www.CapitolAnnex.com **TIMELINE** www.CapitolAnnex.com

80th Legislature: Timeline Related To "House Insurgency" & Parliamentarian Issues

May 14
Parliamentarian Denise Davis tells the Austin American Statesman that a "motion to vacate the chair" would result in a Speaker's race. This is a major hint of how Davis would have advised Craddick to rule on an eventual motion to vacate.

May 15
Craddick announces he will seek a fourth term as Speaker.

Jim Keffer (R-Eastland) announces he will run for Speaker in 2009.

May 16
Parliamentarians Denise Davis and Chris Griesel are scheduled to meet with Speaker Craddick and his chief of staff Nancy Fisher. The meeting never occurs.

Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) creates a stir in the House by announcing she'd like to make a motion to vacate the chamber...for lunch.

May 21
Rep. Byron Cook (R-Corsicana) asks Craddick to resign in a personal privilege speech on the floor of the House.

Former State Rep. Terry Keel (R-Austin) authors a memorandum which outlines the constitutional provisions Craddick can manipulate to ignore motions to vacate the chair.

May 22
"Craddick D's" Reps. Eddie Lucio, III (D-Brownsville) and Patrick Rose (D-Dripping Springs) defect from Craddick's camp.

Rep. Fred Hill (R-Richardson) predicts a motion to vacate the chair will be made before the end of the session.

Reps. Fred Hill (R-Richardson) and Brian McCall (R-Plano) file to be candidates for Speaker in 2008.

May 23
House adjourns on final day to pass out Senate bills without insurrection; Rep, Mike O'Day (R-Pearland) says insurgents don't have the necessary votes.

May 25

Rep. Robert Talton (R-Pasadena) announces he will vote "not present" if there is a motion to vacate the chair.

7:30 p.m. Rep. Jim Dunnam raises questions about the speaker's right to recognize. Craddick claims the speaker has the absolute right to recognize and that such is not appealable, under Rule 5, Sec. 4 of the Texas House.

8:30 p.m. Speaker Craddick recesses the House until 11 p.m.; Parliamentarian Denise Davis refuses to confirm or deny rumors she has resigned.

10:40 p.m. House Clerk Robert Haney sends "Statement of Elected/Appointed Officer" forms to the Secretary of State via fax for newly appointed House Parliamentarian Terry Keel and Deputy Parliamentarian Ron Wilson, a former Houston legislator.

After 11:00 p.m.
Rep. Jim Pitts asks Craddick if he is aware Davis and Griesel were locked out of the speakers office and escorted out. Craddick says he "is not advised."

Craddick tells Rep. Fred Hill he will not recognize him for a motion to vacate the chair.

May 26

After Midnight
Craddick issues a written statement and ruling concerning his refusal to recognize members for a motion to vacate following adjournment for the legislative day.

May 27

Around midnight Following personal privilege speech in which Rep. Pat Haggerty (R-El Paso) conducts an informal "roll call" of members on the issue of keeping Craddick in the chair, members walk out of the House leaving it to adjourn without a quorum.

May 28

Craddick refuses to recognize Rep. Lon Burnam (D-Fort Worth) to offer a resolution honoring Davis and Griesel.

House adjourns sine die.

Ron Wilson resigns as deputy parliamentarian effective at midnight.

May 29

Rep. Sylvester Turner (D-Houston), the Speaker Pro-Tem, announces he'll seek the Speaker's post in 2009.

House Business Office informs Davis and Griesel it is their last working day in the House and they are still on the payroll for 160 hours of compensatory leave and will be paid a lump-sum for vacation.

Craddick sends a letter to Davis and Griesel instructing them that their communications as Parliamentarians are protected under attorney-client privilege.

May 30

A request is made to have Interim Parliamentarian Terry Keel a House ID card with purchasing/supply privileges, fax and photocopy use privileges, and building access.