



The State of Texas  
House of Representatives

Capitol Office:  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768-2910  
512-463-0478

District Office:  
1029 Rosemeade Pkwy., Suite 108  
Carrollton, TX 75007

BURT R. SOLOMONS  
District 65

**MEMO**

Date: December 5, 2008  
To: Mr. Terry Keel, Parliamentarian, Texas House  
From: Rep. Burt Solomons *BS*  
cc: Members and Members-Elect of the 81st Texas Legislature

Re: Call For Parliamentarian To Resign Prior To First Day Of 81st Session

It is clear to me that the House Rules should always empower the "body" (or what is often termed the "will of the House") and those Rules reflect that whomever is the Speaker actually works for and on behalf of the membership. The membership are, and must be, the Speaker's Board of Directors.

Furthermore, the House Rules should not ever become a complex set of protective measures for the Speaker, but rather should always remain simply as "our" Rules in how we conduct business and the process for passing legislation; and, not as an "us" versus "them" set of procedural nonsense. Even with what occurred at the end of the 80th Session, our current House Rules, along with most precedent, do not need a great deal of "clarification" or complex revision if a Speaker is subject to being elected by a secret ballot process at the beginning of each session.

Also, as a 14-year member who has served under 4 prior parliamentarians, it is quite clear to me that the membership of the Texas House must have faith in their parliamentarian that the interpretations and application of our Rules are, and will be, made with neutrality and in the best interests of the membership as a body, and not with divided loyalties, perceived or otherwise.

Therefore, even though we have known each other a long time and have worked together on many pieces of legislation when you were a state representative, it is with regret that I must respectfully call for you to step down as Parliamentarian prior to the first day of the 81st Session and not serve as a Temporary Officer in the capacity of Parliamentarian on the first day of the session. It is my conclusion that a majority of my House colleagues agree that you have become a polarizing figure with divided loyalties, and should no longer be the House Parliamentarian. Too many of my House colleagues are not confident that your advice and parliamentary interpretations will be unbiased, and you will continue on a path of tortured interpretations and rulings designed solely to protect the current Speaker and frustrate the House parliamentary process. From your statements and advice since the beginning of your service as parliamentarian at the end of the 80th Session it is has become apparent to my House colleagues and myself that you are working for the current Speaker and not the body.