



Floor Leader, Rep. Tom Murphy speaking with Majority Leader, Rep. George Busbee and Rep. Odom at the start of the 1969 Session.
Courtesy of the Murphy Family



Murphy stands up for Governor Maddox's proposed sales tax increase and states, "The fate of the cities and counties and schools of this state is now charged directly and I do mean directly to the leadership of the independent House of Representatives."
Courtesy of the Murphy Family

In 1949, Tom Murphy received his law degree from the University of Georgia. He practiced law with his brother James in Bremen and served on the local school board for seventeen years. In 1960, Murphy ran successfully for a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives.

Murphy was the third member of his family to hold the Haralson County seat in the state legislature. He quickly made a name for himself through his independent-mindedness, his speaking ability, and his quick responses to the needs of the people of his district.



Murphy sits in silent prayer after the House decides to reconsider Governor Maddox's proposed cigarette tax increase bill in 1969
Courtesy of the Murphy Family

Murphy was a loyal Democrat at a time when the Democratic Party completely dominated the legislature. Beginning with a committee chairmanship in 1965, Murphy steadily rose through the ranks in the House. By 1970 he was becoming one of the most powerful politicians in Georgia.



Murphy makes a run for the Speakership.
Atlanta Constitution, December 14, 1973