

From the office of  
Texas State Representative - Dan Flynn

**THE FLYNN REPORT**  
*Legislative Newsletter*  
*May 16, 2003*

Greetings Constituents, Supporters and Friends:

Another historical week for the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislative session began with Democrat members of the House failing to show up for work on Monday morning. A quorum was not present to begin work for the citizens of Texas. Those not showing up for work became known as the "Chicken D's". They said they left town or went on strike because they did not think they would be able to defeat legislation for Congressional re-districting.

After being gone for the week they returned to the state capitol Friday administering hundreds of supporters proclaiming victory since they were able to kill the redistricting bill. Of course they also killed over 500 bills many that would have provided much needed revenue for the state budget and many that would assist seniors, children, students, teachers and most of all health care issues for Texans.

These strikers walked off their jobs and away from their constitutional responsibility by hiding from their legislative duties. Their effort was to attempt to force the will of the minority on the majority. They do not want to accept or understand that the majority elected are conservative Republicans. They have been elected to every statewide position of leadership and to a majority in both Houses of the Legislature. The cost to the state for this scheme has been millions in expense and revenue. They returned to the House floor on Friday morning. Walking in with raised hands of victory after receiving a hero's welcome by the media and hundreds of their Democrat supporters on the south steps of the capitol. Never a mention of the cost to the state or the lack of respect for the members that stayed to do their jobs waiting for their return.

Their reception from house members that remained on the job was tense and strained. After working together and solving problems in a bi-partyism manner for three and a half months they managed to create an environment that could well create a long lasting split.

The only work that could be done on Friday was the passing of Senate bills and the local and consent calendars left over from earlier in the week. It went without problems with only a few bills being hotly debated. Speaker Craddick was wise to limit the amount of time on the floor and gave an early afternoon adjournment. Monday will be another day and the weekend will allow members to turn their attention towards the business of the people and away from the political publicity stunts of the week.

The Republicans were the minority for over 130 years during that time they constructively debated ideas and issues than voted their conscience. They criticized policies and proposed alternatives, then waited for the next election to gain acceptance for their ideas. They never ran out of state and always followed their constitutional responsibility. During this session the majority has been conscientious, diligent, and demonstrating ethics to a degree seldom seen in Texas politics allowing endless debate and never once cutting off the time allowed for debate. They have done what they promised their constituents: reform and reorganize State government, reduce government size and influence, and hold the line on new taxes. The approval of the budget for the next two years and public school finance are only two of the many issues pending that will affect the direction and education of the children of Texas.

I ask how can they represent their constituents if they are out hiding from the authorities and playing obstructionist games? They were elected to serve and were acting like truant schoolchildren cutting class. It is time they grow up! The voters of Texas deserve better.

They have always pushed their agendas and partisan Congressional district lines for Texans. Suddenly the heat in the kitchen is too much for them and they decided to leave town. By leaving Austin, the group willfully shut down the state legislature sending a message that the process is not worthy of their attention.

During the week because of a lack of a quorum I was unable to meet with the Committee on Financial Institutions or the Committee on County Affairs. Both committees were working on important legislation that will affect all Texans. I was fortunate in that the Committee on General Investigation has only five members and the three Republicans serving were on the job. With a quorum present public and state agencies employees give testimony concerning the Texas Lottery, the Houston Crime Lab and the CHIPS program all of which are under investigation by the committee.

I continue to feel honored and privileged to serve the voters of House District 2 and the state of Texas. I did not and will not leave my post of responsibility I regret that there were those that did. However, we will tend to the business we swore to take care of and will find a way to complete our assignment for the good of all Texans.

My staff and I welcome your input and your questions. You can reach us in our office located in the Capitol extension: **E1.324**. Mailing address: **P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX, 78768** and our phone number is **512/463-0880**. Email **dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us**.