



# Journal of the Senate

ORGANIZATION SESSION

Tuesday, November 20, 1984

**Journal of the Senate for the Organization Session of the Ninth Legislature to be convened under the Constitution of Florida, as revised in 1968, begun and held at the Capitol in the City of Tallahassee, in the State of Florida, on Tuesday, November 20, 1984, being the day fixed by the Constitution for the purpose.**

The Senate was called to order by Senator Curtis Peterson at 10:00 a.m.

The Secretary announced that The Honorable George Firestone, Secretary of State, had certified to the election of 20 Senators as follows:

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE )

I, George Firestone, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby certify that the following Members of the State Senate were elected at the General Election held on the Sixth day of November, A. D., 1984, as shown by the election returns on file in this office:

**SENATE DISTRICT NUMBER**

- 1 W. D. Childers, Pensacola
- 3 Dempsey J. Barron, Panama City
- 5 Bill Grant, Madison
- 7 Arnett E. Girardeau, Jacksonville
- 9 Mattox Hair, Jacksonville
- 11 Dick Langley, Clermont
- 13 Bob Crawford, Winter Haven
- 15 Toni Jennings, Orlando
- 17 John Vogt, Cocoa Beach
- 19 Curt Kiser, Palm Harbor
- 21 Betty Castor, Tampa
- 23 Pat Frank, Tampa
- 25 Bob Johnson, Sarasota
- 27 William G. "Doc" Myers, Hobe Sound
- 29 Peter M. Weinstein, Coral Springs
- 31 Jim Scott, Ft. Lauderdale
- 33 John A. Hill, Hialeah
- 35 Jack D. Gordon, Miami Beach
- 37 Gwen Margolis, North Miami
- 39 Lawrence H. "Larry" Plummer, Coral Gables

- Johnston
- Kirkpatrick
- Kiser
- Langley
- Malchon
- Margolis
- McPherson
- Meek
- Myers
- Neal
- Peterson
- Plummer
- Scott
- Stuart
- Thomas
- Thurman
- Vogt
- Weinstein

A quorum present—38.

Excused: Gersten, Mann

Prayer by The Honorable James R. Stewart, Jr., Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit:

Dear Lord, You have instructed us to pray for those in authority. We do so this morning. Gathered together here are men and women that have been carefully selected to serve the people of the State of Florida. They have sworn in Your name to do so.

We pray especially for their relationships. The first and most important of course, is their relationship with You. We pray that it is established, that it is deep and it is true.

Next is their relationships with their families. We know that which they now embark upon will cause shortened sleep, missed dinners, time away from the families, all of which can be dangerous to family relationships. We pray for Your special blessing that they may establish good marriages, good parent-children relationships.

We pray for their relationships with one another. We pray that they may approach and deal with one another in good faith, with a feeling that the other person's motives are also good.

We pray for the important relationships that they have with their staff, with the media, with the other branches of government. All these are important.

And Dear Lord, we also pray for their relationships with the citizens that they serve. We pray that they will always remember those citizens and the problems that they face. And we pray that the citizens will always appreciate the many sacrifices that they will have to be involved with in the days ahead.

Dear Lord, in this Thanksgiving week it certainly is appropriate to give You thanks, to give You thanks that we may gather as we do in a land of freedom, in a land of plenty. Dear Lord, please bless this body. Thank you for everything. Amen.

Senator Hill led the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The Secretary announced that pursuant to Rule 1.1 the Minority Party had certified the names of Senator Richard H. Langley as Republican Leader, Senator Toni Jennings as Republican Leader Pro Tempore and Senator William G. "Doc" Myers as Republican Whip for the term November, 1984 to November, 1986.

Senator Peterson announced that in addition to former Senate Presidents Dempsey J. Barron and W. D. Childers, who were reelected to the Senate, the Senate was honored by the presence of the following former Presidents: Randolph Hodges accompanied by his wife, Mildred; and Philip D. Lewis accompanied by his wife, Maryellen. Also presented to the Senate was former Senator Ben Hill Griffin, Sr.

The Senate proceeded to the organization of the Body.



GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Florida at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 19th day of November, A. D., 1984.

George Firestone  
SECRETARY OF STATE

The oath of office was administered by The Honorable Gavin K. Letts, Fourth District Court of Appeal, to the recently elected Senators.

The roll of the Senate, as then constituted—by the 20 newly elected members and 20 holdover members—was called by the Secretary in alphabetical order and the following members of the Senate were recorded present:

- Barron
- Beard
- Carlucci
- Castor
- Childers, D.
- Childers, W. D.
- Crawford
- Deratany
- Dunn
- Fox
- Frank
- Girardeau
- Gordon
- Dunn
- Grant
- Grizzle
- Hair
- Hill
- Jenne
- Jennings
- Johnson

Senator Peterson announced that nominations would now be received for President of the Senate, under Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution, for a term of two years.

Senator Peterson recognized Senator Jenne who placed in nomination the name of Senator Harry A. Johnston, II of the 26th Senatorial District.

**Senator Jenne:** Mr. President, Senators and friends, we have come today to reorganize this Senate and select a new President. We must elect a President who will not merely revisit and relive our past, but rather will build on our history and chart the future of Florida.

Florida will always be a land of hope. Our history is marked by people fleeing religious, political and economic oppression. People are coming to retire, to work, and to enjoy our natural bounty.

The common goal of the French Huguenots seeking religious freedom, the farmer facing depression, the slave fleeing to the Everglades, and the Cuban escaping tyranny, was and is a future of hope.

It is fitting that we choose a man who knows the successes and the failures of our past; a leader who knows that Florida is a land of destiny; a man whose integrity has not and will not be questioned; a leader who has the intellect to understand and the ability to act on the complex issues that will confront Florida.

In the eyes of anyone who has read history, it can be easily seen that Florida is at a crossroads. The days when Florida can survive only on the dreams, even dreams of pioneers like Broward and Merrick, and Mizner, Young and Fisher, are over. We must have a leader who will take us into this new era by hard work and planning.

A new breeze most certainly is blowing in Florida today. We who serve our state must be willing to recognize the need to adapt to our changing times. We must be prepared to follow a leader who will approach government with a boldness and a daring unparalleled in our recent history. As Floridians, we must demand the very best, and that, Harry Johnston is.

Harry Johnston has served his community well. As assistant county attorney, president of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, president of Rotary, and a decade as a member of the Florida Senate, he has demonstrated his concern for his community and his ability to accomplish positive change.

Harry Johnston is a leader who will not run from confrontation and is willing to fight for Florida. He is also a student of government who understands that a republic and state are founded on the principle that all three branches of government are equal, each having its particular rights and its own obligations.

We who serve the public in the Legislature know that we do not need to confront the executive without purpose. Neither will we forget our legal and moral obligations to the people of the State of Florida. Under Harry Johnston we will set the course of Florida's future, hopefully with the cooperation of the executive, but our obligation is to the people of this state and we shall act accordingly.

As Daniel Webster taught us, we are all but mere agents for the same supreme power, the people. With Harry Johnston, we have an individual who will be able to cultivate a true spirit of harmony and singleness of serving the people of the State of Florida.

It is my honor to place in nomination a man who has our mutual trust and respect and who can lead the Senate of the sixth largest state in this Union. I, therefore, nominate Harry Johnston, of the 26th Senatorial District, for President of the Florida Senate.

Senator Peterson recognized Senator Meek who seconded the nomination of Senator Johnston.

**Senator Meek:** Mr. President, and members of the Senate of the wonderful State of Florida, it is my privilege and God-given pleasure to have the opportunity to second the nomination of our new President, Harry Johnston.

Harry Johnston has paid the price of leadership to his family, to his country, and to God, and it is our privilege today to have him as our leader.

Leadership is a quality that most men strive for; some of us have it given to us, some of us work very hard for it. Harry Johnston is an example of a man who was both born with it and has worked very hard for it.

He is a known professional, he has exemplified himself in the profession of law, he has given his everything to the citizenry of this state. Not only that, he has given service, and also honor, to this Senate; having been elected to many committees, having been chosen by you, his peers, for honors in all aspects as an outstanding leader.

So, we are here today to say we have a man upon whom God has given the pleasure of being our leader, upon whom you have given the pleasure of being our leader, and whose name I place in nomination as a consummate leader, Harry Johnston.

It is my privilege and pleasure to nominate Harry Johnston as our President.

Senator Peterson recognized Senator Thomas who further seconded the nomination of Senator Johnston.

**Senator Thomas:** Mr. President, members of the Senate, and our distinguished visitors, ten years ago this month, Mattox Hair, Don Childers, Ed Dunn, Harry Johnston and I arrived here as members of this body for the first time.

I had heard of Senator Ed Dunn. He had served as a distinguished state attorney. He was general counsel for Governor Reubin Askew. Mattox Hair and I had served in the House together. Senator Childers had been the coordinator for a national presidential campaign that was successful in this state.

The only thing I could find out about Harry Johnston was what I had read in the Clerk's Manual. He was a member of the Rotary Club, was active in the Girl Scouts, and he was a member of the local art gallery in Palm Beach County.

That wasn't exactly what I expected for a political background for somebody being elected to the Florida Senate. My first observation was, "What's this man doing in politics?"

He shied away from the social side of politics, as he does now. He applied himself to his committee assignments—and he's probably worked on every committee in the Senate, and has chaired most of them.

I don't worry or wonder anymore about "What's this man doing in politics?"

Nothing describes Harry Johnston, I think, more than the fact that he's a gentleman, or more appropriately, a southern gentleman. He has a lot of Northwest Florida in his background. His grandfather was born and raised in Gadsden County and his father spent a lot of time there as a young man. He's truly a gentleman and has distinguished himself as such with us.

You don't have to be in personal conversation with him very long to know that he's very devoted to his family—his wife, Mary; his daughters, Vickie and Becky. And those of us who have had the opportunity to work with him for the last ten years know that he is sincere and compassionate; often pitting his personal convictions against political reality. He is disciplined, conscientious, tolerant and patient, but when the tolerance is stretched by unreasonable demands—as factions on controversial issues do—he can be tough. As Dryden observed, "Beware the fury of a patient man."

His wit is sometimes self-deprecating, sometimes dry, and, if you've been on the butt end of it, it's sometimes biting. He may shy away from the social side of politics, but Harry Johnston is not one to shy away from the social issues of politics.

And that, I think, is the answer to the question, "What's this man doing in politics?"

Here he is today, as he was ten years ago, trying to do what is right, regardless of the politics or consequences. And we, as a political body, are better because of it. Politics is like riding a horse—you've got to know how to get on and how to fall off with the least amount of harm. Harry Johnston has fallen off like we all have on occasion, and he's gotten back on because it was the right thing to do.

In another time, a southern statesman named Henry Clay said, "I'd rather be right than President." We see today that you can be both right and President.

In trying to summarize what I think his tenure as President will be, I'd like to reflect back on the 114th anniversary celebration of the Dr. Her-

bert Alexander's Bethel Missionary Baptist Church that I attended recently when Reverend A. J. Richardson was the guest speaker. As Reverend Richardson went back through the years and talked about the contributions of the Church, he concluded by saying, "The best is yet to come."

With Harry Johnston, we can all say, "The best is yet to come."

Mr. President, I second the nomination of Harry Johnston.

Senator Peterson recognized Senator Frank who further seconded the nomination of Senator Johnston.

**Senator Frank:** Mr. President, members of the Senate, I, too, rise to second the nomination of Harry Johnston as President of the Florida Senate for 1984-86—the second highest post in Florida's government—an extraordinary man for an extraordinary position, at an extraordinary time in Florida's history. This is a time when we need a person with Harry Johnston's abilities, for he not only faces problems as they are and finds solutions, but he even anticipates those which may occur and plans how to avoid them.

By the turn of the century Florida's population is estimated to double. Its elderly population will grow faster than the national average, and the needs of these elderly may collide with the interests of the young for better education. Accommodation to this growth and development may cross swords with the need for the protection of our environment.

The specter and magnitude of these problems require fair-minded, thoughtful, decisive leadership, and we are fortunate to have found a leader with those qualities—Harry Johnston.

In words identified with John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best, if he wins, knows the thrills of high achievements and if he fails, at least fails daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Each of us in this Senate respects Harry Johnston as an intelligent, capable, hardworking leader, a person of great integrity. Because of that respect, we will join him in his arena of challenge. He will have both our support and our loyalty as he leads this Senate during the next two years. We are proud to call Harry Johnston, his wife and partner Mary, his daughters Vickie and Becky, our Florida Senate's First Family.

On motion by Senator Frank, nominations for President were closed.

The roll was called on the election of the President and each Senator voted in the affirmative by saying "Harry Johnston". The vote was:

Yeas—37

Barron	Frank	Kirkpatrick	Plummer
Beard	Girardeau	Kiser	Scott
Carlucci	Gordon	Langley	Stuart
Castor	Grant	Malchon	Thomas
Childers, D.	Grizzle	Margolis	Thurman
Childers, W. D.	Hair	McPherson	Vogt
Crawford	Hill	Meek	Weinstein
Deratany	Jenne	Myers	
Dunn	Jennings	Neal	
Fox	Johnson	Peterson	

Nays—None

Senator Harry A. Johnston, II was unanimously elected President of the Senate.

Senator Jenne made the following announcement: Senator Mann and Senator Gersten are both excused from today's session. Senator Mann's absence is due to the death of his mother-in-law, and Senator Gersten is in Israel with a study group of American Jewish legislators. Both asked me to announce that had they been here they would have voted for the elections of both Senator Johnston and Senator Castor.

On motion by Senator Jenne that a committee be appointed to escort Senator Johnston to the bar of the Senate and then to the rostrum, Senator Peterson appointed Senators Grant, Margolis, Kirkpatrick and Stuart. Senator Johnston was escorted to the bar of the Senate where the oath of office was administered to him by The Honorable Gavin K. Letts,

Fourth District Court of Appeal, and then to the rostrum where he was seated.

On motion by Senator Thurman that a committee be appointed to escort Mrs. Mary Johnston, wife of the President, to the rostrum, Senator Peterson appointed Senators Malchon, Carlucci, Weinstein and Hair. Mrs. Johnston was escorted to the rostrum where she was received by Senator Peterson, presented to the Senate and seated beside the President.

Senator Peterson presented the gavel to the President and made the following remarks: Senator Johnston, if you will step forward, I have about twenty-five words that I've jotted down here to say. Senator Louis de la Parte said something that I will always remember. He said, "The greatest initiative for effective leadership provided to a presiding officer is the sound of the footsteps of his successor behind him." And I want to tell this Senate and the world that this successor was not behind me, he was beside me and in step all the way. Thank you very much.

### The President Presiding

The President introduced members of his family and guests as follows: wife, Mary Johnston; daughter, Vickie Middlebrooks and her husband Don; daughter, Becky Johnston; sister, Mary Frances Lettow, her husband Don and their children, Kurt, Dana and Allison; brother, Howard, his wife Mary Kay and their son Greg; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Victor and Roberta Otley, Sr.; brother-in-law, Victor Otley, Jr. and his wife Gloria; friends, Judge Gavin Letts, Judge James Stewart, Senator and Mrs. Phil Lewis, Senator and Mrs. Bob Saunders, Senator John McCarty, John Randolph, Donald Sasser, Adams Weaver, Maureen Ackerman, Anne Marie Rezzonico, Paula Criser, Carrol and Triddy Peacock, Nancy Jones, Al Fritz, Jerry Ebert, Bill Walton and Ed Jablonski; and staff, Martha Lewis and Helen White. The President also introduced as a group, friends and supporters who had come to Tallahassee for his inauguration.

The President announced that nominations would now be received for President Pro Tempore for a term of two years, and recognized Senator Fox who placed in nomination the name of Senator Betty Castor of the 21st Senatorial District.

**Senator Fox:** Mr. President, Senators, distinguished guests, and friends, today I have the privilege of placing in nomination for President Pro Tempore the name of a very special person, Senator Betty Castor.

Betty Castor has prepared herself for leadership and for the responsibility of leadership. She entered her first public office in 1972, and soon thereafter became the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County. She has served as the chairman of the Transit Authority, and the Hospital and Welfare Board, as well as the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, and the Environmental Protection Commission. She has also served on the Aviation Authority and the Expressway Authority, and she has been a Director of Elections in the Secretary of State's office.

She has done all the foregoing in addition to her tenure here in the Florida Senate. She has worked very hard for all of these years and has earned our trust. But for all of that hard work and training, there exists an even more important dimension of the Betty Castor story. She brings to this post old fashioned principles, with new ideas. She is a breath of fresh air, a bridge from where Florida has been, to where we are going as a state.

Two years ago, I said of her that she is a woman who would never cut her conscience to fit this year's fashion. In the last two years, you and I as Senators, have seen the Castor style and fashion. She is consistent, dependable and an indomitable good spirit; feisty, warm, filled with a good sense of humor; and it's true that she's able to beat Senator Dick Langley on a tennis court.

She has a sense of herself and of her place in time. She knows that in bestowing this responsibility upon her, we have also placed our trust in her. But most importantly, she understands the people of this great state—what we think, what we feel, what we need and what we hope.

She is committed to economic growth policies, to excellence in all our programs in education, and to a fair delivery of social services. She is committed to caring, fairness and a helping hand for the disadvantaged. And Betty is concerned also for those who have worked hard to achieve advantage. She understands the difference between what government can do and what we cannot do, and her compassion is tempered with that awareness. She can communicate her vision of Florida's future, and she indeed is symbolic of that future.

The new generation is upon us now and rightly so for there is a new world to be won for all of us here in this great state. Betty can be part and is part of what will move us towards our destiny in the next century.

And so Mr. President and Senators, it is with a sense of honor and pride and very, very special joy that I have the opportunity to nominate Betty Castor, as the first woman President Pro Tempore, for the 1984-86 term of the Florida Legislature.

The President recognized Senator Neal who seconded the nomination of Senator Castor.

**Senator Neal:** Mr. President, members of the Senate and visitors, it is my wish to second the nomination of my friend, Senator Betty Castor to be our President Pro Tempore. I want in these short minutes just to give you a few reasons why I asked to have the chance to nominate Betty.

First and foremost, Senator Betty Castor is known in the Senate as a person whose "people talents" are unequalled in this body. She is not only an effective proponent for what she believes, but it is her intellect, personal skills and stature in the Senate that allows her to be even more effective than she otherwise would in showing us as Senators different perspectives on what we ought to do in state policy.

Betty comes to the Senate as a leader in her own community, having served in a number of roles there and before coming to the Senate, including member and chairman of her county commission. She comes with a status in her own community, a status, or stature, as great or greater than any one of us other members of the Senate.

She's a statewide leader in a number of different areas. She's a statewide leader in women's issues. She's clearly a statewide leader in educational issues. She has been a leader in environmental issues, and Betty's a leader, in my perception probably the leader, in encouraging high technology business to come to our state.

Senator Betty Castor brings a special perspective to this Senate as a mother of three children enrolled in Florida schools and as a professional educator. She brings a perspective to education which no one other than she in the Senate has; which is very valuable to us. As we all know, she's a person whose integrity in this body is unequalled.

Betty articulates a somewhat different view sometimes than has been traditional for this body—a vision for our state which reflects the reapportionment of 1982 in a more representative Senate than we've had before.

Her selection as the first woman President Pro Tempore is a fitting reflection of the representative nature of this body and how it's changed since 1982. Probably more important than any of these things in my affection for Senator Castor, is that she's a genuine, warm, articulate, intellectual human being. She is extremely well qualified; more qualified than any one else to hold this office, to lead our Senate, and to lead our party in the Senate as Senate President Pro Tempore. Mr. President, it is my extreme pleasure to second the nomination of Senator Betty Castor from Tampa as our Senate President Pro Tempore.

The President recognized Senator Girardeau who further seconded the nomination of Senator Castor.

**Senator Girardeau:** Mr. President, Senators and guests, I rise to second the nomination of Senator Betty Castor as the Senate President Pro Tempore of the State of Florida. I wanted to add my personal note to many of the things that have already been reflected about her, but since they have already been said, I will just say that I would love to have said them myself.

As I address you this morning to second the nomination of Senator Castor as the first woman President Pro Tempore of the Senate of Florida, my presence as a seconding speaker, exemplifies the progress Florida—a deep southern state—has made in a twinkling of an eye of history, as history is recorded, but painfully slow for those of us who have toiled relentlessly to be included in the system.

It is significant, not only that I second the nomination of a woman to be the first female, ever, to occupy the position of President Pro Tempore of the Florida Senate, but also that the seconding itself is unprecedented in that it is the first time a Senator of color has had such an honor.

Betty Castor was among the first women to be elected to the Hillsborough County Commission, but she also served as its chairperson, and her other public service has already been reflected. It shows that Betty

Castor is obviously not just a member, but is a leader. As her leadership ability was observed during her first Senate tenure, Senator Castor was selected as the first female to run seriously as a candidate for the position of Lieutenant Governor, in 1978. Although she was not elected, during the next four years she was a constant advocate of education in Tallahassee.

Senator Castor is a pioneer in the women's political movement in Florida and in Florida's politics. She is tough, but kind; committed, but not uncompromising; a talented and knowledgeable legislator and, a wonderful friend.

I take great pride and an equal amount of humility in seconding the nomination of Senator Betty Castor to be the first female President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the State of Florida.

On motion by Senator Girardeau, nominations for President Pro Tempore were closed.

The roll was called on the election of the President Pro Tempore and each Senator voted in the affirmative by saying "Betty Castor". The vote was:

Yeas—37

Mr. President	Frank	Kirkpatrick	Plummer
Barron	Girardeau	Kiser	Scott
Beard	Gordon	Langley	Stuart
Carlucci	Grant	Malchon	Thomas
Childers, D.	Grizzle	Margolis	Thurman
Childers, W. D.	Hair	McPherson	Vogt
Crawford	Hill	Meek	Weinstein
Deratany	Jenne	Myers	
Dunn	Jennings	Neal	
Fox	Johnson	Peterson	

Nays—None

On motion by Senator Stuart that a committee be appointed to escort Senator Castor to the bar of the Senate and to the rostrum, the President appointed Senators Crawford, Beard, Thurman and Grizzle. Senator Castor was escorted to the bar of the Senate where the oath of office was administered to her by The Honorable Gavin K. Letts, Fourth District Court of Appeal, and then to the rostrum where she was received by the President.

The President presented the President Pro Tempore to the Senate.

The President Pro Tempore addressed the Senate as follows:

**Senator Castor:** Thank you very much for your gracious remarks. I want to tell each of you how very much I appreciate your friendship, your support and your generosity. A special note of thanks to Senator Fox for her kind words. I respect the knowledge and exuberance that she brings to the Senate. I value Senator Neal's endorsement. His tireless work and boundless energy reflect credit on the entire Senate. And Senator Girardeau, I appreciate your comments. I look back with considerable pleasure to that initial session when as freshmen legislators we sponsored companion bills. (We learned how difficult it is to pass a bill!) And most of all I want to express my admiration and respect for our new President Harry Johnston. He is a generous person, he has a generous family. He will help us all to achieve our goals.

Now I would like to take a moment to introduce my family and friends who are here today. First, my three children: Kathy, who has left the roost temporarily to become a freshman at Emory University. This is her first trip back to Tallahassee. She's as excited to be here as we are to have her home. Karen, who is a junior at Chamberlain High School in Tampa. She's enjoying the seventh period day, taking extra classes and preparing for her SAT examination. Frankie, who is in the ninth grade and plays soccer when he's not studying. Life has its ups and downs. His team lost a practice game Saturday, but they looked like winners to me.

I'd also like to introduce some of my other family and friends: my mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Evans from Largo; my friend, Dr. Pete Sasser, chairman of Mass Communications Department at USF; in the East Gallery, I have some other friends from Tampa who have helped me in my campaigns and are very dear friends: Sally Casper, Bobbi Robinson, Bob and Gloria Braman, Kathy Betancourt. From Bainbridge: Jim and Helen Lillethun. From Tallahassee: Laurey Stryker; and my pro tem staff: policy analyst, Mrs. Dorothy Routh, my district aide, Betsy Baker, and Betsy Johnson, my intern. I appreciate all of them being here this morning.

Mr. President and Senators, it is with both pride and humility and much gratitude to all of you that I stand here today as your President Pro Tempore. I realize that this is an historic occasion. I must admit that becoming the first female Senate President Pro Tempore is an exciting moment in my life. In some ways it is symbolic of a changing Legislature with nine women in this Chamber and 20 in the House. It is reflective of a state in which there are more women than men and one in which the number of female registered voters outnumbers that of men.

I thought it appropriate to reflect upon the efforts of women and men in Florida's past who paved the way for those of us who are here today.

The struggle for women's suffrage in the state of Florida was not unlike the struggle that occurred throughout our nation. If you have not read the account by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas of the initial efforts to win women's suffrage, I commend it to you. In *Florida, The Long Frontier*, Mrs. Douglas described her encounters and her initial success and failure. In 1917 she lobbied actively in Tallahassee for ratification of the amendment. She and others were promised the women's suffrage bill would pass in the Senate because Senators knew it was dead in the House. (Some politics never change.)

The efforts of women to win the right to *hold office* in Florida were also helped along by some very courageous men. The 1915 Florida Legislature came within two votes of allowing women to hold public office. That bill which originated in the Senate, was introduced by Senator John B. Jones of Pensacola and passed by a vote of 15 yeas to 8 nays. (That was a progressive Senate!) Unfortunately, the House bill failed by a vote of 30 to 32. It has only been in the last few years that large numbers of women have run for office and have been elected. And here we are today!

I am especially proud of the caliber of my female colleagues in this Senate. The collective strength of women and the importance of women in this legislative body will be strongly felt in the impact that they have in those areas which have been the traditional concerns of women: The family, home, children, the elderly, education. *And that is good*, because it provides a stronger focus on the most essential elements of our society.

I wish there were time this morning to more closely chronicle the advancement of women in Florida because it's an interesting story and one which does not receive great attention.

However, this is also an occasion to reflect upon the agenda of the Senate. President Johnston will outline a substantive agenda for the future. I want to make several observations about the past. —Our growth has been dramatic and has resulted in many problems. —But in many ways, we've handled it well.

In reading the organizational day comments of legislative leaders in the past, I was impressed that there has always been a tremendous awareness of the growth and change occurring in our state. Certainly it is not a subject of which we have been unaware.

In spite of our dramatic growth and seemingly endless stream of immigrants, we have so much of which we can be proud. Our institutions work well. *We have been a state* which responded to meet our growing population. We have adjusted not only to growth, but to new residents with very divergent views. A good example of this is Dade County—where 52 percent of the students enrolled in the largest community college in this nation say that a language other than English is their native tongue. The flexibility of our educational institutions is reflected in their ability to absorb thousands of new students. Florida's colleges and universities have had their hands full expanding to serve that growing need. They've done a good job. In the last twenty years our State University System has almost tripled in the number of students. We have nine universities where there were only four two decades ago. Community Colleges have experienced even more dramatic growth. Today's enrollment is over six times what it was twenty years ago, up from approximately 29,000 FTE to 176,000 students. Our public schools, too, have changed in response to new initiatives. It is a marvel that when this Legislature met until mid-July in 1983 and imposed tremendous changes in curriculum—the 67 county school districts still opened their doors in mid-August—made *the changes—and performed well*. Our progress in public school education, however, may be seriously hampered in the years ahead unless this state is more successful in attracting talented young people into teaching careers. As some of you know, last year 64 percent of all of the new teachers hired in the state of Florida came from outside of this state. It is clear that our bright young students are no longer attracted to the classroom. *Overcoming this situation should be a high priority.*

On a personal note, I will concentrate my efforts on how we are going to meet the human needs of our people. And how we are going to relate the development of our human resources to economic growth in the state. The two fastest growing populations are those under six and those over 65. The population under six will increase by 17 percent during this decade. An even more dramatic increase is occurring among our elderly. There is an 85 percent growth projected for the number of people 75 years old or older during this decade. These groups at opposite ends of the life span have a number of things in common. Both are more likely to be poor and, with 60 percent of single parents in the work force, both groups tend to be isolated and lonely. Neither group has a powerful political action committee or well financed lobbying effort. But they do have us.

I believe, as Hubert H. Humphrey, a great American, reminded us not so long ago, that the future of our society will be judged by how we cared for our young at the *dawn of life*. And how we cared for the elderly at the *sunset of life*. And how we cared for the poor in the *shadows of life*. Thank you very much.

The President announced that nominations would now be received for Secretary of the Senate for a term of two years.

Joe Brown was nominated for Secretary of the Senate by Senator W. D. Childers. Senator Scott seconded the nomination and on motion by Senator Scott nominations were closed.

By unanimous vote of the membership, Joe Brown was elected Secretary. The Honorable Gavin K. Letts, Fourth District Court of Appeal, administered the oath of office to Mr. Brown.

The President announced that nominations would now be received for Sergeant at Arms of the Senate for a term of two years.

Wayne Todd was nominated for Sergeant at Arms by Senator Barron. Senator Grant seconded the nomination and on motion by Senator Grant nominations were closed.

By unanimous vote of the membership, Wayne Todd was elected Sergeant at Arms. The Honorable Gavin K. Letts, Fourth District Court of Appeal, administered the oath of office to Mr. Todd.

On motion by Senator Jenne that a committee be appointed to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate was convened for the purpose of organization, the President appointed Senators Fox, McPherson, Plummer, Deratany, Kiser and Johnson. The committee was excused to perform its duty.

On motion by Senator Jenne that a committee be appointed to notify the Governor that the Senate was convened for the purpose of organization, the President appointed Senators Barron, Gordon, Vogt, D. Childers, Dunn and Langley. The committee was excused to perform its duty.

The House of Representatives notified the Senate that it was convened for the purpose of organization.

The President introduced Helena Barrington, Director, Christian School for the Performing Arts, Tallahassee, for a musical presentation.

The committee appointed to notify the House of Representatives returned to the chamber and reported to the President that its duty had been performed. The President thanked the committee and the committee was discharged.

The committee appointed to notify the Governor returned to the chamber and reported to the President that its duty had been performed. The President thanked the committee and the committee was discharged.

**The President's address:**

This day marks one of the greatest honors of my life and opens one of the greatest challenges. I know it must have been a challenging time, too, for Senators Frank, Thomas, Meek and Jenne, to come up with those overly generous nominating remarks.

Their loyal support, and that of so many other people in and out of this Chamber, has made the 10 years of my Senate career not only possible but fulfilling and, at times, fun.

Friends and law partners from West Palm Beach — many of you here today, some at financial hardship and others at the risk of commuter airlines — have repeatedly given time, campaign support and counsel to bring me through the difficult moments. My family—Mary, Vickie and Becky—have generously granted me time away from home and have patiently withstood the many intrusions into their own privacy that public life has brought. My debt to you for your sacrifices is immeasurable, as is my love.

With all this wealth of friendship and family, I am additionally blessed to have the endorsement of the Senate. The honor you pay me is magnified because this body is an honorable body doing the honorable business of government. I am humbled by your trust, and pledge to do my best to live up to the confidence you have placed in me.

Each of us who serve here has a similar network of support that makes our time in government possible. To your families and friends with you today, I extend a welcome to the Senate. A welcome, also, to all returning Senators; my congratulations to you who survived the election and to you who escaped them. And to our two newest members, Senators Robert Johnson and Curtis Kiser, I feel safe in making the prediction that—because you are so promising—no one in your class will wind up as less than runner-up for Most Valuable Freshman!

Speaking of freshmen . . . it is obvious that seating in the chamber has been rearranged. This was done for several reasons. First and foremost, I wanted to get Dade County off the back row. They've been creating far too much mischief there over the last several years, and I'm hoping you freshmen Senators won't be such rabble-rousers if you're out of eyesight of the press. Therefore, I've decided to seat both sides of the aisle by seniority.

My own seniority surprises me sometimes. It has been 11 years, almost to the day, since Jon Moyle suggested to me that I consider running for the Senate. The years since my election have been an incredible decade in my life . . .

All five Senate Presidents under whom I have served are here today, with the exception of Lew Brantley. The Senate still can draw upon the daily contributions of Dempsey Barron, W. D. Childers and Curtis Peterson; and, with the help of Ma Bell, it doesn't really seem as though Phil Lewis has left Tallahassee.

The changes within these past ten years can be summed up with one vivid example. Among the first—and, unfortunately, recurring—battles fought during my time in the Senate was that over the Equal Rights Amendment, which as you know was defeated by this body. Yet today we make our own history of equality, with the installation of Betty Castor as President Pro Tempore.

It is often the case in government that things have not changed merely because they are different. But this is a change . . . a recognition that public service can be accessible to all persons regardless of gender, color or creed.

I saw a bumper sticker on a car in Tallahassee the other night that made me think of Betty. It said: "Women who seek equality to men lack ambition." Betty lacks neither quality nor ambition. Her own capability assures that her position as pro tem will not be hollow symbolism. She will have an important partnership in my presidency.

It is our intention to operate the Senate over the next two years in ways that will keep the membership as informed as possible about activities, so you will not have to rely on gossip as your major source of information. Therefore, I want to bring you up to date on some of the general business of the Senate before moving on to a discussion of my overall agenda and of your committee assignments.

The Speaker and I have executed a proclamation, which will be read after my speech, calling for a special session to address the unitary tax and related matters. It would be impractical to bring that up today, with Thanksgiving less than 48 hours away, and by necessity if it was a general session we would have to bring up veto messages then or they would be gone, and because emergency issues such as child abuse and citrus canker must be addressed in some interim action before April. Therefore we have set the dates in the call for December 6 and 7, following our regularly scheduled committee meetings.

It is my intention that the Appropriations and the Finance and Taxation Committees spend their meetings that week discussing a proposed bill for repeal and replacement of the unitary tax. Then, unless there are

substantial objections to the draft, we would have a bill for consideration upon convening December 6, remove it from both committees and go directly into floor debate. I anticipate that we would reach final passage of a satisfactory bill in time to deal responsibly with the other issues facing us.

Any additional proposals for consideration during the special session will be closely scrutinized. To quote the Dean of the Senate, "If we take care of every emergency now, what will we have to worry about in the general session?"

Let me say a few words here about relations between the two houses and with the Governor, as these have been matters of speculation and intrigue lately. First, I want to express deep admiration for the ability and integrity of James Harold Thompson, the Speaker of the House. He and I communicate regularly about our plans and, even where we are not in agreement about goals, we have decided to play no games across the rotunda during the next two years.

One of the chief agreements between the Speaker and myself regards the importance of the separation of powers, the checks and balances built into our system of government. Thus, we will not abdicate the legislative responsibility to initiate as well as to respond to programs, the responsibility to be a true partner and not merely a reactor in the shaping of public policy.

As a signal of partnership, the Speaker, Governor Graham and I hope to have a joint press conference soon to announce our shared goals for the December session.

In this Senate, separation of powers will not mean antagonism. The issues confronting Florida are complex and often long-standing. We cannot afford to divert our energies from shaping a livable future.

Of these issues, growth management must be our top priority this year. We cannot deny that growth will occur—bringing an estimated 7 million additional residents by the turn of the century—and we can no longer delay preparing for the future with managed development that will leave enough drinking water, green space and wilderness to sustain us spiritually as well as physically.

We must work toward a livable future for our people as well as our land. Your role and mine will be to guard the well-being of those Floridians who are less able to speak for their own interests as Senator Castor has outlined. Social service delivery, to assure the well-being of children, the incapacitated, the poor and the elderly, will receive careful attention in my administration.

And we will stand guard over the school reforms made under Senators Peterson and Gordon during the past two years, allowing the system to breathe and mature while focusing our major educational efforts on broader access to higher education.

A livable future cannot be produced without a workable government. I accept the challenge to keep Florida moving ahead in excellence, and will focus many of my efforts on restructuring those parts of government—including the Legislature—that are not working as well as they should. Let's begin the list in this chamber so I won't seem to be just pointing fingers elsewhere.

While we will today adopt the Senate Rules from 1982, I am asking Senator Jenne, as my Rules Committee Chairman, to develop a package of proposed changes for us to take up in December. I am specifically interested in transferring the process of bill referencing from the President's control to a less political method.

Another area for change is in the mushrooming power of political action committees. Present law tolerates practices which, while legal, clearly defy the intent of ethics legislation—such as allowing unchallenged candidates to continue receiving contributions after the filing deadline has passed. I will recommend that we look at the possibility of limiting PAC contributions and generally strengthening controls over all contributions.

Many citizens of Florida have been frustrated recently by Supreme Court decisions to remove their initiatives from the ballot. While I strongly disagreed with Proposition One and Reason '84, I do believe in the safety value of the initiative process. I shall ask the Chairman of the Judiciary-Civil Committee to develop legislation setting guidelines for writing initiatives. Thus they can live or die on their merits rather than their drafting.

The judiciary itself is another area of government that cries out for reforms during the upcoming sessions. I am particularly interested in the development of alternative means of dispute resolution; and will further charge the Judiciary-Civil Committee with studying whether circuit court judges should be appointed rather than elected, in light of several disgraceful races this fall.

Finally, I shall propose a constitutional amendment to limit Cabinet officers to two terms each. The *St. Petersburg Independent* once compared the Cabinet to the Abominable Snowman, saying: "It's unknown, mysterious . . . few have actually seen it, yet many believe what they are told about it. And it leaves big footprints." Unfortunately, its footprints are so big that they sometimes walk all over the Governor—Florida's chief executive officer—in critical areas such as criminal justice and education. We must equalize the power of the Governor, who is limited by law to no more than eight years in office, by similarly curbing the phantom government of the Cabinet.

I have been warned that my power will start to turn phantom as soon as you all receive your committee assignments. Therefore, I'm going to savor this 15 minutes of glory and resist naming chairmanships in my speech. You will receive complete lists of committee membership as you prepare to leave the chamber.

The memberships were compiled in consultation with your requests and—despite the comparison between the number of returning members and the number of committees—I feel they combine my ideas and yours in good harmony. While I have not changed the number of standing committees, I am creating Select Subcommittees on Aging and on Tort Reform; and am expanding membership on both Appropriations and Finance and Taxation. It is my intention as well to re-emphasize the roles of joint committees, such as Legislative Management and Legislative Auditing; these, in particular, have suffered from our neglect and, as a result, we are not receiving the best service we might expect from them. Additionally, I shall ask an interim study committee to look at the citrus canker situation before the special session.

In short, there will be no "leprosy" committees, as my staff and I fondly called the first committee I ever chaired, because there will be no mythical caste system.

Fifteen years ago, our predecessors struggled to bring the Florida Legislature into the 20th Century. They did such a fine job in reshaping the process to be open and fair, strong and effective, that we were catapulted into national prominence. Our professional staff and our independence, among other qualities, still serve as a model for the rest of the country.

Now we have roughly 15 years remaining before we enter the 21st Century. It is time to rethink our legislative process, to gear the system more to making laws work than just to making laws.

To help us confront the demands of the 21st Century, I have contracted with Alan Rosenthal and the Eagleton Institute of Politics to review our procedures and to work with the new Senate at a seminar in January to suggest revisions that will keep us healthy, flexible and open to change. You will be receiving information about the seminar, and I will be eager to work with you to keep this Legislature worthy of its reputation.

Our opportunities are boundless. We have the capacities to foresee and forestall. Our progress will be limited only by the limits of our vision and our commitment. I hope it will not be slowed by the limit of leadership, and I pledge you my hard work and honesty so that we may leave behind the legacy of a livable future.

In one of the most memorable speeches on the floor of this chamber, Buddy MacKay once said that the problem with looking into a mirror is that we don't know what we look like when we're not looking into a mirror. It's the Legislature that shows us what we're like outside the mirror . . . It's a fine Legislature . . . It's a fine state and I'm honored today to serve as your President . . . Thank you.

On motion by Senator Jenne, the foregoing address by the President, the remarks by the President Pro Tempore and all nominating and seconding speeches for President and President Pro Tempore were ordered printed in the Journal.

On motion by Senator Jenne, the Rules of the Senate which existed at the end of the 1984 regular session were adopted to govern the Senate for the ensuing two years.

By direction of the President, the proclamation convening the Legislature in special session was read:

### THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE JOINT PROCLAMATION

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

We, Harry A. Johnston, II, President of the Florida Senate, and James Harold Thompson, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, by virtue of the authority vested in us by Section 3, Article III, Florida Constitution, and Section 11.011, Florida Statutes, do hereby proclaim:

1. That the Legislature of the State of Florida is convened in Special Session pursuant to Section 3(c), Article III, Florida Constitution and Section 11.011, Florida Statutes, at the Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida, at 10:00 A.M., on Thursday, the 6th of December, 1984, for a period of two consecutive days, ending at midnight, Friday, December 7, 1984.
2. That the Legislature is convened for the sole and exclusive purposes of consideration of the following matters:
  - (1) Repeal of the unitary apportionment and reporting method for the corporate income tax; enactment of related corporate income tax measures.
  - (2) Amendments to Chapter 83-310, Laws of Florida, relating to the remittance of estimated sales tax.
  - (3) Enactment of replacement revenue measures and implementing legislation.



*Harry A. Johnston, II*  
President, The Florida Senate

*James Harold Thompson*  
Speaker, The Florida House  
of Representatives

Duly filed with and received by the Florida Department of State this 20th day of November, 1984 by:

*George Firestone*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The President announced the appointment of standing committees, standing subcommittees, select committees and joint committees as follows:

#### STANDING COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES

##### AGRICULTURE

Senator D. Childers, Chairman; Senator Thurman, Vice-Chairman; Senators Barron, Beard, Carlucci, Crawford, Deratany, Grant, Peterson, Plummer and Thomas

##### APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Neal, Chairman; Senator Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chairman; Senators Beard, Castor, Fox, Girardeau, Gordon, Grizzle, Hair, Jenne, Langley, Mann, Meek, Peterson, Scott, Stuart, Thomas, Thurman and Vogt

*Subcommittee A:* Senator Thomas, Chairman; Senators Beard, Gordon, Jenne, Scott and Vogt

*Subcommittee B:* Senator Castor, Chairman; Senators Grizzle, Kirkpatrick, Meek, Peterson and Thurman

*Subcommittee C:* Senator Mann, Chairman; Senators Fox, Girardeau, Hair, Langley and Stuart

##### COMMERCE

Senator Hair, Chairman; Senator Grant, Vice-Chairman; Senators Barron, Deratany, Fox, Girardeau, Gordon, Langley, Margolis, McPherson, Meek, Scott and Thomas

##### CORRECTIONS, PROBATION AND PAROLE

Senator Hill, Chairman; Senator Carlucci, Vice-Chairman; Senators Johnson, Peterson and Vogt

**ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

Senator Frank, Chairman; Senator Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chairman; Senators Dunn, Grizzle, Malchon, Myers and Stuart

**EDUCATION**

Senator Peterson, Chairman; Senator Meek, Vice-Chairman; Senators Carlucci, Castor, W. D. Childers, Grant, Johnson, Margolis, Myers, Thurman and Weinstein

**EXECUTIVE BUSINESS**

Senator W. D. Childers, Chairman; Senator Mann, Vice-Chairman; Senators Castor, Jenne, Jennings and Neal

**FINANCE, TAXATION AND CLAIMS**

Senator Crawford, Chairman; Senator Weinstein, Vice-Chairman; Senators Carlucci, D. Childers, W. D. Childers, Dunn, Frank, Gersten, Grant, Hill, Jennings, Johnson, Kiser, Malchon, Margolis, McPherson and Plummer

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Senator Vogt, Chairman; Senator Girardeau, Vice-Chairman; Senators W. D. Childers, Frank, Gersten, Hair, Johnson, Kirkpatrick, Kiser and Stuart

**HEALTH AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

Senator Fox, Chairman; Senator Malchon, Vice-Chairman; Senators Castor, Gordon, Grizzle, Mann, Meek and Myers

**JUDICIARY-CIVIL**

Senator Dunn, Chairman; Senator Gersten, Vice-Chairman; Senators Fox, Frank, Hair, Kiser and Langley

**JUDICIARY-CRIMINAL**

Senator Beard, Chairman; Senator Weinstein, Vice-Chairman; Senators D. Childers, Crawford, Gersten, Kiser, Plummer and Thurman

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION**

Senator Stuart, Chairman; Senator McPherson, Vice-Chairman; Senators Crawford, Grizzle, Jenne, Kirkpatrick, Malchon, Mann, Scott and Vogt

**PERSONNEL, RETIREMENT AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Senator Margolis, Chairman; Senator Hill, Vice-Chairman; Senators Dunn, Jenne, Jennings, McPherson and Neal

**RULES AND CALENDAR**

Senator Jenne, Chairman; Senator Thomas, Vice-Chairman; Senators Barron, Castor, Crawford, Fox, Gordon, Hair, Jennings, Langley, Neal, Stuart and Weinstein

**TRANSPORTATION**

Senator Gordon, Chairman; Senator Plummer, Vice-Chairman; Senators Beard, D. Childers, Deratany, Girardeau, Hill, Jennings and Thomas

**SELECT COMMITTEES****SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING**

Senator Malchon, Chairman; Senators Gordon and Grizzle

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON TORT REFORM**

Senator Barron, Chairman; Senators Fox, Grant, Langley and McPherson

**JOINT COMMITTEES****ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

Senator Carlucci, Alternating Chairman; Senators Dunn and Kiser

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

Senator Malchon, Alternating Chairman; Senators Castor, Myers and Plummer

**LEGISLATIVE AUDITING**

Senator Kirkpatrick, Alternating Chairman; Senators W. D. Childers, Johnson, Neal and Thurman

**LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

Senator Stuart, Chairman; Senators Frank and Mann

**LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**

Senator Jenne, Alternating Chairman; Senators Grizzle and Margolis

The President announced the appointment of Senator Lawrence H. "Larry" Plummer as Majority Floor Leader.

On motion by Senator Jenne, the Senate in Organization Session adjourned sine die at 11:48 a.m.

CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 8, inclusive, are and constitute a complete, true and correct journal and record of the proceedings of the Senate of the State of Florida, in Organization Session, convened at 10:00 a.m. on the 20th day of November, 1984, adjourned at 11:48 a.m. on the 20th day of November, 1984.

*JOE BROWN*  
Secretary of the Senate

Tallahassee, Florida  
November 20, 1984