of our natural resources should be encouraged and every safeguard thrown around their protection. Florida has so many natural resources hardly touched by mankind, and they should be amply protected and not allowed to be wasted or destroyed. Agriculture, industry and labor all go together. Our aim must be to promote the welfare of all classes. That part of our citizenship that earns

their living by the sweat of their brows should have every safe guard that their rights may be protected. Their health, their industrial hazard, their home life and their rights as workmen.

HIGHWAYS

Our highways should be protected not only from the destruction of over loaded vehicles but for the safety of the traveling public.

I recommend that a reasonable law be passed for the protection of roads from over weights of vehicles and from excessive speed of heavy vehicles. These roads cost the people of Florida a great deal of money and should be protected.

I recommend that a strict law be passed against drunken and reckless driving on the roads and that the penalty be such that will protect the innocent drivers from irresponsible and reckless people who too often use the public highways to the detriment of the lives of innocent people.

I recommend that greater power be given to the Railroad Commission to enforce freight rates both on the railroads and on the highways. That all inequalities may be adjusted so that the future development of Florida will not be retarded by excessive rates.

I recommend that the game laws be amended with a view always to the conservation of our game and to that end I recommend that during the hunting season the time be limited to two days each week, and not two days coming together. That will give every sportsman a chance to hunt two separate days in each week and will protect the game from the so-called pot hunters who go out in camps and stay for weeks at the time and slaughter game unnecessarily. I believe that will have a great deal to do with the conservation of our game.

I recommend that suitable legislation be passed prohibiting the further killing of alligators, or the possession or sale of alligator hides, as this animal will soon be extinct unless some protection is given them. Alligators are one of the greatest conservers of fresh water fish we have. I invite your study of this question.

I recommend that law enforcement be made stricter; that our criminal procedure be simplified, and that all protection be given law abiding citizens of our state that they may ride our highways in safety and be safe in their property rights against highway robbers and other lawless people who prey upon honest citizenship. The greatest advertising Florida could have would be for the world to know that her citizens are safe in their person and property.

I recommend that the Legislature ratify the Child Labor Amendment that has been passed by the Congress of the United States for the protection of our children who will be the future citizens of this state against labor in sweat shops and factories that will effect their moral and physical being, and will thereby be a detriment to their future usefulness as citizens of our great state.

AUTOMOBILE TAGS

I recommend that automobile tags for all pleasure cars be placed at \$5.00 each. I have given this matter a great deal of study, and in addition this will give every user of an automobile a small reduction in taxes. It will be the means of increasing the revenues of our state considerably more than the difference in the price of the tags. It will increase to a great extent the sale of gasoline and at the same time increase many other lines of business, and I recommend your careful consideration of every phase of this long needed reduction of automobile tags which should go into effect.

I recommend that what is known as the Odd Cent on the race tracks or the so-called betting on race tracks be taken over by law and put into the state treasury as it does not belong to the owner of the tracks, and at the present time is taken over by them from the people who wager at these tracks, and that this money be put into the treasury and you at your discretion appropriate such amount as you think wise and proper for the purpose of general advertising of the State of Florida, and the amount not used be kept in the treasury for the general benefit of the people.

SCHOOLS

I recommend that the sum of ten and one-half million dollars be appropriated for the public schools of this state, and that a committee from the House and Senate be appointed to study the efficiency of our school system and recommend how this money shall be spent.

I recommend that all aid be given to education, including

the institutions of higher learning, that the finances of the state will permit together with efficient management.

I recommend that you look into the amount of free text books bought by the state during the past two years, and how many have been used, and how many books still on hand, that you may be informed as to the correct amount of money to be appropriated for free text books for the next two years.

I recommend that the law authorizing the so-called School Depository be repealed and that the books be bought by the State Board of Education on consignment so that all books not used can be returned without cost to the state. In this manner many thousands of dollars can be saved to the tax payers of Florida.

STATE INSTITUTIONS

I recommend that you go thoroughly into the financial management of our state institutions so that you may become better informed as to their efficiency in management, their needs, and pass such laws as you may see fit for the better business management of these institutions, in the end that all money appropriated by the Legislature for the management of these institutions may be spent where they were intended to be spent by authority of your body.

I recommend the retention of the one cent gasoline tax for the general revenue and that the law be studied and made more specific in the collection of all documentary stamp taxes, and intangible taxes that the state may receive the fullest revenue from this source of income.

MUNICIPALITIES

Most of the revenues have been taken from the municipalities of our state in the way of gas tax and automobile taxes, ad valorem taxes on automobiles, and almost every municipality of our state is suffering from lack of finances and a great many of them are over burdened with debt obligations. It is a financial problem of our state that should be given careful study. With the proper economical management of all state finances and a careful apportionment of the income in our state, it is possible that this body may be able to give some financial assistance at this session of the legislature to the over-burdened municipalities of our commonwealth. I invite your careful study of this question. A great deal of the gasoline sold in our state is used up on the streets of our cities and towns and they are steadily wearing out their streets and highways. In a short time they will be in such condition that re-building or repairs will be necessary, and most of them under their present financial condition are unable to maintain these things, and unless something is done either by taking over the upkeep of the streets by the State of Florida, or a direct appropriation for that purpose will be necessary. A part of our state cannot be prosperous without all of it prospering. This is a serious matter, and I ask your careful study and attention along this line.

I recommend for your serious attention the great number of acres of land in this state that has gone back to the state for taxes over a period of many years and never redeemed. This land is not doing the state any good in its present condition. It is not being taxed. I recommend that a suitable law be passed authorizing the Internal Improvement Board of Trustees to quiet the title to all these lands in the name of the State of Florida for the benefit of the state, and allow these citizens of our state, heads of families, to homestead these lands as homes for our people under such terms and conditions as in your wisdom you may decide. It will give a great many deserving people who have families and no homes an opportunity to become home owners and peaceful, prosperous citizens and increase the prosperity of our state. I urge that you give this matter thoughtful consideration.

I recommend that suitable legislation be passed so that the state can operate with the national government in the operation of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and also in other governmental activities that the national government through our great President Roosevelt has and is doing for the benefit of our people. We have been brought out of chaos into a better day, and I ask your earnest co-operation to this end that this work be continued.

PRIMARY LAWS

Our primary system which was adopted by the Democratic Party years ago as a substitute for the old convention system has been more satisfactory than the old system of nominating our officers in the party, but there should be substantial amendments to our state primary laws that are badly needed if our primary system is to survive.

It should be made impossible for fraud in the votes of an election or when people cast their vote for officers they should be honestly counted and all inspectors of an election should be required to report the votes in their respective election districts within forty-eight hours after the closing of the polls. A provision in the election law should be passed making all the election officers in each county members of the County Canvassing Board and that the same should be canvassed publicly and in the presence of all the Board, and in the presence of each other, and a severe penalty be placed upon anyone fraudulently depriving the people of their votes. In my opinion this is the only way that an honest election can ever be maintained in this state. I invite your earnest consideration of this matter.

I also recommend that the date of holding the primary be changed from the first Tuesday in June to any date between the fifteenth day of May and the first Tuesday in June as may be decided by the Democratic State Committee in order that when the Democratic National Convention is called at an early date there will be plenty of time for electing the delegates to the Democratic Convention in time for them to attend the convention of their party, and that the law be made certain that all delegates to the Democratic National Convention, including the national committeemen and committeewomen be nominated by the people in the Democratic Primary.

The Democratic voters of the state endorsed the following which were the principal planks of my platform in two primaries:

1. Lowering the budget to balance taxes instead of raising taxes to balance the budget.
2. \$5.00 license tags for all pleasure used automobiles.
3. Suitable old age pensions.
4. Real money for schools instead of leaving the schools to depend upon any class of taxes that might not be suitable or sufficient to finance our school system.
5. Economy in all branches of our state government.
6. Opposition to additional taxes of any kind.

The Democratic platform as adopted June 30th, 1936 endorsed practically every one of these principles and as Democrats I urge your careful consideration of each of them.

Assuring your Honorable Bodies that I have no pet legislation to offer and no desire to dictate to you, but in a spirit of co-operation and assistance from the Executive Department, whose office will always be open to you for any aid and information in carrying forward the great task before you, I pledge you my support at all times and wish for you a successful session of the 1937 Legislature in an effort to better the condition of the people of our great state."

Senator Clarke moved that the Senate do now withdraw from the joint assembly and resume its session in the Senate Chamber.

Which was agreed to.

The Senate resumed its session in the Senate Chamber at 3:23 o'clock P. M.

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President; Senators Adams, Beacham, Beall, Black, Butler, Clarke, Coulter, Dame, Dugger, Gomez, Graham, Harper, Hinely, Hodges, Holland, Johns, Kanner, Kelly, Kendrick, McArthur, McKenzie, Mapoles, Murphy, Nordman, Parker, Parrish, Rose, Savage, Sharit, Smith, Sweger, Tervin, Tillman, Touchton, Walker, Westbrook, Wynn—38.

A quorum present.

Senator Hodges moved that the Senate do now adjourn.

Which was agreed to.

And the Senate stood adjourned at 3:25 o'clock P. M. until 11:00 o'clock A. M., Wednesday, April 7, 1937.