

LOUISIANA			OREGON			
Baker	John	Tauzin	Blumenauer	Hooley	Wu	
Cooksey	Livingston		DeFazio	Walden		
Jefferson	McCrary					
MAINE			PENNSYLVANIA			
Allen	Baldacci		Borski	Goodling	Murtha	
			Brady	Greenwood	Peterson	
			Coyne	Hoefel	Pitts	
			Doyle	Holden	Sherwood	
Bartlett	Ehrlich	Wynn	English	Kanjorski	Shuster	
Cardin	Gilchrest		Fattah	Klink	Toomey	
Cummings	Morella		Gekas	Mascara	Weldon	
MASSACHUSETTS			RHODE ISLAND			
Capuano	McGovern	Olver	Kennedy	Weygand		
Delahunt	Meehan	Tierney				
Frank	Moakley					
Markey	Neal					
MICHIGAN			SOUTH CAROLINA			
Bonior	Hoekstra	Rivers	Clyburn	Graham	Spence	
Camp	Kildee	Smith	DeMint	Sanford	Spratt	
Conyers	Kilpatrick	Stabenow				
Dingell	Knollenberg	Stupak				
Ehlers	Levin	Upton				
MINNESOTA			SOUTH DAKOTA			
Gutknecht	Oberstar	Sabo	Bryant	Thune		
Luther	Peterson	Vento	Clement			
Minge	Ramstad		Duncan			
MISSISSIPPI			TENNESSEE			
Pickering	Taylor	Wicker	Bryant	Ford	Jenkins	
Shows	Thompson		Clement	Gordon	Tanner	
MISSOURI			Duncan	Hilleary	Wamp	
Blunt	Emerson	McCarthy				
Clay	Gephardt	Skelton				
Danner	Hulshof	Talent				
MONTANA			TEXAS			
	Hill		Archer	Frost	Ortiz	
			Armey	Gonzalez	Paul	
			Barton	Granger	Reyes	
NEBRASKA			Bentsen	Green	Rodriguez	
Barrett	Bereuter	Terry	Bonilla	Hall	Sandlin	
NEVADA			Brady	Hinojosa	Sessions	
Berkley	Gibbons		Combest	Jackson-Lee	Smith	
NEW HAMPSHIRE			DeLay	Johnson, E. B.	Stenholm	
Bass	Sununu		Doggett	Johnson, Sam	Thornberry	
NEW JERSEY			Edwards	Lampson	Turner	
Andrews	Menendez	Roukema				
Franks	Pallone	Saxton				
Frelinghuysen	Pascrell	Smith				
Holt	Payne					
LoBiondo	Rothman					
NEW MEXICO			UTAH			
Skeen	Udall	Wilson	Cannon	Cook	Hansen	
NEW YORK						
Ackerman	LaFalce	Rangel	VERMONT			
Boehlert	Lazio	Reynolds	Sanders			
Crowley	Lowey	Serrano	VIRGINIA			
Engel	Maloney	Slaughter	Bateman	Goode	Scott	
Forbes	McCarthy	Sweeney	Biley	Goodlatte	Sisisky	
Fossella	McHugh	Towns	Boucher	Moran	Wolf	
Gilman	McNulty	Velazquez	Davis	Pickett		
Hinchey	Meeks	Walsh		WASHINGTON		
Houghton	Nadler	Weiner		Baird	Hastings	Metcalf
Kelly	Owens			Dicks	Inslee	Nethercutt
King	Quinn			Dunn	McDermott	Smith
NORTH CAROLINA			Rahall			
Ballenger	Etheridge	Myrick	WEST VIRGINIA			
Burr	Hayes	Price	Baldwin	Wise		
Clayton	Jones	Taylor	Barrett			
Coble	McIntyre	Watt	Green			
NORTH DAKOTA			WISCONSIN			
	Pomeroy			Kind	Petri	
OHIO				Klecza	Ryan	
Boehner	Kaptur	Pryce		Obey	Sensenbrenner	
Brown	Kasich	Regula		WYOMING		
Chabot	Kucinich	Sawyer		Cubin		
Gillmor	LaTourette	Strickland		NOT VOTING—7		
Hall	Ney	Traficant		Barcia	Hoyer	Stark
Hobson	Oxley			Farr	Miller, George	
Jones	Portman			Gallegly	Mollohan	
OKLAHOMA						
Coburn	Largent	Watkins				
Istook	Lucas	Watts				

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.*

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.

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

Terry	Walsh	Wicker
Thomas	Wamp	Wilson
Thornberry	Watkins	Wolf
Thune	Watts (OK)	Young (AK)
Tiahrt	Weldon (FL)	Young (FL)
Toomey	Weldon (PA)	Weller

#### GEPHARDT—205

Abercrombie	Gutierrez	Oberstar
Ackerman	Hall (OH)	Obey
Allen	Hall (TX)	Olver
Andrews	Hastings (FL)	Ortiz
Baird	Hill (IN)	Owens
Baldacci	Hilliard	Pallone
Baldwin	Hinchey	Pascrall
Barrett (WI)	Hinojosa	Pastor
Becerra	Hoefel	Payne
Bentsen	Holden	Pelosi
Berkley	Holt	Peterson (MN)
Berman	Hooley	Phelps
Berry	Inslée	Pickett
Bishop	Jackson (IL)	Pomero
Blagojevich	Jackson-Lee (TX)	Price (NC)
Blumenauer	Jefferson	Rahall
Bonior	John	Rangel
Borski	Johnson, E. B.	Reyes
Boswell	Jones (OH)	Rivers
Boucher	Kanjorski	Rodriguez
Boyd	Kaptur	Roemer
Brady (PA)	Kennedy	Rothman
Brown (CA)	Kildee	Royal-Allard
Brown (FL)	Kilpatrick	Rush
Brown (OH)	Kind (WI)	Sabo
Capps	Kleczka	Sanchez
Capuano	Klink	Sanders
Cardin	Kucinich	Sandlin
Carson	LaFalce	Sawyer
Clay	Clayton	Schakowsky
Clayton	Clement	Scott
Clyburn	Clyburn	Serrano
Condit	Condit	Sherman
Conyers	Conway	Shows
Costello	Cummings	Sisisky
Dicks	Danner	Skelton
DeFazio	Davis (FL)	Lewis (GA)
Dingell	Davis (IL)	Maloney (CT)
Dixon	DeFazio	Maloney (NY)
McGovern	Dingell	Maloney (NY)
McIntyre	Dixson	Stabenow
McKinney	Dooley	Stehman
McNulty	Doyle	Strickland
McCarthy (MO)	Doyle	Taylor (MS)
McCarthy (NY)	Edwards	Thompson (CA)
McCarthy (NY)	Engel	Thompson (MS)
McDermott	Eshoo	Thurman
McGovern	Etheridge	Tierney
McIntyre	Fattah	Tauscher
McKinney	Filner	Towns
McNulty	Ford	Turner
McCarthy (MO)	Frank (MA)	Udall (CO)
McCarthy (NY)	Frost	Udall (NM)
McDermott	Geddes	Meek (FL)
McGovern	Gonzalez	Meeks (NY)
McIntyre	Goode	Meehan
McKinney	Gordon	Meek (FL)
McNulty	Green (TX)	Velazquez
McCarthy (NY)	Neal	Vento
McDermott	McDonald	Visclosky
McGovern	Fattah	Waters
McIntyre	Filner	Watt (NC)
McKinney	Ford	Waxman
McNulty	Frank (MA)	Weiner
McCarthy (MO)	Frost	Wexler
McCarthy (NY)	Geddes	Weygand
McDermott	Gonzalez	Wise
McGovern	Goode	Woolsey
McIntyre	Gordon	Wu
McKinney	Green (TX)	Wynn

#### ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Gephhardt Hastert

#### NOT VOTING—7

Barcia	Hoyer	Stark
Farr	Miller, George	
Galleghy	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 fi-

nally 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 edu-

cation 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.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now a Member of the United States Congress.