

The State of Texas
House of Representatives

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OPINION COMMITTEE



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Dan Flynn

State Representative • District 2

Attorney General Greg Abbott
300 W. 15th Street
Austin, TX 78701

FILE # RQ-0589-Sa
I.D. # 45291

July 25, 2007

Dear General Abbot:

Thank you for your dedication to our great state and for the dignified leadership you have demonstrated throughout your career. I understand that you are seeking input on the Keffer-Cook request for an Attorney General Opinion on powers of the Speaker of the House. Please accept this letter in my support of Speaker Craddick and his actions throughout his tenure as our Speaker.

I fully support the rules passed by the House which give the Speaker the right to recognize or not to recognize any motion; otherwise, chaos would erupt each time one disagreed with the ruling of the chair. Mob mentality is very different from majority rule, and the House Rules are designed to avoid the chaotic nature of mob mentality.

The rebellion to unseat Speaker Craddick had nothing to do with legitimate issues. I am a public servant and as such, I will defend anyone's right to seek public office, including the office of Speaker of the House. From day one since Tom Craddick was elected Speaker, the opposition never accepted his leadership nor governance. Their method of operation has been to create as much chaos as possible, ending in elicit obstructionism. It was this opposition that planned the nonsensical tactics to vacate the chair. In order to achieve this end, the opposition worked with a few Craddick supporters who willingly joined to obstruct an progress of the Texas House.

House Rules and precedents lay out an appointed time to nominate, elect, and run for Speaker of the House. The fact that one does not like the style of leadership or a particular ruling is not justification to disrupt the vital work of the Legislature. This entire episode, including the Keffer-Cook Request, is an attempted power-grab whereby a few ambitious opponents and former supporters sought to align with a block-vote to install a new Speaker from that such alliance.

The politics that were played very nearly cost the people of Texas a special session. The attempted revolt was timed to threaten the entire budget, thereby requiring a special session in which another attempt to unseat Speaker Craddick would occur. Speaker Craddick stood resolute and successfully finished the legitimate business of the state, including passing a budget.

Sunset Advisory Commission
Committees:
Vice-Chair, Financial Institutions, State Affairs
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I am gravely disappointed in the unscrupulous actions of a number of "public servants" who put personal ambitions ahead of the people's business and the needs of Texas. It proved a disgraceful episode for the House, and in the end, for Texas as a whole. It is this statement that I hope you recall when issuing your opinion of the Keffer-Cook request: Legitimate business of the state needs to be held above the wants of a few ambitious opponents. That is, after all, our jobs as servants to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Flynn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Flynn