HOUSE JOURNAL

Second Regular Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislature

of the State of Oklahoma

Fifth Legislative Day, Monday, February 10, 2014

The House was called to order by Representative Denney.

The roll was called with 99 Members present.

The following Members were excused: Enns, Henke.—2.

Representative Denney declared a quorum present.

Prayer was offered by Pastor Ron Brunner, First Assembly of God Church, Kingfisher. Pastor Brunner was sponsored by Representative Sanders.

Upon motion of Representative Cockroft, Pastor Brunner was confirmed as House Chaplain for this legislative week.

The Journal for the last legislative day was approved.

ENGROSSED AND ENROLLED MEASURES

HR 1035 was reported correctly enrolled, properly signed, in open session, and ordered transmitted to the Secretary of State.

MEASURES REASSIGNED

The following measures were reassigned:

HB 2352 – Withdrawn from Higher Education and CareerTech and referred to Rules.
HB 2780 – Withdrawn from Tourism and International Relations and referred to Appropriations and Budget.

HB 3351 – Withdrawn from Rules and referred to Economic Development and Financial Services.

HB 3403 – Withdrawn from Rules and referred to Public Health.

Representative Watson Presiding

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Representative Watson announced that nominations for the Speaker of the House of Representatives are now in order.

Representative Billy nominated Representative Hickman for Speaker of the House, which motion was seconded by Representative Thomsen.

Representative Shelton nominated Representative Inman for Speaker of the House, which motion was seconded by Representative Sherrer.

Representative Nelson moved that nominations for Speaker cease, which motion was declared adopted.

Representative Watson put the question: "Shall the Honorable Jeff Hickman or the Honorable Scott Inman be elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Second Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislature?"

The roll was ordered called and resulted as follows:

Hickman: Armes, Banz, Bennett, Biggs, Billy, Blackwell, Brumbaugh, Casey, Christian, Cleveland, Cockroft, Coody, Cooksey, Cox, Dank, Denney, Derby, DeWitt, Echols, Fisher, Grau, Hall, Hardin, Hickman, Hulbert, Jackson, Jordan, Joyner, Kern, Kirby, Martin (Scott), Martin (Steve), McBride, McCall, McCullough, McDaniel (Randy), McNiel, Moore, Mulready, Murphey, Nelson, Newell, Nollan, O'Donnell, Ortega, Osborn, Ownbey, Peterson, Quinn, Reynolds, Ritze, Roberts (Dustin), Roberts (Sean), Russ, Sanders, Schwartz, Sears, Shannon, Smalley, Stiles, Thomsen, Trebilcock, Turner, Vaughan, Walker, Watson, Wesselhoft, Wood, Wright.—69.

Inman: Brown, Cannaday, Condit, Dorman, Floyd, Fourkiller, Glenn, Hamilton, Hoskin, Inman, Kouplen, Lockhart, Matthews, McDaniel (Curtis), McDaniel (Jeannie), McPeak, Morrissette, Perryman, Pittman, Proctor, Pruett, Renegar, Rousselot, Scott, Shelton, Sherrer, Shoemake, Virgin, Williams.—29.

Excused: Enns, Henke, Johnson.—3.

Representative Watson declared Representative Hickman elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Second Session of the Fifty-fourth Legislature and appointed Representatives Armes, Casey, Christian, Cooksey, Denney, DeWitt, McBride and McCullough to escort Speaker-elect Hickman to the rostrum where Supreme Court Justice Doug Combs administered the Oath of Office to Speaker Hickman.

The Speaker addressed the House. Upon unanimous consent request of Representative Banz the remarks of Speaker Hickman were ordered printed in full as follows:

"Representative Billy and Representative Thomsen, thank you for your kind words. Let me begin by thanking Justice Doug Combs of the Oklahoma Supreme Court for administering the Oath of Office. It is an honor to have you with us and I apologize for the short notice. Your presence proves the Judicial Branch is capable of moving quickly!

I am honored to have here today my partner in all that I do, my wife Jana and our son, Austin. Taylor and Ashley are in class today and couldn't be here on short notice. Our spouses make tremendous personal sacrifices for us, our families and the people of our district, so that we may be away from home and serve our state. Those of us with young children at home also realize our families make sacrifices due to our absence. Probably none of us thank our spouses and our families enough for those sacrifices, and Jana, Taylor, Ashley, and Austin, I thank you and I love you.

It is hard to have those special family members here on such short notice but I would be remiss to not acknowledge the most supportive parents any child could have – my Mom and Dad – Steve and Cathy Hickman, and my brother Jeremy and his wife Megan, and my niece Holly.

Speaker Shannon, fellow members and guests;

Thank you. I am humbled. Thank you for the honor you have given me by placing your trust in me to serve you as Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. And I must also say thank you to the people of Alfalfa, Woods, Major and Woodward counties in District 58 for giving me the privilege to represent them here the past nine years and for this next year, and appreciation to my predecessor, Rep. Elmer Maddux, who never had the opportunity to serve in the majority, for his advice, counsel and support. I feel truly blessed to be able to serve the part of the state where Jana and I grew up and that gave so much to us.

This will be a year that requires creative solutions from all 101 members of this House. For our new members, gone are the days when you would have been not only **able to**, but **expected to** sit on the back row and keep quiet as the issues were debated here on the House floor.

We know we have budget challenges ahead this year, but I hope you also see the possibilities we have before us this year. We must continue to reform our tax code and the responsibility to minimize government regulation to create an economic environment where Oklahoma businesses can create jobs and be profitable, an environment that will be recognized by entrepreneurs and sought after by companies located outside our state's border. We have the opportunity as well as the responsibility to improve our public education system to do what's right for our children and prepare them for their future. We have the opportunity to advance needed reforms in corrections and the responsibility to ensure safe working conditions for our correctional employees. We have the responsibility to protect the investments we've finally made in our roads and bridges to make Oklahoma a safer place to travel and provide the infrastructure for businesses to grow. We have the

responsibility to stand up to the federal government's efforts which overreach. We have the responsibility to protect our freedoms and assert our rights as a state under the U.S. Constitution. And, Representative McDaniel, we have a responsibility to the taxpayers and to future, current and retired state employees to continue addressing our retirement systems.

Members, the challenges are great. The days will be long. This democratic process will get noisy. There will be agreement about where we want our state to go, but disagreement about how we get there. It won't be easy, but our founding fathers didn't intend for it to be. Through all of this, I pledge to you as your Speaker to serve with respect for each elected member of the People's House.

In the 58th Chapter of Isaiah, Isaiah takes to task those who go through the motions of acts of faith for their own benefit instead of for others or for God. Problems abound but Isaiah notes the people are blind to them, only looking out for themselves. Isaiah calls on them to quit going through the motions, stop fighting and quarrelling, stop pointing fingers and spreading vicious rumors and make an impact on those around them…make a difference for someone beyond themselves. It's a pretty tough message but one I think is applicable for all of us who are Christians as well as public servants. Problems abound. Are we as a House going to be blind to them or are we going to make an impact…make a difference like we all felt we were called to do the night we won our first election?

Matthew 5:14 describes the Church by saying, 'You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.' President Reagan referenced this verse when he spoke often about America being the shining city upon a hill. Those in the city on the hill are working to be seen…positioning themselves to be visible…not for their own benefit but for the benefit of the rest of the world.

Today I ask you to join me. I invite all of us together…101 of us, to come together like those in the city upon a hill for the benefit of all, not for ourselves…to make an impact so when we leave here, we can look back at what we've done, at the sacrifices we made, the sacrifices our families made while we were away from home serving in this place, and see that it was worth it, for we made a difference for the Oklahomans we served and generations of Oklahomans to come.

May God bless you, may He bless our great state, and may God continue to bless America."

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Advising conference granted and the Senate naming conferees as follows:

HB 1875 - GCCA

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following were reported by the committees named, ordered printed and placed on the Calendar unless otherwise indicated:

DO PASS:

HB 2594 – Government Modernization
HB 2622 – Economic Development and Financial Services, Authored by Senator Brinkley (principal Senate author)

DO PASS, As Amended:

CS for **HB 2397** – Government Modernization
CS for **HB 2537** – Government Modernization

REPORT FROM CALENDAR COMMITTEE

The Calendar Committee met on Monday, February 10, 2014, and approved the following measures with an Open Rule to be placed on the Floor Agenda: **HBs 2319, 2320, 2334, 2372, 2380, 2611, 2624, 2860, 2908, 2909, 2912, 3052, 3290, 3333, 3343** and **3358**. The following measure was approved with an Open Rule; Fiscal Analysis required, to be placed on the Floor Agenda: **HB 3053**.

Representative Peterson moved that when the clerk's desk is clear, the House stand adjourned to reconvene at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2014, which was the order.

Pursuant to the motion of Representative Peterson, the House was adjourned at 2:35 p.m., to reconvene Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.