



City of Cambridge

In City Council

May 5, 1931.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE APPOINTMENT, ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1931, BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS; OF PROFESSOR JOHN J.
BURNS OF THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

WHEREAS:- The Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts saw fit to send to the Executive Council on Wednesday, April 29, 1931 the appointment of Professor John J. Burns of the Harvard University School of Law, who resides at 40 Grozier Road, Cambridge, to be a Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Judge John D. McLaughlin, and

WHEREAS:- In elevating Professor Burns to this exalted post, marking the youngest man ever named to the Superior Court bench in the history of the Commonwealth, Governor Joseph B. Ely conferred on a citizen of Cambridge a high honor which reflects credit on the City of Cambridge as a whole, and

WHEREAS:- The life story of Professor Burns is an epic of what opportunity presents to the youth of the United States who are willing to work, and

WHEREAS:- John J. Burns, a native and resident of the City of Cambridge, is the third of ^{nine} ~~five~~ children born to Mrs. Mary ^{Kelleher} ~~Sullivan~~ Burns, a native ^{Nobival-Daly (County Cork)} of Killarney, Ireland and John Burns, a native of County Kerry, Ireland.

~~Shortly after their marriage~~ ^{they were married in St. Peter's} They immigrated to the United States ~~settling~~ ^{in a section of the City which attracted many of the immigrants from} ~~Parish, Cambridge and settled~~

County Kerry, Ireland and which came to be known as "Kerry Corner". Simple



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surroundings near the site of the present Dunster House and Lowell House of Harvard University were their chosen place of abode. It was in this humble but happy home that Professor Burns was born. His parents were the honest, God-loving and God-fearing souls who cared for nothing besides the proper bringing up of their families. He started his schooling at St. Paul's Parochial School and after graduation took up higher studies, in preparation for the future, at the High School Preparatory to Boston College. Entering Boston College he completed the college course and was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Intending to equip himself for a foreign service career he entered Georgetown University where he specialized in that subject. Deciding, after a year, to study law, he began his preparation for his future career at the Harvard University School of Law. Since that time his successes in his chosen field have been rapid and phenomenal. One of the outstanding members of the class of ¹⁹²⁵ ~~1921~~ at the Harvard University School of Law, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Juridical Science, the highest legal degree obtainable. Throughout his entire school career, besides being a scholastic leader, he worked long and hard in off school hours to help defray expenses of his schooling, ~~and aid his good parents.~~ Recognizing his abilities, Dean Roscoe Pound of the Harvard University School of Law made him an assistant professor, lecturing on legal jurisprudence and doing legal research. In the absence of Dean Pound his class on criminal law was turned over to Professor Burns. Last February he was made a full professor with the added distinction of being the youngest member of the faculty of that rank. Governor Ely, by his recent action which has been hailed by the most favorable popular reaction



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of any act during his term of office, has made the Cambridge citizen one of the first citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, therefore be it

RESOLVED:- That this City Council, speaking in behalf of the people of the City of Cambridge in which Professor John J. Burns was born and now lives, extends congratulations to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for its great, good fortune in being able to call a man of such high character and attainments to its ^{Superior} ~~Supreme~~ Court Judiciary; to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Joseph B. Ely, whose characteristics of courage and high mindedness which have marked his term of office, were never better exemplified than in this appointment; to the good mother and father of John J. Burns to whom he has given full measure of credit for anything he has accomplished - - at this time, when they can see the fruit of every struggle and sacrifice they made, returning one hundred fold in an illustrious son in whom they have every reason to feel parental pride; to the young wife whom he has chosen to travel along the highway of life with him; and lastly, to John J. Burns himself, son of immigrant parents, who as the youngest man ever to be called to his present post, is about to begin a career that can have no bounds. The citizens of the City of Cambridge wish him a long and fruitful career interpreting the laws of the land and hope for greater glory for him in the future, and be it

ORDERED:- That copies of these resolutions be properly prepared and forwarded to the Governor of the Commonwealth and the parents and wife of



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John J. Burns and that they be spread upon the records of the City of Cambridge to commemorate the event of the present and to serve as an inspiration and model to the youth of the future.

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*Adopted unanimously by a
rising vote*

Frederick W. Burke

City Clerk

Executive Department MAY 7 1931

Approved

Richard W. Bourne
Mayor

City of Cambridge.

MAY 7 1931

Presented to the Mayor
for approval.

Frederick H. Burke
1931

*Resolutions
relative to the appointment of
John J. Burns to be a Judge of
the Superior Court.*

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Mr. Delaney