

## COMMUNICATION FROM MR. NIXON OF BRATTLEBORO

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication from Mr. Nixon of Brattleboro:

"State of Vermont  
House of Representatives  
Montpelier  
05602

January 27, 1977

Honorable Timothy J. O'Connor  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Mr. Speaker:

Last fall I campaigned for the privilege to serve the people of my district for a sixth term. On election night, my opponent was declared the winner by a margin of a single vote. Following the advice of loyal supporters, I petitioned for a recount in Windham Superior Court under the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 1361. The recount committee in that court found me to be the winner by one vote and the court gave me a certificate of election. I sincerely believed that I was duly elected to again represent the interests of the people of my district.

However, a committee of this House, having received a petition to look into the matter of my election once again, chose to disregard the court order and my certificate of election, and duplicated the work of the recount committee, coming up with the opposite result, namely, that I had lost by one vote, and is urging this House that it should unseat me and seat my opponent instead.

Mr. Speaker, I thought I had won the election but this committee's report now seems to require that my fellow members, many of whom have served with me for nine years, be asked to disregard the court order and send me home. To ask this of you, my friends, seems to me to be both embarrassing and unfair to you.

And so, Mr. Speaker, after much soul-searching, I have concluded that I should spare you the difficult decision that you would otherwise have to face, and tender my resignation from the House and from further service to the State of Vermont which we all love so dearly.

I depart this hallowed Hall of Representatives with sadness in my heart but with bitterness toward none of you, my friends, who remain to face the many difficult problems yet to be resolved.

In my nine years of service here, I have always attempted to serve my constituents to the best of my ability. I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I thank you for your friendship. I have many fond memories which I shall cherish for the rest of my life. God bless you all. Goodbye.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Sydney T. Nixon"