

From the office of
Texas State Representative Dan Flynn

THE FLYNN REPORT

Legislative Newsletter

January 17, 2003

Greetings Constituents, Friends and Supporters:

History Was Made

The swearing in of the 78th Texas Legislature on January 14th was the first time in memory there was a Republican majority in the House of Representatives. More records were broken when the House elected its first Republican speaker in 130 years, Rep. Tom Craddick of Midland. The atmosphere in the House chamber was electric and the gallery was packed. Many dignitaries including U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson and a large number of family, friends and supporters from all over Hunt, Rains and Van Zandt Counties were present for the event.

The nominating speeches of the five individuals who spoke represented a broad sampling of membership in the House; all gave credence to the claim that a new day in Texas government had arrived. Newly elected Speaker Craddick delivered an outstanding and forward-looking speech that was in the highest standards of the House. Governor Rick Perry addressed the assembly and praised the wisdom of the membership in electing Speaker Craddick.

A New Day In Leadership

With all the excitement there remains an earnest desire among the members to get down to the business at hand. The second day saw the House working quickly to pass housekeeping rules, and push through resolutions that will allow rapid movement of needed legislation. The House also agreed to observe Rev. Martin Luther King's birthday by not convening. On the 16th a committee Chaired by Rep. Jerry Madden was named by Speaker Craddick to canvass the ballots certifying the elections of Governor Rick Perry and Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst.

Members are in the process of turning in their legislative preference card indicating choices for committee assignments based upon personal desire and seniority ranking. We anticipate receiving our assignments soon.

Comptroller Carole Keeton *Strayhorn's* estimate that the state budget will run a deficit of \$9.9 billion with \$1.8 billion of that present in the current fiscal year was announced this week. While it is a greater amount than first anticipated The House leadership and a majority of the members believe that frugality and responsibility will be essential as we attempt to balance the budget and thanks to the new leadership I am confident we will be able to meet that challenge. Today's times call for tough decisions and every state agency will be under the watchful eye of the Legislature. After years of increased revenues and excess spending it is time for the state, just like individuals and businesses to take control of spending. The solutions to the problems facing Texas will be challenging, but I believe we will be successful in our efforts.

This is the beginning of an exciting and perhaps cumbersome, 140 days and I welcome your input and prayers as we began our journey for a better Texas. I am honored to represent you in the Texas House and look forward to this exciting session.

Capitol Office

My staff and I will welcome your input and your questions. We are now in our office that is located in the Capitol extension: **E1.324** and our phone number is **512/463-0880**. Email dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us.