

NEW JERSEY

Andrews	Menendez	Roukema
Franks	Pallone	Saxton
Frelinghuysen	Pascarell	Smith
Holt	Payne	
LoBiondo	Rothman	

NEW MEXICO

Skeen	Udall	Wilson
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NEW YORK

Ackerman	LaFalce	Rangel
Boehlert	Lazio	Reynolds
Crowley	Lowey	Serrano
Engel	Maloney	Slaughter
Forbes	McCarthy	Sweeney
Fossella	McHugh	Towns
Gilman	McNulty	Velázquez
Hinchey	Meeks	Walsh
Houghton	Nadler	Weiner
Kelly	Owens	
King	Quinn	

NORTH CAROLINA

Ballenger	Etheridge	Myrick
Burr	Hayes	Price
Clayton	Jones	Taylor
Coble	McIntyre	Watt

NORTH DAKOTA

Pomeroy

OHIO

Boehner	Kaptur	Pryce
Brown	Kasich	Regula
Chabot	Kucinich	Sawyer
Gillmor	LaTourette	Strickland
Hall	Ney	Trafficant
Hobson	Oxley	
Jones	Portman	

OKLAHOMA

Coburn	Largent	Watkins
Istook	Lucas	Watts

OREGON

Blumenauer	Hooley	Wu
DeFazio	Walden	

PENNSYLVANIA

Borski	Goodling	Murtha
Brady	Greenwood	Peterson
Coyne	Hoeffel	Pitts
Doyle	Holden	Sherwood
English	Kanjorski	Shuster
Fattah	Klink	Toomey
Gekas	Mascara	Weldon

RHODE ISLAND

Kennedy	Weygand	
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SOUTH CAROLINA

Clyburn	Graham	Spence
DeMint	Sanford	Spratt

SOUTH DAKOTA

Thune

TENNESSEE

Bryant	Ford	Jenkins
Clement	Gordon	Tanner
Duncan	Hilleary	Wamp

TEXAS

Archer	Frost	Ortiz
Armey	Gonzalez	Paul
Barton	Granger	Reyes
Bentsen	Green	Rodriguez
Bonilla	Hall	Sandlin
Brady	Hinojosa	Sessions
Combest	Jackson-Lee	Smith
DeLay	Johnson, E. B.	Stenholm
Doggett	Johnson, Sam	Thornberry
Edwards	Lampson	Turner

UTAH

Cannon	Cook	Hansen
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VERMONT

Sanders

VIRGINIA

Bateman	Goode	Scott
Bileley	Goodlatte	Sisisky
Boucher	Moran	Wolf
Davis	Pickett	

WASHINGTON

Baird	Hastings	Metcalf
Dicks	Inslee	Nethercutt
Dunn	McDermott	Smith

WEST VIRGINIA

Rahall	Wise	
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WISCONSIN

Baldwin	Kind	Petri
Barrett	Klecza	Ryan
Green	Obey	Sensenbrenner

WYOMING

Cubin

NOT VOTING—7

Barcia	Hoyer	Stark
Farr	Miller, George	
Gallegly	Mollohan	

□ 1230

The CLERK. The quorum call discloses that 427 Representatives-elect have responded to their name. A quorum is present.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK

The CLERK. The Clerk will state that credentials regular in form have been received showing the election of the Honorable CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELÓ as Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a term of 4 years beginning January 3, 1997; the election of the Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as Delegate from the District of Columbia; the election of the Honorable DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-GREEN as Delegate from the Virgin Islands; the election of the Honorable ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA as Delegate from American Samoa; and the election of the Honorable ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD as Delegate from Guam.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The CLERK. The Clerk is in receipt of a letter of resignation from the Honorable Newt Gingrich from the State of Georgia.

Without objection, the letters relating to the resignation of the Honorable Newt Gingrich will be printed in the RECORD.

There was no objection.

The text of the letters is as follows:

WASHINGTON, DC, December 17, 1998.

Hon. ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk of the House, the Capitol, Washington, D.C.

DEAR ROBIN: As you are no doubt aware, I have decided that I will not seek re-election in the 106th Congress as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. In conjunction with that decision, I have notified the Governor of Georgia that I have withdrawn pursuant to Section 21-2-503 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and will not take the seat of congressman for the Sixth District of Georgia for the 106th Congress.

I will, however, complete my term as congressman for the Sixth District of Georgia for the entirety of the 105th Congress. I will also continue to serve as Speaker until the completion of the 105th Congress.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker.

NOVEMBER 22, 1998.

Governor Zell Miller,
Atlanta, Georgia.

DEAR GOVERNOR MILLER: As you are no doubt aware, I have decided that I will not seek re-election in the 106th Congress as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. In conjunction with this decision, I hereby notify you that I have withdrawn pursuant to Section 21-2-504 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and will not take the seat of congressman for the Sixth District of Georgia for the 106th Congress.

I will, however, complete my term as congressman for the Sixth District of Georgia for the entirety of the 105th Congress. I will also continue to serve as Speaker until the completion of the 105th Congress.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

NEWT GINGRICH.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CLERK. Pursuant to law and to precedent, the next order of business is the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 106th Congress.

Nominations are now in order.

The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Clerk, happily for our country and happily for you and me, Republicans and Democrats, DENNIS HASTERT has answered his Nation's call. This common man will bring his strong common sense, sharpened in the school of adversity, to bear on the Speakership. He has many qualities of another Congressman from Illinois, the Great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, and he will not hesitate, he will not doubt and he will not falter. We are grateful that he has resolved at whatever peril, at whatever cost, the most wonderful Nation in the world should be preserved.

As Chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by the unanimous vote of that conference to present for election to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 106th Congress, the name of the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, a Representative-elect from the State of Illinois.

The CLERK. The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Clerk, as Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I am directed by the unanimous vote of that caucus to present for election to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 106th Congress the name of one of most articulate and thoughtful Members of this Congress,

the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, a Representative-elect from the State of Missouri.

The CLERK. The Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, a Representative-elect from the State of Illinois, and the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, a Representative-elect from the State of Missouri, have been placed in nomination.

Are there further nominations?

There being no further nominations, the Clerk will appoint tellers.

The Clerk appoints the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA), and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The tellers will come forward and take their seats at the desk in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The roll will now be called, and those responding to their names will indicate by surname the nominee of their choice.

The reading clerk will now call the roll.

The tellers having taken their places, the House proceeded to vote for the Speaker.

□ 1315

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ (during the vote). Have we been eliminated already? Have we been eliminated from the voting procedure?

The CLERK. Delegates and the Resident Commissioners are not qualified to vote.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. We have always been qualified to vote.

The CLERK. That is not the case.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. What is that?

The CLERK. That is not the case.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Yes. We voted the last time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Clerk, would the Clerk respond to a parliamentary inquiry?

The CLERK. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. The parliamentary inquiry for the Clerk is for the delegates who represent American citizens. Where does that vote come today? Will they not be allowed to vote for Speaker of this House? The Member from Puerto Rico represents 4 million American citizens.

The CLERK. Representatives-elect are the only individuals qualified to vote in the election of the Speaker.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. All right. Can we just make sure that is duly noted under this majority, the disenfranchisement.

The following is the result of the vote:

[Roll No. 2]

HASTERT—220

Aderholt	Gillmor	Pease
Archer	Gilman	Peterson (PA)
Army	Goodlatte	Petri
Bachus	Goodling	Pickering
Baker	Goss	Pitts
Ballenger	Graham	Pombo
Barr	Granger	Porter
Barrett (NE)	Green (WI)	Portman
Bartlett	Greenwood	Pryce (OH)
Barton	Gutknecht	Quinn
Bass	Hansen	Radanovich
Bateman	Hastings (WA)	Ramstad
Bereuter	Hayes	Regula
Biggert	Hayworth	Reynolds
Bilbray	Hefley	Riley
Bilirakis	Herger	Rogan
Bliley	Hill (MT)	Rogers
Blunt	Hilleary	Rohrabacher
Boehlert	Hobson	Ros-Lehtinen
Boehner	Hoekstra	Roukema
Bonilla	Horn	Royce
Bono	Hostettler	Ryan (WI)
Brady (TX)	Houghton	Ryun (KS)
Bryant	Hulshof	Salmon
Burr	Hunter	Sanford
Burton	Hutchinson	Saxton
Buyer	Hyde	Scarborough
Callahan	Istook	Schaffer
Calvert	Jenkins	Sensenbrenner
Camp	Johnson (CT)	Sessions
Campbell	Johnson, Sam	Shadegg
Canady	Jones (NC)	Shaw
Cannon	Kasich	Shays
Castle	Kelly	Sherwood
Chabot	King (NY)	Shimkus
Chambliss	Kingston	Shuster
Chenoweth	Knollenberg	Simpson
Coble	Kolbe	Skeen
Coburn	Kuykendall	Smith (MI)
Collins	LaHood	Smith (NJ)
Combest	Largent	Smith (TX)
Cook	Latham	Souder
Cooksey	LaTourette	Spence
Cox	Lazio	Stearns
Crane	Leach	Stump
Cubin	Lewis (CA)	Sununu
Cunningham	Lewis (KY)	Sweeney
Davis (VA)	Linder	Talent
Deal	Livingston	Tancredo
DeLay	LoBiondo	Tauzin
DeMint	Lucas (OK)	Taylor (NC)
Diaz-Balart	Manzullo	Terry
Dickey	McCollum	Thomas
Doolittle	McCrery	Thornberry
Dreier	McHugh	Thune
Duncan	McInnis	Tiahrt
Dunn	McIntosh	Toomey
Ehlers	McKeon	Upton
Ehrlich	Metcalfe	Walden
Emerson	Mica	Walsh
English	Miller (FL)	Wamp
Everett	Miller, Gary	Watkins
Ewing	Moran (KS)	Watts (OK)
Fletcher	Morella	Weldon (FL)
Foley	Myrick	Weldon (PA)
Forbes	Nethercutt	Weller
Fossella	Ney	Whitfield
Fowler	Northup	Wicker
Franks (NJ)	Norwood	Wilson
Frelinghuysen	Nussle	Wolf
Ganske	Ose	Young (AK)
Gekas	Oxley	Young (FL)
Gibbons	Packard	
Gilchrest	Paul	

GEPHARDT—205

Abercrombie	Bonior	Clyburn
Ackerman	Borski	Condit
Allen	Boswell	Conyers
Andrews	Boucher	Costello
Baird	Boyd	Coyne
Baldacci	Brady (PA)	Cramer
Baldwin	Brown (CA)	Crowley
Barrett (WI)	Brown (FL)	Cummings
Becerra	Brown (OH)	Danner
Bentsen	Capps	Davis (FL)
Berkley	Capuano	Davis (IL)
Berman	Cardin	DeFazio
Berry	Carson	DeGette
Bishop	Clay	Delahunt
Blagojevich	Clayton	DeLauro
Blumenauer	Clement	Deutsch

Dicks	Larson	Rangel
Dingell	Lee	Reyes
Dixon	Levin	Rivers
Doggett	Lewis (GA)	Rodriguez
Dooley	Lipinski	Roemer
Doyle	Lofgren	Rothman
Edwards	Lowey	Roybal-Allard
Engel	Lucas (KY)	Rush
Eshoo	Luther	Sabo
Etheridge	Maloney (CT)	Sanchez
Evans	Maloney (NY)	Sanders
Fattah	Markey	Sandlin
Filner	Martinez	Sawyer
Ford	Mascara	Schakowsky
Frank (MA)	Matsui	Scott
Frost	McCarthy (MO)	Serrano
Gejdenson	McCarthy (NY)	Sherman
Gonzalez	McDermott	Shows
Goode	McGovern	Siskiy
Gordon	McIntyre	Skelton
Green (TX)	McKinney	Slaughter
Gutierrez	McNulty	Smith (WA)
Hall (OH)	Meehan	Snyder
Hall (TX)	Meek (FL)	Spratt
Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)	Stabenow
Hill (IN)	Menendez	Stenholm
Hilliard	Millender-McDonald	Strickland
Hinchee	Minge	Stupak
Hinojosa	Mink	Tanner
Hoeffel	Moakley	Tauscher
Holden	Moore	Taylor (MS)
Holt	Moran (VA)	Thompson (CA)
Hooley	Murtha	Thompson (MS)
Inlee	Nadler	Thurman
Jackson (IL)	Napolitano	Tierney
Jackson-Lee	Neal	Towns
(TX)	Oberstar	Traficant
Jefferson	Obey	Turner
John	Olver	Udall (CO)
Johnson, E. B.	Ortiz	Udall (NM)
Jones (OH)	Owens	Velázquez
Kanjorski	Pallone	Vento
Kaptur	Pascarell	Vislosky
Kennedy	Pastor	Waters
Kildee	Payne	Watt (NC)
Kilpatrick	Pelosi	Waxman
Kind (WI)	Peterson (MN)	Weiner
Kleczka	Phelps	Wexler
Klink	Pickett	Weygand
Kucinich	Pomeroy	Wise
LaFalce	Price (NC)	Woolsey
Lampson	Rahall	Wu
Lantos		Wynn

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Gephardt	Hastert	
	NOT VOTING—7	
Barcia	Hoyer	Stark
Farr	Miller, George	
Gallegly	Mollohan	

The CLERK. The tellers agree in their tallies that the total number of votes cast is 427, of which the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT of the State of Illinois has received 222, and the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT of the State of Missouri has received 205, with two voting present.

Therefore, the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT of the State of Illinois is duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 106th Congress, having received a majority of the votes cast.

□ 1330

The CLERK. The Clerk appoints the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the Chair: The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the gentleman from Texas, (Mr. ARMEY), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE),

the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) the gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. LIPINSKI), the gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. COSTELLO), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PHELPS), and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

The committee will retire from the Chamber to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives of the 106th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, before I hand the gavel over to our new Speaker, let me say to him simply, let us bury the hatchet.

First, I want to say to the new Speaker that Jane Gephardt and I would like to invite him and his wife, Jean, to our congressional district in Missouri, and I hope that in the days ahead Jane and I can come to your congressional district in Illinois.

The only problem that I have with this new Speaker is that as I understand it, he is a Chicago Cubs fan, and all of my colleagues know that I am a St. Louis Cardinals fan. He tells me his wife is a St. Louis, Cardinals fan, which gives me real hope. But if Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire can figure it out, so can we.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you know that over the next 2 years I am going to work hard to win a majority back for Democratic values and ideas. But I want to shift the focus today away from politics to other ideas, to other efforts that we can make together to do us all proud. Let us put to rest finally the poisonous politics that has infected this place. Let us join together not only in words, but in deeds, to do right by the people, to live up to our oaths, and to move our nation forward into a new century of prosperity.

This is hallowed ground. This is a precious place where we have nurtured and protected for generations our democracy. We have a burden, all of us, and we have a responsibility to live up to those who have gone before us, and today and in the future, to reach toward the sky and to listen to our better angels. It is in this spirit that I am proud to hand the gavel to the new

Speaker of the House, to our new Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Illinois, DENNIS HASTERT.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Mr. Leader, for your kind and thoughtful remarks. I am going to break tradition, and at this point I am going to ask you to hold the gavel so that I may go down to the floor.

Customarily, a new Speaker gives his first remarks from the Speaker's chair. And while I have great respect for the traditions of this House and this institution, I am breaking tradition this once, because my legislative home is here on the floor with you, and so is my heart.

To you, the Members of the 106th Congress, to my family and friends and constituents, I say, thank you. This is not a job that I sought, but one that I embrace with determination and enthusiasm. In the next few minutes, I will share with you how I plan to carry out the job that you have given me. But first, I think we need to take a moment, and I want to say goodbye to a Member of this House who made history.

Newt, this institution has been forever transformed by your presence, and for years to come all Americans will benefit from the changes that you have championed: a balanced budget, welfare reform, tax relief, and in fact, this week, families all over America are beginning to calculate their taxes, and to help them, they will find a child tax credit made possible by the Congress that you led. Thank you, Newt. Good luck, and God bless you in your new endeavors.

Those of you here in this House know me, but Hastert is not exactly a household name across America. So our fellow citizens deserve to know who I am and what I am going to do.

What I am is a former high school teacher, a wrestling and football coach, a small businessman and a State legislator. And for the last 12 years, I have been a Member of this House. I am indebted to the people of the 14th Congressional District of Illinois who have continued to send me here to represent them.

I believe in limited government, but when government does act, it must be for the good of the people.

Serving in this body is a privilege, it is not a right, and each of us was sent here to conduct the people's business. I intend to get down to business. That means formulating, debating, and voting on legislation that addresses the problems that the American people want solved.

In the turbulent days behind us, debate on merits often gave way to personal attacks.

□ 1345

Some have felt slighted, insulted, or ignored. That is wrong. That will change. Solutions to problems cannot

be found in a pool of bitterness. They can be found in an environment in which we trust one another's word; where we generate heat and passion, but where we recognize that each member is equally important to our overall mission of improving life for the American people. In short, I believe all of us, regardless of party, can respect one another, even as we fiercely disagree on particular issues.

Speaking of people who find ways to work together across the political fence, let me bring an analogy to a personal level. Two good Illinois friends of mine, George Ryan, the Republican Governor-elect, and Richard Daley, the Democratic mayor of Chicago, are in the visitors' gallery side by side. I will ask them to stand to be recognized.

Those who know me well will tell you that I am true to my word. To me, a commitment is a commitment. What you see and hear today is what you will see and hear tomorrow.

No one knows me better than my family. My wife, Jean, and our sons, Josh and Ethan, are here today. They are my reason for being, and Jean, she helps me keep my feet on the ground. She and the boys are my daily reminder that home is on the Fox River, and not the Potomac River.

To Jean, Josh, and Ethan, thank you for everything, and I love you.

As a teacher, I explained the story of America year after year. I soon came to realize that it was a story, but a story that keeps changing, for we Americans are restless people, and we like to tackle and solve problems. We are constantly renewing our Nation, experimenting and creating new ways of doing things. I like to work against the backdrop of American basics: freedom, liberty, responsibility, and opportunity. You can count on me to be a workhorse.

My experience as a football and wrestling coach taught me some other lessons that apply here. A good coach knows when to step back and let others shine in the spotlight. President Reagan for years had a plaque in his office that said it all: "There is no limit to what can be accomplished if you don't mind who gets the credit."

A good coach does not rely on only a few star players, and everyone in the squad has something to offer. You never get to the finals without a well-rounded team. Above all, a coach worth his salt will instill in his team a sense of fair play, camaraderie, respect for the game, and for the opposition. Without those, victory is hollow and defeat represents opportunities lost. I have found that to be true around here, too.

So where do we go from here? Some media pundits say that we will have 2 years of stalemate because the Republican majority is too small. Some say that a White House bent on revenge will not give us a moment's peace. Some say the minority in this House

will prevent passage of serious legislation so that they can later claim this was a "do-nothing" Congress.

Washington is a town of rumors and guesses and speculation, so none of this comes as a surprise, but none of it needs to come true; that is, if we really respect the voters that sent us here.

To my Republican colleagues, I say, it is time to put forward the major elements of our legislative program. We will succeed or fail depending upon how sensible a program we offer.

To my Democratic colleagues, I will say, I will meet you halfway; maybe more so, on occasion. But cooperation is a two-way street. I expect you to meet me halfway, too.

The President and a number of Democrats here in the House have been saying it is time to address several issues head-on. I will buy that, but I think we should agree that stalemate is not an option; solutions are.

To all my colleagues, I say: We must get our job done and done now. We have an obligation to pass all the appropriation bills by this summer. We will not leave this Chamber until we do. I intend to be a good listener, but I want to hear ideas and the debate that flows from them. I will have a low tolerance for campaign speeches masquerading as debate, whatever the source.

Our country faces four big challenges which we must address, and not next month or next year or the year after that, but now. Each challenge involves an element of our security.

First is retirement and health security. Both our social security and Medicare programs will run into brick walls in a few years if we do not do something about them now. We must make sure that social security is there for those who depend on it and those who expect to. We also must consider options for younger workers, so they can look forward to an even brighter retirement.

Nearly a year ago President Clinton came here to give his State of the Union Address. He called for reform of social security. This year I invite him to return to give us his reform plan, and he has my assurance that it will be taken seriously.

Second, we must ensure a secure future for America's children by insisting that every child has a good school and a safe, drug-free environment. In my 16 years as a teacher, I learned that most of the decisions having to do with education are best left to the people closest to the situation: parents, teachers, school board members. What should the Federal government's role be? It should be to see that as many education dollars as possible go directly to the classrooms, where they will do the most good.

Next is economic security. In the early eighties we adopted policies that laid the foundation for long-term

growth. Except for one brief period, that growth has continued ever since. We want our economy to keep on growing. Toward that end, it is time for us in Congress to put a microscope to the ways that government takes money from our fellow citizens and how it spends it.

There is a culture here in Washington that has grown unchallenged for too long. It combines three notions. One is that government has a prior claim to the earnings of all Americans, as if they worked for the government and not the other way around. Another notion is that a government program, once it is begun, will never end. A third notion is that every program must grow each passing year.

To borrow a musical line, it just ain't necessarily so; at least, it will not be as long as I am around here to have something to say about it. We must measure every dollar we spend by this criterion: Is it really necessary?

This is important. For most Americans, money does not come easy. When I was a kid, to make ends meet my dad had a feed business and he worked nights in a restaurant. My mom raised chickens and sold the eggs. I still remember, when tax time came around, our family really felt it. What we need is a leaner, more efficient government, along with tax policies that spur and sustain growth by giving tax relief to all working Americans.

Finally, there is the challenge of America's security in a world of danger and uncertainty. Without it, other elements of our security will not be possible. We no longer worry about Soviet nuclear bombs raining down on us. Today there are different worries: the sudden violence of a terrorist bomb, the silent threat of biological weapons, or the rogue state that aims a deadly missile at one of our cities.

We need a defense capability that matches these turn-of-the-century threats. We have asked the men and women of our Armed Forces to take on assignments in many corners of the Earth. Yet, we have not given them the best equipment or preparation that they need to match those assignments. That must be corrected.

These are not Democratic or Republican issues, they are American issues. We should be able to reach agreement quickly on the goals. And yes, we are going to argue about the means, but if we are in earnest about our responsibilities, we will find common ground to get the job done. In the process, we will build the people's faith in this great United States Congress.

As a classroom teacher and coach, I learned the value of brevity. I learned that it is work, not talk, that wins championships.

In closing, I want you to know just how proud I am to be chosen to be your Speaker. There is a big job ahead for all of us, so I ask that God bless this

House as we move forward together. I thank the Members very much. Now, let us bring an end to talk and let us get to work.

I recognize my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), Dean of the House, my colleague from the Committee on Commerce, whose common sense and fairness I admire. He will administer the oath of office.

Mr. DINGELL then administered the oath of office to Mr. HASTERT, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

□ 1400

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. According to the precedents, the Chair will swear in all Members of the House at this time.

If the Members will rise, the Chair will now administer the oath of office.

The Members-elect and Delegates-elect and the Resident Commissioner-elect rose, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now Members of the 106th Congress.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBER-ELECT

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRLICH) kindly come to the well of the House and take the oath of office at this time.

Mr. EHRLICH appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.