

votes of the electors of the several States for President and Vice President.

Under well-established precedents, unless a motion shall be made in any case, the reading of the formal portions of the certificates will be dispensed with. After ascertainment has been had that the certificates are authentic and correct in form, the tellers will count and make a list of the votes cast by the electors of the several States.

The tellers on the part of the two Houses will take their places at the Clerk's desk.

The Chair hands to the tellers the certificates of the electors for President and Vice President of the State of Alabama, and they will count and make a list of the votes cast by that State.

The tellers, Mr. WARNER and Mr. FORD on the part of the Senate, and Mr. THOMAS and Mr. GEJDENSON on the part of the House, took their places at the desk.

Senator WARNER (one of the tellers). Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Alabama seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that Bob Dole of the State of Kansas received 9 votes for President, and Jack Kemp of the State of Maryland received 9 votes for Vice President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. If there is no objection, the Chair will omit in the further procedure the formal statement just made, and we will open the certificates in alphabetical order and pass to the tellers the certificates showing the votes of the electors in each State; and the tellers will then read, count and announce the result in each State as was done with respect to the State of Alabama.

Is there objection?

The Chair hears no objection.

There was no objection.

The tellers then proceeded to read, count, and announce, as was done in the case of the State of Alabama, the electoral votes of the several States in alphabetical order.

□ 1315

The VICE PRESIDENT. Gentlemen and gentlewomen of the Congress, the certificates of all the States have now been opened and read, and the tellers will make final ascertainment of the result and deliver the same to the President of the Senate.

The tellers delivered to the President of the Senate the following statement of the results:

Joint Session to Count Electoral Votes, Thursday, Jan. 9, 1997

	Amount	Winner
Alabama	9	Dole/Kemp
Alaska	3	Dole/Kemp
Arizona	6	Clinton/Gore
Arkansas	6	Clinton/Gore
California	54	Clinton/Gore
Colorado	8	Dole/Kemp
Connecticut	8	Clinton/Gore
Delaware	3	Clinton/Gore
District of Columbia	3	Clinton/Gore
Florida	25	Clinton/Gore

Joint Session to Count Electoral Votes, Thursday, Jan. 9, 1997—Continued

	Amount	Winner
Georgia	13	Dole/Kemp
Hawaii	4	Clinton/Gore
Idaho	4	Dole/Kemp
Illinois	22	Clinton/Gore
Indiana	12	Dole/Kemp
Iowa	7	Clinton/Gore
Kansas	6	Dole/Kemp
Kentucky	8	Clinton/Gore
Louisiana	9	Clinton/Gore
Maine	4	Clinton/Gore
Maryland	10	Clinton/Gore
Massachusetts	12	Clinton/Gore
Michigan	18	Clinton/Gore
Minnesota	10	Clinton/Gore
Mississippi	7	Dole/Kemp
Missouri	11	Clinton/Gore
Montana	3	Dole/Kemp
Nebraska	5	Dole/Kemp
Nevada	4	Clinton/Gore
New Hampshire	4	Clinton/Gore
New Jersey	15	Clinton/Gore
New Mexico	5	Clinton/Gore
New York	33	Clinton/Gore
North Carolina	14	Dole/Kemp
North Dakota	3	Dole/Kemp
Ohio	21	Clinton/Gore
Oklahoma	8	Dole/Kemp
Oregon	7	Clinton/Gore
Pennsylvania	23	Clinton/Gore
Rhode Island	4	Clinton/Gore
South Carolina	8	Dole/Kemp
South Dakota	3	Dole/Kemp
Tennessee	11	Clinton/Gore
Texas	32	Dole/Kemp
Utah	5	Dole/Kemp
Vermont	3	Clinton/Gore
Virginia	13	Dole/Kemp
Washington	11	Clinton/Gore
West Virginia	5	Clinton/Gore
Wisconsin	11	Clinton/Gore
Wyoming	3	Dole/Kemp
Total	538	
Clinton/Gore	379	
Dole/Kemp	159	

The VICE PRESIDENT. The state of the vote for President of the United States, as delivered to the President of the Senate, is as follows:

The whole number of electors appointed to vote for President of the United States is 538, of which a majority is 270.

Bill Clinton, of the State of Arkansas, has received for President of the United States 379 votes.

Bob Dole, of the State of Kansas, has received 159 votes.

The state of the vote for Vice President of the United States, as delivered to the President of the Senate, is as follows:

The whole number of electors appointed to vote for Vice President of the United States is 538, of which a majority is 270.

AL GORE, of the State of Tennessee, has received for Vice President of the United States 379 votes.

Jack Kemp, of the State of Maryland, has received 159 votes.

This announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons elected President and Vice President of the United States, each for the term beginning on the 20th day of January 1997, and shall be entered, together with a list of the votes, on the Journals of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Members of the Congress, the purpose for which the joint session of the two Houses of Congress has been called having been accomplished, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 105th Congress, the Chair declares the joint session dissolved.

(Thereupon, at 1 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses of Congress was dissolved.)

□ 1328

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 105th Congress, the Chair directs that the electoral vote will be spread at large upon the Journal.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House will stand in recess until 1:45 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 1:45 p.m.

□ 1345

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore. [Mr. LIVINGSTON] at 1 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER A RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MILLER of California. Pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of privileges of the House. The form of the resolution is as follows:

Be it resolved that the Select Committee on Ethics should complete its final report concerning Representative NEWT GINGRICH, and release that report to the public, before the House of Representatives considers a disciplinary resolution concerning the matter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days its being properly noticed. That designation will be announced at a later time. In the meantime, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair is not at this point making a determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for the consideration of the resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER A RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House. The form of the resolution is as follows:

Be it resolved that the Select Committee on Ethics should, when it releases its final report concerning Representative NEWT GINGRICH, disclose to the public all documents concerning the matter, including but not limited to the work of the special counsel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days its being properly noticed. That designation will be announced at a later time. In the meantime, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from California will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair is not at this point making a determination as to whether or not the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for the consideration of the resolution.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mrs. THURMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. THURMAN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT ESSENTIAL FOR COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, today, January 9, is a monumental day for post-secondary education. Just a few hours ago President Clinton announced that the college loan default rate has fallen to a 7-year low which translates into lower interest rates and more loans for young people. From a high of 22.4 percent in 1990 the default rate has dropped to approximately 10½ percent, and I applaud the Clinton administration for its efforts to improve the collection of defaulted loans and to prevent loans from falling into default status.

The Department of Education has done a sensational job in counseling

students about their loan responsibilities and helping to create more flexible payment options for young people. A spokesman for the American Council on Education, an association representing colleges and universities, stated, "This administration has tightened up on weaknesses in the system, and defaults are down."

I agree, Mr. Speaker, with my colleagues who suggest we need to reform our educational system. However, I disagree with those who call for the abolition of the Department of Education. To the contrary, we need to expand the role of the Federal Government with respect to education and educational funding.

Recently, the Department of Education released Pursuing Excellence: A Study of Eighth Grade Mathematics and Science Teaching, Learning, Curriculum and Achievement in International Context. The results were not surprising. Although the United States is making progress compared to our major economic and political allies, Mr. Speaker, we must do much more. We must and can do so much for our children.

Instead of focusing entirely on punishing and sentencing young people, we should be searching for ways to challenge and propel people into the 21st century equipped with the tools to keep America competitive and make these young people viable holders of jobs in the marketplace.

As a new Member of Congress I intend to reach out to all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, particularly those in my own class. I was heartened yesterday, Mr. Speaker, by an encounter that I had with my new friend, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. GRANGER]. Strong bipartisan support is essential for any dynamic and comprehensive educational reform package to gain the support of the American people.

The investment in America that will generate the largest yield is an investment in America's potential. That is the education of our youth. As I stated earlier, this investment effort must be driven by bipartisanship and common sense rather than partisan ideology which lacks both a vision and a mandate.

I was pleased to see the Speaker both contrite and repentant in his view of the work facing the 105th Congress. The circumstances surrounding his election and the will of the American people necessitate our building together for the best interests, working together for the best interests of the future of America.

TAKING AIM AT OUR NATION'S PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take this opportunity to rise and

follow up on our wonderful celebration on Tuesday of this week when the new Congress, the 105th Congress in our country's history, was sworn in and to remind my colleagues that amidst our welcome celebration it is good to harken back to the words of Winston Churchill, who said in 1942, "The problems of victory are more agreeable than those of defeat, but they are no less difficult."

With that in mind, I am anxious to work with my like minded colleagues on both sides of the political aisle to serve our constituents, who elected us to solve the many problems facing our country today, and make no doubt about it, those problems are real and they are severe.

Bill Bennett, a man that I very much respect, former Education Secretary and Drug Czar, was quoted the other day as saying the following: "America is the most powerful, affluent and envied nation in the world, but America also leads the industrialized world in rates of murder, violent crime, juvenile crime, imprisonment, abortion, divorce and single-parent families, the production and consumption of pornography, the production and consumption of drugs, and that is just a partial list."

So, Mr. Speaker, I would submit that the lasting lesson of this election, the lasting lesson of politics in America has little to do with the big winners and losers on election day. The real moral of the story, the real moral of this election is simply this. Our faith in our politics cannot be separated as we look at the issues and as we address the problems facing the American people. Whether it be crime in the streets, skyrocketing teen drug use, problems in education, a tax system that bankrupts the family, the crisis of illegitimacy and so forth, an individual's position on these topics is greatly influenced by one's moral and religious perspective.

In fact, as the Speaker suggested in his remarks to the Congress 2 days ago, religion is the single most important factor in determining how we vote. It is more influential than gender, race, or income. Still there are some who want to take morality and religion out of politics altogether. They want our leaders to conduct their business while keeping religious and moral convictions outside of the political debate. After all they would argue you cannot legislate morality.

In truth, however, the only thing that can be legislated is morality, for every legislative act is a moral judgment. Abraham Lincoln understood this clearly when in 1860 our country faced a similar cultural crisis. His opponents and even some of his political advisers told him then not to bring morality into politics or politics into religion, but he saw through their empty arguments and recognized slavery for what it was, a moral crisis that demanded a political response. Lincoln was a true statesman. He understood the moral of the story.