
[Senate, August 1, 1977 — Offered by Senators David H. Locke and John F. Parker.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-seven.

RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING THE ACTION OF GOVERNOR MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS CONCERNING MESSRS. NICOLA SACCO AND BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI.

Whereas, On July nineteenth, nineteen hundred and seventy-seven, the Governor of this Commonwealth, the Honorable Michael S. Dukakis did issue a proclamation concerning Messrs. Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, in violation of all Constitutional, legal, and ethical precedents; and

Whereas, In said proclamation the Governor of this Commonwealth cast a dark shadow over the jurors in said trial, the judge in said trial and the entire Appellate Court System, including the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth and the Supreme Court of the United States of America; and

Whereas, The Governor of this Commonwealth even after three appeal attempts to the State Supreme Court and two appeal attempts to the United States Supreme Court, upon which sat perhaps the most distinguished jurist in all American history, the Honorable Oliver Wendell Holmes, did state the unwillingness of such persons to have the ability or to conduct a trial fairly and impartially; and

Whereas, The Governor of this Commonwealth in said proclamation does intimate a prejudice and intolerance on the part of the citizens of the Commonwealth of that day; and

Whereas, The Governor of this Commonwealth does imply as to the Court system and the people of this Commonwealth a lack of simple decency and compassion, as well as respect for the truth; and

Whereas, The Governor of this Commonwealth confers upon himself rights not spelled out in the Constitution or the laws of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, The Governor of this Commonwealth with no apparent thought for the murdered victims and their families and decedents, implies that a stigma and disgrace have to be wiped from the names of Sacco and Vanzetti and their families and decedents; and

Whereas, The Governor of this Commonwealth calls now upon the people of this Commonwealth to denounce the actions of honest citizens doing their duty and the actions of most distinguished jurists of all time; and

Whereas, The Governor of this Commonwealth without notice to each and every Senator did use the Senate Chamber in violation of the separation of the Executive and Legislative powers of government; and

Whereas, The Governor of this Commonwealth blatantly implies that forces of intolerance, fear and hatred ruled the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti, this being an insult to the people who sat on the jury, all the lawyers, jurists and citizens of the Commonwealth; therefore it is hereby

Resolved, That the action of the Governor of this Commonwealth be repudiated as not being in the best interests of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial systems as well as the victims and the people of the Commonwealth; be it further

Resolved, That August 23, 1977 be set aside and that the citizens of this Commonwealth offer a moment of silence or of prayer for the victims, families and decedents of such a brutal murder; and be it further

Resolved, That the people of this Commonwealth also take time to silently pray for a more adequate Executive leadership in this Commonwealth so that said people may live in a happy, healthy and honest society.