JOURNAL

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE,

STATE OF TEXAS.

BY AUTHORITY.

AUSTIN:
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1866.
Mr. Foster introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Education be instructed to inquire into the propriety of establishing a system of free schools among the free people of our State, and raising a fund under the Constitution to support the same, and report as soon as practicable, by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Worsham made the following report:

Hon. N. M. Burford, Speaker of House of Representatives:

Your Committee on Education, to whom was referred a resolution requiring of them the investigation of the propriety of establishing a system of free schools among the free people of our State, and raising a fund under the Constitution to support the same, and report as soon as practicable, by bill or otherwise, have, with great care and extreme difficulty, considered the subject, and request me to report as follows:

Your committee cannot refrain from expressing the regret that this question has been again forced upon them, after having once thoroughly and maturely considered the subject of education, and presented by bill the only practicable means, "under the Constitution," for raising a fund for the support of a system of common schools for the education of the free people or free children of our State, which was lost by the action of this House; and that the author of the resolution had, not, with his extra zeal for the lately emancipated race, stumbled upon some plan that might offer a ray of hope for his imagination to revel in, and taken the sense of the House upon it at once, without submitting them to the necessity of being the medium of raising a

Your committee are unable to suggest any system that will afford a revenue which will serve as a basis for a plan. A per capita tax on the freedmen themselves, as suggested by the Convention, seemed to be the only feasible idea on the subject; but the impossibility of the collection of such a tax, as was demonstrated by the trial of the past year, nipped that project in the bud. Until by habits of thrift, industry and economy, when they shall have accumulated property on which a tax can be based, wisdom dictates that we endeavor to overcome any indisposition, if it exists, on the part of our people to act the part of the Good Samuaries, and take the lead in educating them ourselves, to the exclusion of that mass of corrupt material that, since the termination of the war, has flooded the South, and by means of affilia
tion, and in many cases misgoverned, with the freedmen, obtained the whole of their hard earnings, and filled their minds with hatred and distrust of us, their natural protectors and best friends. Respectfully submitted.

Israel Worsham, One of Committee.

Rules suspended, report taken up and adopted.