

Mr. GOSS of Florida, chairman,
Ms. PELOSI of California.

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE TO COUNT ELECTORAL VOTES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, the 107th Congress, the Chair appoints as tellers on the part of the House to count the electoral votes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST). The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes on each side.

JOYOUS REALIZATION IN REACHING AN END TO A TORTUOUS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

(Mr. HYDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, my friends, I join you in the joyous realization that we have reached the end of a very tortuous political campaign, and today is the final act in choosing our national leader.

The United States Supreme Court very unusually had an important role in bringing this to its stated finality. But it did, among several things, one very important thing, and that is reassert the primacy of the legislative branch, the elected legislature, rather than the appointed judicial branch. That is very important.

Today, we can approach this as Americans, not as Republicans, not as Democrats, not as conservatives, not as liberals, but as Americans. We can serve the public good, the common good. We are elected to do that. Let us put the bitterness and rancor behind us, and let us move forward to do the job we are sworn to do. God bless America.

OBJECTING TO THE ELECTORAL VOTE COUNT FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, let the RECORD show that on today, Saturday, January 6, I am present on the floor of the House of Representatives prepared to object to the electoral vote count for the State of Florida at the proceedings that will take place at 1 o'clock.

Let the RECORD show that the rules require all objections to be submitted in writing and signed by a Member of the House and a Member of the Senate. As of 11:00 today, I have not been able to identify any U.S. Senator prepared

to sign any objections; therefore, all attempts to object may be denied. However, I am voicing my objections to the electoral votes submitted by Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I believe these electoral votes to be illegitimate and unrepresentative of the true popular vote in Florida. Vice President GORE is leading in popular votes in excess of 500,000 votes in this country, and all of Florida's vote recounts are not yet tabulated. The recounts will document that GORE won Florida, despite voter fraud, despite voter intimidation, despite the butterfly ballots, despite the criminal recording of ID numbers on absentee ballots. History will record what really took place in this election.

HOPING TO HEAL WOUNDS AND PUT PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, for the most part, it is a quiet and peaceful day here in Washington.

There is a light dusting of snow outside, and the sun is shining brightly.

This place that the world calls America, but all of us call home, is a special place. There is a good reason for this. We are a peaceful Nation. We are a Nation of laws. We are a Nation that takes pride from the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the frustration from the past election; I often feel the same frustration, but now is the time to move forward, to work together, to work in good faith.

I want to work with my Democrat friends to do what is best for America in areas of education, national security, Social Security, Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can heal the wounds and put people before politics today and throughout the coming weeks and the coming months.

EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AND EXASPERATION OF CONSTITUENTS IN MIAMI, FLORIDA

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am a born and raised resident of the State of Florida. I do not stand today before this Congress with great pride, because I must object to the way the votes were handled in the State of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to express the outrage and exasperation of my constituents in Miami, Florida, over the failure of our government and our electoral system in the 2000 Presidential election; 20,000 votes or more were not counted in Miami, Dade County, Florida.

I am standing so that history will show and record my words so that people might better understand what has happened to us in Miami.

We are outraged because African American voters in Florida did every-

thing they were supposed to do, studied the issues. We did our civic duty. We lined up at the polls and we voted; and yet massive numbers of our votes were not counted. We cannot be silent, even though we would like to. First, the importance of this election is important throughout the country. We exercised what we thought was our legal right, only to have it nullified by faulty and defective voting machines distributed discriminatorily, targeted in our neighborhoods, nullified by purge of voting lists, and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, I want America to understand that African Americans were not given process in this election.

TODAY IS A DAY OF STATESMANSHIP, CIVILITY, AND RESPECT

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, just 24 days ago, an agonizingly close, long Presidential election came to a close. Regardless of partisanship or ideology, Americans were touched by Vice President GORE's gracious and heartfelt concession speech. That night he recalled the words of Senator Steven Douglas from nearly a century and a half ago. Following his loss to Abraham Lincoln, Douglass said partisan feeling must yield to patriotism. I am with you, Mr. President, and God bless.

Those words were spoken at a time when divisions in the United States were so severe that the next 5 years saw nearly 700,000 Americans give their lives in a great Civil War. Certainly today, even with the partisan rancor that accompanies such a close election, we can stand together.

The traditions of our forefathers, the honor of our constitutional democracy, and the spirit of the words of Vice President GORE call for this to be a day of statesmanship, civility, and respect.

VOICING OBJECTION TO TALLY ON PREMISE OF SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH THAT WE ALL ARE CREATED EQUAL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Alexander Hamilton said the sacred rights of mankind can never be erased or obscured by mortal power. Today is a solemn day, a day to affirm the votes of the American people; yet thousands of Americans' votes were not counted.

□ 1115

I went to Florida and saw thousands of Floridian votes thrown out. After marches in Selma, Alabama and a dream that was enunciated at the Lincoln Memorial, it is imperative that the self-evident truth is that every vote must count.

Therefore, at the tallying of the electoral votes, the voice of the voiceless will be heard as I intend to make a formal objection to the tally on the premise of the self-evident truth that we all are created equal.

I will formally object to the electoral votes of the State of Florida, for the Supreme Court's decision must not substitute for the will of the people. I do believe, as the Declaration of Independence has said, we all are created equal with certain inalienable rights of life, liberty, and, of course, freedom and justice, as I paraphrase.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WILL UPHOLD AND DEFEND CONSTITUTION THROUGH ELECTORAL VOTE COUNTING

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, a few short moments ago, the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) stood in the well of this Chamber, raised their right hands, and, as over 400 of us did earlier this week, swore to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the American people will see us again today uphold and defend that Constitution through the electoral vote count.

Mr. Speaker, some preceding speakers have voiced their displeasure with the process. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that, while passions run high, we never let those passions overtake our purpose, that we remain men and women of high principle and purpose. Though we will have disagreements that may be played out later today, we attempt to restore civility and forsake the vicious and vituperative name calling that taint so many.

BETRAYAL OF DEMOCRACY

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in total outrage over the disenfranchisement of thousands of voters and the real betrayal of our democracy.

I rise today because we will not go gentle into that night. We will not stand silently by to seal the results of an electoral system that is separate and unequal.

We will not stand silently by while African American voters are dismissed from polling places, forced to use antiquated machines, and denied their rightful voice.

I went to Florida to work to get out the vote for the same reason that I have gone overseas as an election observer, because free and fair elections are the very lifeblood of our democracy, because the principle of one person, one vote, must be more than empty rhetoric.

This is not a dispute about chads; this is about fairness.

Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for the right to vote. Medgar Evers died for the right to vote. Today, we stand here in their memory. The right to vote is meaningless if every vote is not counted.

So let the world know that we failed in upholding our democratic principles, and that it was the Reagan-Bush Supreme Court, not the people of the United States, who decided the outcome of this election.

I object to the tallying and to accepting the electoral votes and will formally do so.

CONGRESS READY TO GOVERN
AND LEAD IN A BIPARTISAN WAY

(Mr. HUTCHINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, we should rejoice today in the beginning of the 107th Congress. We have an opportunity to lead and to govern; and in that, we should take pride in that responsibility.

I noted that friends from the other side of the aisle indicated they will file an objection today to certain electors. I support the right of them to do that under the Constitution of the United States.

But the fact that no Senator has indicated a willingness to join in that objection indicates that that body, and the vast majority of those in this body, say we are ready to move on and accept the results of the election that has been approved under our rule of law.

So today we are ready to govern, to lead in a bipartisan way; and I think that we should rejoice in that. If there has been problems in the election system, we should review that. If there has been a disenfranchisement of any minority voter or any member of the Armed Forces, that should be reviewed. But we should work together in a positive way in this session of Congress.

GROSS VIOLATIONS OF VOTING
RIGHTS ACT

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, we had our problems in Georgia, but the Florida elections were marred by gross violations of the Voting Rights Act.

Voters who had never been to jail were listed as felons and then were not able to vote. Translators were not provided. A second ID was requested of immigrants even though it was not required.

But while Floridians pored over hanging chads and dimpled ballots, one-third of Florida's African American males were unable to vote because of felony convictions.

The Congress today will rubber stamp these gross violations of the

Violating Rights Act. For black voters, these egregious insults must be addressed. It is not the act of voting that is democracy, but the counting of those votes; and that is what measures a true democracy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST). The Chair desires to make a statement.

The Chair desires to defer further unanimous consent requests and 1-minute speeches until after the formal ceremony of the day, which is the counting of the electoral votes for President and Vice President.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 12:55 p.m.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 12:55 p.m.

□ 1301

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 1 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

COUNTING ELECTORAL VOTES—
JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE
AND SENATE HELD PURSUANT
TO THE PROVISIONS OF SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1

At 1:02 p.m. the Sergeant at Arms, Wilson Livingood, announced the Vice President and the Senate of the United States.

The Senate entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, headed by the Vice President and the Secretary of the Senate, the Members and officers of the House rising to receive them.

The Vice President took his seat as the Presiding Officer of the joint convention of the two Houses, the Speaker of the House occupying the chair on his left. Senators took seats to the right of the rostrum as prescribed by law.

The joint session was called to order by the Vice President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker and Members of Congress, the Senate and the House or Representatives, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and the laws of the United States, are meeting in joint session for the purpose of opening the certificates and ascertaining and counting the votes of the electors of the several States for President and Vice President.

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.