The house met at 11:30 a.m. and was called to order by the speaker.

The roll of the house was called and a quorum was announced present (Record 13).

Present — Mr. Speaker; Agnich; Armbrister; Arnold; Barrientos; Barton, B.; Barton, E.; Berlanga; Blanton; Bomer; Buchanan; Burnett; Bush; Cain; Carricker; Cary; Cavazos; Ceverha; Clark; Clemons; Colbert; Collazo; Connolly; Coody; Craddick; Criss; Crockett; Danburg; Davis; DeLay; Delco; Denton; Eckels; Edwards; Eikenburg; Emmett; English; Evans, C.; Evans, L.; Finnell; Fox; Gamez; Gandy; Garcia, M.; Garcia, T.; Gavin; Geistweidt; Gibson, J.; Gilley; Glossbrenner; Granolf; Green; Grisham; Hackney; Haley; Hall, B.; Hall, L.; Hall, T.; Hammond; Hanna; Harrison, B.; Harrison, D.; Heflin; Hernandez; Hightower; Hilbert; Hill, A.; Hill, G.; Hill, P.; Hinojosa; Hollowell; Horn; Hudson, D.; Hudson, S.; Jackson; Jones; Keller; Kemp; Khoury; Kubiak; Kuempel; Lane; Lee, D.; Lee, E. F.; Leonard; Luna; McKenna; McWilliams; Madla; Mankins; Martinez, R.; Martinez, W.; Messer; Millsap; Moreno, A.; Moreno, P.; Oliveira; Oliver; Patrick; Patronella; Patterson; Pennington; Pierce; Polk; Polumbo; Presnal; Price; Ragsdale; Rangel; Robinson; Robnett; Rudd; Russell; Salinas; Saunders; Schlueter; Schoolcraft; Shaw; Shear; Short; Simpson; Smith, H.; Smith, T.; Staniswalis; Stiles; Sutton; Tejeda; Thompson, G.; Thompson, S.; Toomey; Tow; Turner; Uber; Valles; Vowell; Waldrop; Watson; Whaley; Wieting; Willis; Wilson; Wolens; Word; Wright.

Absent, Excused — Parker; Smith, C.

Absent — Gibson, B.; Hury; Peveto; Wallace.

The invocation was offered by Father Fred Bomar, chaplain.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE GRANTED

The following members were granted leaves of absence for today because of important business:

C. Smith on motion of Fox.
Parker on motion of Criss.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Austin, Texas, January 19, 1983

The Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Chamber

The Honorable
Mr. Speaker:

I am directed by the Senate to inform the House that the Senate has passed the following:
HCR 5 by Gerald Hill, Granting permission to the Texas Jaycees to use house and senate chambers on January 22 and 23, 1983.

Respectfully,
Betty King
Secretary of the Senate

(B. Gibson and Hury now present)

SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE APPOINTED
Speaker Lewis announced the appointment of the Speaker Pro Tempore, of the Texas House of Representatives, Representative Hugo Berlanga.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED
The following committee was appointed to escort the Speaker Pro Tempore: Representatives Cavazos, W. Harrison, Veting, Rangel, Glossbrenner, W. Hall, A. Garcia, Hinojosa, D. Lee, Oliveira, A. Moreno, Tejeda, Madrid, Salinas, and M. Garcia.

The Honorable Speaker Pro Tempore and his party were announced at the door of the house and were admitted.

Speaker Pro Tempore Berlanga, and his party were escorted to the speaker’s rostrum.

Speaker Lewis introduced Representative Matt Garcia, who introduced members of Representative Berlanga’s family: Mrs. Laura Berlanga, wife of Representative Berlanga; son Omar Hugo Berlanga; Mr. and Mrs. Sigifredo D. Berlanga, Representative Berlanga’s parents; Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Garza, Mrs. Berlanga’s parents; Barbara M. Garza, Mrs. Berlanga’s sister.

Representative Matt Garcia introduced Ruben Bonilla, LULAC legal counsel, who addressed the house, speaking as follows:

Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, Representative Berlanga, members of the Berlanga family and honored guests:
Thank you for granting me the privilege to join you on this historic day in Texas. I shall treasure this rare opportunity to address the Texas House of Representatives and the opportunity to introduce one of our outstanding legislators. A person of humble origins, hailing from Robstown, Texas, Representative Hugo Berlanga has rapidly ascended to a position of strength and influence in South Texas due to his open-minded and pragmatic style of leadership. We all owe the speaker a large measure of thanks. By virtue of today’s appointment, Speaker Lewis has opened wide the doors of opportunity in Texas government. The speaker has displayed courage and vision in making a historic appointment that is certain to cultivate greater trust and respect for Hispanic-Americans throughout Texas.

The action taken today represents a clear commitment to citizens’ increased access to state government.

Representative Berlanga, the first Hispanic named as speaker pro tem, will be a symbol of hope and pride for his fellow Texans. His energetic youth and positive leadership offer all Texans greater expectations for tomorrow.

Aristotle said that “dignity does not consist in possessing honors, but in deserving them.”

Hugo Berlanga through his fierce and dedicated pursuit of the common good has brought dignity to himself and to his colleagues in this prestigious body. He is deserving of honor because he has shown himself to be diligent and conscientious in discharging his duties to his fellow Texans.
It has often been said that politicians think only of the next election, whereas statesmen think of future generations. Let there be no doubt but that our friend, Hugo Berlanga, is a statesman, concerned about the future of Texas. He is destined to be an integral part of a new generation of leadership, young and vibrant, growing in stature throughout the sunbelt states.

Yes, today's appointment by Speaker Lewis has accelerated the race for social and political equality and has quickened the pace of our government's march for economic progress. But even more importantly, it is a clear signal that the Texas House leadership is seeking unity and accord in order that all of us can work hand in hand to promote a more responsive and cohesive government.

It is therefore a tremendous honor to introduce my close friend, your colleague and our speaker pro tem, the Honorable Hugo Berlanga.

Speaker Pro Tempore Berlanga addressed the house, speaking as follows:

Thank you Mr. Speaker and members of the Texas House of Representatives. I am extremely honored. This is a very proud day for me and my family. To have been selected to serve as speaker pro tem for the 68th Legislature is an honor which I accept with tremendous pride and humility.

A confidence and trust has been bestowed on me which will not be broken. It does not go unnoticed that I am the first Hispanic in the history of Texas to be appointed to this post. As such, the responsibility becomes even greater. I will be judged by many, and I will be judged often. I assure you however, that I will work diligently and fairly.

I recognize that this body is a diverse one of different and varying philosophies and regional interests. This is also a house that is based on a foundation of trust and respect among members. I do not intend to betray those two elements.

I want to reaffirm my total commitment to the people of Texas. I intend to work effectively in my capacity as representative as well as in my new position of house speaker pro tem. I am extending to all of you an open invitation to my office and all the assistance that I can possibly render to each and every one of you.

In the past, the speaker pro tem has largely been a ceremonial position. But now, with the coming of our new house speaker, Gib Lewis, the post will assume a new level of effectiveness. Though the plans have not all been worked out, we expect to work very, very closely together, as a team of sorts, to make the 68th Legislative Session one that will be remembered as the best yet in Texas legislative history.

With the support of my wife Laura, my son Omar, and my parents and family, who are here today, I intend to work in the best interests of all citizens of this great state of Texas.

And again, I thank you Mr. Speaker and members for the support exhibited in entrusting me with this awesome responsibility. Together, we will work energetically to promote healthier economic conditions for the entire state.

Speaker Lewis presented a gavel to Speaker Pro Tempore Berlanga.

(Berlanga in the chair)

HOUSE AT EASE

At 12:07 p.m., Speaker Pro Tempore Berlanga announced that the house would stand at ease pending the departure of platform guests.

(Wallace now present)

(Speaker in the chair)

The speaker called the house to order at 12:16 p.m.
REMARKS ORDERED PRINTED

Representative Messer moved to suspend all necessary rules to have the remarks by Representative Berlanga and Mr. Bonilla printed in the journal.

The motion prevailed without objection.

ADJOURNMENT

Representatives Schlueter, Eikenburg, and Geistweidt moved that the house adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow in memory of Harry Shapiro.

The motion prevailed without objection.

The house accordingly, at 12:20 p.m., adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

APPENDIX

ENROLLED

January 17 - HCR 13