

	GEORGIA		Pascrell Payne	Rothman Roukema	Saxton Smith	WASHINGTON	
Barr	Deal	Linder				Baird	Hastings
Bishop	Isakson	McKinney				Dicks	Inslee
Chambliss	Kingston	Norwood		NEW MEXICO		Dunn	Larsen
Collins	Lewis		Udall	Wilson			Smith
	HAWAII			NEW YORK		WEST VIRGINIA	
Abercrombie	Mink		Ackerman	King	Rangel	Capito	Mollohan
	IDAHO		Boehlert	LaFalce	Reynolds		WISCONSIN
Otter	Simpson		Crowley	Lowey	Serrano	Baldwin	Kind
	ILLINOIS		Engel	Maloney	Slaughter	Barrett	Klecza
Biggert	Hyde	Phelps	Fossella	McCarthy	Sweeney	Green	Obey
Blagojevich	Jackson	Rush	Gilman	McHugh	Towns		WYOMING
Costello	Johnson	Schakowsky	Grucci	McNulty	Velazquez		Cubin
Crane	Kirk	Shimkus	Hinchee	Meeks	Walsh		1236
Davis	LaHood	Weller	Houghton	Nadler	Weiner		
Evans	Manzullo		Israel	Owens			
	INDIANA		Kelly	Quinn			
Burton	Hostettler	Souder		NORTH CAROLINA			
Buyer	Kerns	Visclosky	Ballenger	Etheridge	Myrick		
Carson	Pence		Burr	Hayes	Price		
Hill	Roemer		Clayton	Jones	Taylor		
	IOWA		Coble	McIntyre	Watt		
Boswell	Latham	Nussle		NORTH DAKOTA			
Ganske	Leach			Pomeroy			
	KANSAS		Boehner	OHIO			
Moore	Ryun		Brown	Kaptur	Regula		
Moran	Tiahrt		Chabot	Kucinich	Sawyer		
	KENTUCKY		Gillmor	LaTourrette	Strickland		
Fletcher	Lucas	Rogers	Hall	Ney	Tiberi		
Lewis	Northup	Whitfield	Hobson	Oxley	Traficant		
	LOUISIANA		Jones	Portman			
Baker	John	Vitter		Pryce			
Cooksey	McCrary		Carson	OKLAHOMA			
Jefferson	Tauzin		Istook	Largent	Watkins		
	MAINE			Lucas	Watts		
Allen	Baldacci		Blumenauer	OREGON			
	MARYLAND		DeFazio	Hooley	Wu		
Bartlett	Ehrlich	Morella		Walden			
Cardin	Gilchrest	Wynn	Borski	PENNSYLVANIA			
Cummings	Hoyer		Brady	Greenwood	Peterson		
	MASSACHUSETTS		Coyne	Hart	Pitts		
Capuano	McGovern	Olver	Doyle	Hoeffel	Platts		
Delahunt	Meehan	Tierney	English	Holden	Sherwood		
Frank	Moakley		Fattah	Kanjorski	Shuster		
Markey	Neal		Gekas	Mascara	Toomey		
	MICHIGAN			Murtha	Weldon		
Barcia	Hoekstra	Rogers	Kennedy	RHODE ISLAND			
Bonior	Kildee	Smith		Langevin			
Camp	Kilpatrick	Stupak	Brown	SOUTH CAROLINA			
Conyers	Knollenberg	Upton	Clyburn	DeMint	Spence		
Dingell	Levin			Graham	Spratt		
Ehlers	Rivers			SOUTH DAKOTA			
	MINNESOTA			Thune			
Gutknecht	McCollum	Ramstad		TENNESSEE			
Kennedy	Oberstar	Sabo	Bryant	Ford	Jenkins		
Luther	Peterson		Clement	Gordon	Tanner		
	MISSISSIPPI		Duncan	Hilleary	Wamp		
Pickering	Taylor	Wicker		TEXAS			
Shows	Thompson		Armey	Frost	Ortiz		
	MISSOURI		Barton	Gonzalez	Paul		
Akin	Emerson	Hulshof	Bentsen	Granger	Reyes		
Blunt	Gephardt	McCarthy	Bonilla	Green	Rodriguez		
Clay	Graves	Skelton	Brady	Hall	Sandlin		
	MONTANA		Combust	Hinojosa	Sessions		
	Rehberg		Culberson	Jackson-Lee	Smith		
	NEBRASKA		DeLay	Johnson, E.B.	Stenholm		
Bereuter	Osborne	Terry	Doggett	Johnson, Sam	Thornberry		
	NEVADA		Edwards	Lampson	Turner		
Berkley	Gibbons			UTAH			
	NEW HAMPSHIRE		Cannon	Hansen	Matheson		
Bass	Sununu			VERMONT			
	NEW JERSEY			Sanders			
Andrews	Holt	Pallone	Boucher	VIRGINIA			
Ferguson	LoBiondo		Cantor	Goode	Sisisky		
Frelinghuysen	Menendez		Davis, Jo Ann	Goodlatte	Wolf		
			Davis, Thomas M.	Moran			
				Schrock			
				Scott			

The CLERK. The quorum call discloses that 429 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 ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILA as Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a term of 4 years beginning January 3, 2001; the election of the Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as Delegate from the District of Columbia; the election of the Honorable DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN as Delegate from the Virgin Islands; the election of the Honorable ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA as Delegate from American Samoa; and the election of ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD as Delegate from Guam.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK

The CLERK. The Clerk will state that since the last regular election of Representatives to the 107th Congress, a vacancy now exists in the 32nd District of the State of California, occasioned by the death of the late Honorable Julian C. Dixon.

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 107th Congress.

Nominations are now in order.

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Clerk, the Congress and the Nation have been blessed these past 2 years by the inspiring leadership of a gentleman whose only special interest in these United States of America is these United States of America. We are deeply grateful for his selfless devotion to this institution and to the advancement of the American people and the American Republic.

Mr. Clerk, 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 107th 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 Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 107th Congress the name of 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 any further nominations?

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

The Clerk appoints the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the gentleman 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.

1330

The following is the result of the vote:

[Roll No. 2]

HASTERT—222

Aderholt	Cubin	Grucci
Akin	Culberson	Gutknecht
Army	Cunningham	Hansen
Bachus	Davis, Jo Ann	Hart
Baker	Davis, Thomas	Hastings (WA)
Ballenger	M.	Hayes
Barr	Deal	Hayworth
Bartlett	DeLay	Hefley
Barton	DeMint	Hegger
Bass	Diaz-Balart	Hilleary
Bereuter	Doolittle	Hobson
Biggart	Dreier	Hoekstra
Bilirakis	Duncan	Horn
Blunt	Dunn	Hostettler
Boehlert	Ehlers	Houghton
Boehner	Ehrlich	Hulshof
Bonilla	Emerson	Hunter
Bono	English	Hutchinson
Brady (TX)	Everett	Hyde
Brown (SC)	Ferguson	Isakson
Bryant	Flake	Issa
Burr	Fletcher	Istook
Burton	Foley	Jenkins
Buyer	Fossella	Johnson (CT)
Callahan	Frelinghuysen	Johnson (IL)
Calvert	Gallegly	Johnson, Sam
Camp	Ganske	Jones (NC)
Cannon	Gekas	Keller
Cantor	Gibbons	Kelly
Capito	Gilchrest	Kennedy (MN)
Castle	Gillmor	Kerns
Chabot	Gilman	King (NY)
Chambliss	Goode	Kingston
Coble	Goodlatte	Kirk
Collins	Goss	Knollenberg
Combest	Graham	Kolbe
Cooksey	Granger	LaHood
Cox	Graves	Largent
Crane	Green (WI)	Latham
Crenshaw	Greenwood	LaTourette

Leach	Pryce (OH)	Souder
Lewis (CA)	Putnam	Spence
Lewis (KY)	Quinn	Stearns
Linder	Radanovich	Stump
LoBiondo	Ramstad	Sununu
Lucas (OK)	Regula	Sweeney
Manzullo	Rehberg	Tancredo
McCrery	Reynolds	Tauzin
McHugh	Riley	Taylor (NC)
McInnis	Rogers (KY)	Terry
McKeon	Rogers (MI)	Thomas
Mica	Rohrabacher	Thornberry
Miller (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen	Thune
Miller, Gary	Roukema	Tiahrt
Moran (KS)	Royce	Tiberi
Morella	Ryan (WI)	Toomey
Myrick	Ryun (KS)	Trafficant
Nethercutt	Saxton	Upton
Ney	Scarborough	Vitter
Northup	Schaffer	Walden
Norwood	Schrock	Walsh
Nussle	Sensenbrenner	Wamp
Osborne	Sessions	Watkins
Ose	Shadegg	Watts (OK)
Otter	Shaw	Weldon (FL)
Oxley	Shays	Weldon (PA)
Paul	Sherwood	Weller
Pence	Shimkus	Whitfield
Peterson (PA)	Shuster	Wicker
Petri	Simmons	Wilson
Pickering	Simpson	Wolf
Pitts	Skeen	Young (AK)
Platts	Smith (MI)	Young (FL)
Pombo	Smith (NJ)	
Portman	Smith (TX)	

GEPHARDT—206

Abercrombie	Filner	McIntyre
Ackerman	Ford	McKinney
Allen	Frank	McNulty
Andrews	Frost	Meehan
Baca	Gonzalez	Meek (FL)
Baird	Gordon	Meeks (NY)
Baldacci	Green (TX)	Menendez
Baldwin	Hall (OH)	Millender-
Barcia	Hall (TX)	McDonald
Barrett	Harman	Miller, George
Becerra	Hastings (FL)	Mink
Bentsen	Hill	Moakley
Berkley	Hilliard	Mollohan
Berman	Hinchev	Moore
Berry	Hinojosa	Moran (VA)
Bishop	Hoeffel	Murtha
Blagojevich	Holden	Nadler
Blumenauer	Holt	Napolitano
Bonior	Honda	Neal
Borski	Hooley	Oberstar
Boswell	Hoyer	Obey
Boucher	Inslee	Olver
Boyd	Israel	Ortiz
Brady (PA)	Jackson (IL)	Owens
Brown (FL)	Jackson-Lee	Pallone
Brown (OH)	(TX)	Pastore
Capps	Jefferson	Pascor
Capuano	John	Payne
Cardin	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi
Carson (IN)	Jones (OH)	Peterson (MN)
Carson (OK)	Kanjorski	Phelps
Clay	Kaptur	Pomeroy
Clayton	Kennedy (RI)	Price (NC)
Clement	Kildee	Rahall
Clyburn	Kilpatrick	Rangel
Condit	Kind	Reyes
Conyers	Kleccka	Rivers
Costello	Kucinich	Rodriguez
Coyne	LaFalce	Roemer
Cramer	Lampson	Ross
Crowley	Langevin	Rothman
Cummings	Lantos	Roybal-Allard
Davis (CA)	Larsen (WA)	Rush
Davis (FL)	Larson (CT)	Sabo
Davis (IL)	Lee	Sanchez
DeFazio	Levin	Sanders
DeGette	Lewis (GA)	Sandlin
Delahunt	Lofgren	Sawyer
DeLauro	Lowey	Schakowsky
Deutsch	Lucas (KY)	Schiff
Dicks	Luther	Scott
Dingell	Maloney (CT)	Serrano
Doggett	Maloney (NY)	Sherman
Dooley	Morkey	Shows
Doyle	Mascara	Sisisky
Edwards	Matheson	Skelton
Engel	Matsui	Slaughter
Eshoo	McCarthy (MO)	Smith (WA)
Etheridge	McCarthy (NY)	Snyder
Evans	McCollum	Solis
Farr	McDermott	Spratt
Fattah	McGovern	Stenholm

Strickland	Towns	Waxman
Stupak	Turner	Weiner
Tanner	Udall (CO)	Wexler
Tauscher	Udall (NM)	Woolsey
Thompson (CA)	Velazquez	Wu
Thompson (MS)	Visclosky	Wynn
Thurman	Waters	
Tierney	Watt (NC)	

MURTHA—1

Taylor (MS)

PRESENT—2

Gephardt

Hastert

NOT VOTING—3

Gutierrez

Lipinski

Stark

1249

The CLERK. The tellers agree in their tallies that the total number of votes cast for a person by name is 431, of which the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT of the State of Illinois has received 222, the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT of the State of Missouri has received 206, and the Honorable JOHN P. MURTHA of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has received 1, with 2 voting "present."

Therefore, the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT of the State of Illinois is duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 107th Congress, having received a majority of the votes cast.

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. EVANS),

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI),

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO),

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),

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY),

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSON), and

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

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

1345

The Sergeant at Arms announced the Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives of the 107th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Members of the House, families of House Members, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. First, I want to say that I thought a few moments ago about asking for a recount, but I decided against it.

This is a day of celebration for candidates and our families, and it is also a day of celebration of our continuing experiment in democracy, which we again have successfully achieved, even in the face of a very close election. What sets America apart is that despite very difficult events, we decide elections by the rule of law, and we have peaceful transitions of power.

Mr. Speaker, I called you after the election to congratulate you, and all of us on the Democratic side extend our congratulations to you and your Members today.

We hope for a bipartisan atmosphere in this new Congress, and we understand that this requires not just words, but deeds and actions. We know that our differences on issues are heartfelt and real, but I hope the closeness of the margin between our parties in the Congress will be viewed as an opportunity, not a hindrance. This is the people's House, and we are all proud to be part of it. It is not a Republican House; it is not a Democratic House. As a recognition of that principle, it is our hope that in gestures, both small and large, on the part of each of us as individuals and as leaders, we will make that principle a daily reality.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Democratic colleagues, we honor your leadership and we respect your majority. Our pledge is to meet you halfway and, in return, we hope that great things in these 2 years can be accomplished for the American people that we serve.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, it is my honor to present the Speaker of the House of the 107th Congress, the gentleman from Illinois, DENNIS HASTERT.

Mr. HASTERT. I guess I really should not hammer it down while I am still getting applause, but I want to thank DICK GEPHARDT for his gracious remarks. DICK GEPHARDT has been a great leader of the House Democrats. He has unified his Democrat Caucus over the last 2 years with unusual effectiveness. He has criss-crossed the Nation, doing his best to help his candidates take a majority in the House. He has worked day and night with a singular determination. I know how hard he has worked, because I had to do my best just to keep up with him.

DICK, let me say that I respect your commitment to your principles, I respect and deeply admire your competitive spirit, and thank you so much for your heartfelt comments today. Thank you very much.

Now that the campaign is over, I know you will put the same energy and determination that you demonstrated during the campaign in working with me to do the people's business. Thank you all, Democrats, Republicans, for this honor, to be Speaker of the whole House.

Today, I stand before you at the beginning of a new year, some say the beginning of a new millennium, and certainly, the beginning of a new Congress. Today, we swear in 41 new Members in the House. One of our new Members is one of the greatest football coaches in college football history, TOM OSBORNE. On the Senate side, we welcome nine new Senators, including the first First Lady ever to run for public office.

1400

We have a new President in the White House who won in the closest election in our Nation's history. While times in the past 2 years have been difficult, this time of new beginnings provides us with new opportunity to reach out and to work with all of our colleagues to get the people's work done.

This will be my second term as Speaker of the House, but I could not have done this without the voters of Illinois' 14th District. This past November they elected me to my eighth term in the House of Representatives. I want to thank those people from the Fox Valley and environs of Illinois for trusting me year after year to represent them in this, the people's House, in the Nation's Capitol.

I also appreciate the bipartisan support that I receive from our Illinois leadership. With us today we have the Governor of the State of Illinois, we have the mayor of the great city of Chicago, Richard Daley, along with Governor Ryan. We also have the Republican leader in the Illinois House of Representatives. I thank them for joining us today.

To my family, my wife, Jean, my two sons, Josh and Ethan, I thank you for your love, your encouragement, your understanding. Jean, thank you for providing me with a good dose of midwestern common sense every time I need it. And in this job, I need it often.

As I said 2 years ago and it is still true, the Fox River, not the Potomac River, is still my home. My family reminds me of that fact every day.

Two years ago I stood here as the Speaker of this House, untested and largely unknown. While Hastert may still not be a household name, I hope that I have earned your respect as a fair and just Speaker of this House. By this election today, I am reassured that I have performed the duties that have been asked of me to lead this House and do the will of the people.

To all those Democrats who have gone out of their way to support me over the last 2 years, I value your respect and your loyalty because I had to work harder to earn it. And for the rest of my Democratic colleagues, if I have not earned your respect in the last 2 years, I hope I can earn it in the next 2. I know it is not easy to have a rival party lead the House's agenda. After all, I, too, used to be in the minority. But I gave my word that I would go out of my way to make sure your voices are heard, and my word is my bond.

Our political system has endured a trial. This trial has exposed many warts in our political process. It has also exposed the great strength of our democracy. After all, our system is based upon laws, not on personalities, and ultimately, our Constitution triumphs.

Our democracy is stronger also because we have two strong political parties and a vibrant opposition. Make no mistake, the system of checks and balances originally devised by our Founding Fathers works, and it will continue to work to protect the freedom of our citizens.

Many have commented about the deep wounds caused by this latest political competition, but it serves no purpose to dwell on the past. After all, our country is at peace. Our economy is still fundamentally strong. Our people are united with a strength of purpose and by a desire to live the American dream. It is only in Washington where many still have a lingering animosity over the political parties.

We need to get over it. We need to work together to revitalize this democracy. We need to get to the people's business. I have a great faith that we can do so. This Nation has faced greater trials, and we have persevered and prospered.

A former Speaker, a gentleman from Texas by the name of Sam Rayburn, once said, "I do believe when critical hours arise, the Members of this House will do as they have done in the past: Rise to the occasion, and show to the world that whether Republicans or Democrats, we are all Americans, and love and want to protect and defend and perpetuate the institutions of this, the best, the mightiest, and the freest government that ever blessed mankind in all the world."

He was right then, and his words ring true today. Let us show people that even those who disagree can reach reasonable solutions for the sake of a nation.

Our new president was elected on an agenda to promote prosperity, opportunity, and security for all Americans. We have a duty to consider his agenda and to help him lead America in this next Congress.

Two years ago I stood before you and said that every child should have the right to a good education and a safe school. We have made some progress, but we have a long way to go.

In a sense, this election was all about the education of our children. Improving education still represents one of the Nation's greatest challenges. Every child must have access to a good education and a safe environment. Every school must be more accountable. Every parent must have faith that his or her child is getting the best education possible.

President-elect Bush spoke of ending the soft bigotry of low expectations. We must expect more of our teachers, more of our parents, more of our students, and more of our schools. We must make sure they have the resources to do the job without wasting money on more Federal bureaucracy.

I taught government and history at a small high school in northern Illinois for 16 years. My wife taught in that same town for 34 years. I know firsthand some of the problems that our public schools face: declining test scores, rising dropout rates, complacency, decreasing graduation rates. Yet, I know hundreds of teachers personally, and I know there are hundreds of thousands of dedicated teachers who want to see our children succeed.

The hundreds of Federal programs created to remedy the problems are not helping. We need local solutions. If we really want to help children learn, we need to send more dollars and decisions to the parents, the teachers, and the folks who run the schools. We need to cut Washington red tape.

To show the Nation our commitment to better schools, I will reserve the first House bill, H.R. 1, for President-elect Bush's education proposal. Together, let us pledge to improve education for all of our students.

Retirement security is another challenge that Congress must face. Let me begin about social security. Social security is a sacred trust. Our challenge is now to keep it working far into the future.

In the last session of Congress we put Americans' social security dollars in a lockbox so that government could no longer raid those funds and threaten the future of the program. That helped social security in the short term. Now we must look to the long term. The American people deserve better than a fraction of 1 percent return on their social security investment. If this program does not do better, it will not survive.

The new President and the Congress have both promised to save social security. Now is the time to make good on that promise. Together we must search for a solution to a long-term problem.

Retirement security also means health care. Medicare must be modernized, and that process must include prescription drug coverage for all of our senior citizens. No senior should be forced to choose between putting food on the table and having access to life-saving drugs. Together, we can work to modernize Medicare.

National security is another challenge that the 107th Congress must

face. We have done a good job of providing for more resources for our men and women in uniform, but we can do better. It is still a dangerous world out there, and our defensive capabilities must improve to keep our citizens safe.

President-elect Bush pledged to work with the Congress to support our national missile defense program and provide our military with the funds they need to stay strong. This will be a top priority of the 107th Congress. Together we can work with the President to improve our Nation's security and to keep our citizens safe from international threats.

Finally, we have a duty to be fiscally responsible and to take steps to keep our economy strong. The last Congress paid off more debt than any other Congress in history. That is an amazing achievement. You helped make that happen. We are on the road to pay off our public debt by the year 2013. By continuing to pay off debt, we keep our economy strong. We need to also have the responsibility to return surplus money back to the taxpayers with commonsense tax relief.

We need to restore fairness to our Tax Code. It is not fair to tax people for being married. It is not fair to tax people on every penny they earn while they are living, and then tax them on what they have left over when they die. In the last Congress we made progress on these two tax fairness initiatives. This year, let us get it done.

Also, there are troubling signs that our economy is slowing down. President-elect Bush has proposed a tax relief package that will stimulate economic growth. I believe we have a duty to our constituents and this country to consider this proposal. Together we can work with the new President to keep our economy strong and to give tax relief to all Americans.

More than 20 years ago, I stood as a high school teacher before the classes of my high school day in and day out. I taught them about the promises and the possibilities of this Nation, this country we call America. I taught them that in America, people work hard to achieve their dreams for their families, for their careers, and for their communities. I told each student they could fulfill almost even their wildest dreams if they were willing to sacrifice and to work for that dream.

Little did I know then how fate would bring me to this place and to this position, the Speaker of the House. But fate has also brought all of you here. You all have sacrificed your time and your effort, and your families have sacrificed with you, for a chance to serve in this body. You have done so because you believe that you can get good things done for your constituents and for all the American people, and that by your efforts, you can make this even a better Nation.

1415

Together we have a great opportunity to work for the American people

as their representatives. There is no higher honor and there is no greater responsibility. As we promise in solemn ceremony to uphold the Constitution by taking the oath of office, let us do so with the conviction that we renew the American government with each new Congress; that we will renew our efforts by working together, fighting about principle and searching for truth through debate.

Today, we are sworn in to represent the people. We participate in the greatest ongoing democratic ritual in the world. Let us always be mindful of our duties to our constituents and respectful of the traditions of this institution. Let us pray that God guides us in all that we do in these halls; that he gives us the knowledge to do the people's work, the strength to persevere, and the wisdom to know when to listen to what others say on this floor. May God bless this House.

Now, it is my time to do the people's business, and it is my great honor to recognize my good friend and colleague from the Committee on Commerce, whose legislative skills I admire so much.

I ask the Dean of the House of Representatives, the honorable gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) to administer the oath.

Mr. DINGELL then administered the oath of office to Mr. HASTERT of Illinois, 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.

Mr. DINGELL. Congratulations.

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 office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now Members of the 107th Congress.