

*Abilene Reflector*, 1899

“That Illegal Session”

There is little doubt in the minds of those best informed that the entire session of the Populists which will meet its doom-day with the close of this week is illegal.

The constitutional provision which furnished Governor Leedy the assumed authority to make the costly zoological display now on exhibition in Topeka, is as follows”

SECTION 5. He [the governor] may on extraordinary occasions, convene the legislature by proclamation,” etc.

E. W. Hoch of the Marion Record, ex-speaker of the house, shows why the session does not fill the bill. No fair man can claim that the legislature now in session was convened in harmony with this, the only authority for the calling of an extra session. It was called within two weeks of the sitting of the regular sessions. No war emergency, no pestilential necessity, no ‘extraordinary occasion’ of any kind demanded this gathering. The people, after a full and fair discussion, have repudiated this legislature and the party which it represents. Only thirteen of its members have been reelected, and the political complexion of the body has been overwhelmingly changed. The calling of this repudiated body of lawmakers together, for the avowed purpose of enacting into law the promises of a platform repudiated by the people, was in violation of the constitution paraded as its excuse, and was in defiance of the will and right of the people about which Mr. Leedy and his party conferees love to praise.’