

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1999

SESSION OF 1999

183D OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 1

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 12 m., e.s.t.

**THE CHIEF CLERK (TED MAZIA)
PRESIDING**

CALL TO ORDER

The CHIEF CLERK. This being the day and the hour appointed by Article II, section 4, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania for the meeting of the General Assembly, the House of Representatives will now come to order.

The Sergeants at Arms will close the doors of the House.

Prayer will be offered by the Reverend Louise Williams Bishop, member-elect, House of Representatives.

The National Anthem will be sung by Mayra Acosta, Miss Pennsylvania 1998, who is the guest of Representative-elect Kerry Benninghoff.

Members and guests will please rise and remain standing for the prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of the National Anthem.

PRAYER

REV. LOUISE WILLIAMS BISHOP, member-elect of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

O God, our Heavenly Father, the creator and sustainer of life, I thank You today for this historic day and for another opportunity to enter into Your presence and bring these Thy people before You, to seek Your grace and Your mercy.

As You stand beside us, as we usher in the 21st century, the dawning of the 21st century, may we, the men and women of this House today, keep in our minds and always close to our hearts the same principles that guided our forefathers who created this House and the ideals of this Commonwealth, such as justice and the pursuit of happiness and liberty for all. It was these principles and these values, God, that held this House together, even in times of crisis. And as we venture into the new millennium, our prayer is that we ask You to help us, the new Representatives that are being sworn in as well as those of us who have already served, to hold and maintain these ideals and to ever be mindful of our country, for our country 'tis of Thee, a sweet land of liberty.

Thank You now for Your spirit of unity that dwells among us. Keep us surrounded by Your blanket of peace, and cover us always with Your mantle of love.

Make us now an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, help us to show love; where there is doubt, help us to show hope; and where there is lack of faith, give us faith; where there is strength, increase our strength; increase our courage.

We ask these and all blessings in Thy name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members-elect and visitors.)

NATIONAL ANTHEM

(“The Star-Spangled Banner” was sung by Mayra Acosta.)

The CHIEF CLERK. The Sergeants at Arms will open the doors of the House. Members and guests may be seated.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. ANTHONY H. WILLIAMS

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair is in receipt of a communication, which the clerk will read.

The following communication was read:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 23, 1998

Honorable Matthew J. Ryan
Speaker
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Room 139 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Having been elected November 3, 1998, to both the House of Representatives, and the Senate of Pennsylvania, I write to make my intentions clear with regard to my service in the next session of the General Assembly.

I intend to represent the 8th District in the Senate of Pennsylvania. Accordingly, I will decline my seat in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,
Anthony H. Williams
191st Legislative District

ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Chief Clerk, from the Bureau of Elections, Mr. Richard Filling.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes Commissioner Filling.

Mr. FILLING. On behalf of the Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth, Kim Pizzingrilli, I have the honor to present the election returns and the statement of campaign expense compliance for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the election held November 3, 1998.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair extends its thanks to Commissioner Filling.

The clerk will proceed with the reading of the returns.

The following election returns were read:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 3, 1998. The following, having received the highest number of votes in their respective districts, were duly elected Members of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly:

Name	District
Linda Bebko-Jones	First
Italo S. Cappabianca	Second
Karl Boyes	Third
Tom Scrimenti	Fourth
Tracy Seyfert	Fifth
Teresa Forcier	Sixth
Michael C. Gruitza	Seventh
Howard L. Fargo	Eighth
Chris Sainato	Ninth
Frank LaGrotta	Tenth
Guy A. Travaglio	Eleventh
Daryl D. Metcalfe	Twelfth
Arthur D. Hershey	Thirteenth
Mike Veon	Fourteenth
Nick Colafella	Fifteenth
Susan Laughlin	Sixteenth
Rod E. Wilt	Seventeenth
Gene D. DiGirolamo	Eighteenth
William Russell Robinson	Nineteenth
Don Walko	Twentieth
Frank J. Pistella	Twenty-first
Frank J. Gigliotti	Twenty-second
Dan Frankel	Twenty-third
Joseph Preston, Jr.	Twenty-fourth
Joseph F. Markosek	Twenty-fifth
Tim Hennessey	Twenty-sixth
Thomas C. Petrone	Twenty-seventh
Jane C. Orié	Twenty-eighth
David J. Mayernik	Twenty-ninth
Jeffrey E. Habay	Thirtieth
David J. Steil	Thirty-first
Anthony M. DeLuca	Thirty-second

Frank Dermody	Thirty-third
Paul Costa	Thirty-fourth
Tom Michlovic	Thirty-fifth
Harry Readshaw	Thirty-sixth
Katie True	Thirty-seventh
Kenneth W. Ruffing	Thirty-eighth
David K. Levdansky	Thirty-ninth
John A. Maher	Fortieth
Ralph Kaiser	Forty-first
Tom Stevenson	Forty-second
Jere W. Schuler	Forty-third
John R. Pippy	Forty-fourth
Fred A. Trello	Forty-fifth
Victor John Lescovitz	Forty-sixth
Leo J. Trich, Jr.	Forty-seventh
Timothy J. Solobay	Forty-eighth
Peter J. Daley, II	Forty-ninth
Bill DeWeese	Fiftieth
Larry Roberts	Fifty-first
James E. Shaner	Fifty-second
Robert W. Godshall	Fifty-third
Terry E. Van Horne	Fifty-fourth
Joseph A. Petrarca	Fifty-fifth
James E. Casorio, Jr.	Fifty-sixth
Thomas A. Tangretti	Fifty-seventh
R. Ted Harhai	Fifty-eighth
Jess Stairs	Fifty-ninth
Timothy L. Pesci	Sixtieth
Joseph M. Gladeck, Jr.	Sixty-first
Sara G. Steelman	Sixty-second
Fred McIlhattan	Sixty-third
Scott E. Hutchinson	Sixty-fourth
Jim Lynch	Sixty-fifth
Sam Smith	Sixty-sixth
Kenneth M. Jadowiec	Sixty-seventh
Matthew E. Baker	Sixty-eighth
Bob Bastian	Sixty-ninth
John W. Fichter	Seventieth
Edward P. Wojnaroski, Sr.	Seventy-first
Tom Yewcic	Seventy-second
Gary Haluska	Seventy-third
Camille George	Seventy-fourth
Dan A. Surra	Seventy-fifth
Mike Hanna	Seventy-sixth
Lynn Herman	Seventy-seventh
Dick L. Hess	Seventy-eighth
Richard A. Geist	Seventy-ninth
Jerry A. Stern	Eightieth
Larry O. Sather	Eighty-first
Daniel F. Clark	Eighty-second
Thomas W. Dempsey	Eighty-third
Brett Feese	Eighty-fourth
Russ Fairchild	Eighty-fifth
Allan Egolf	Eighty-sixth
Patricia H. Vance	Eighty-seventh
Jerry L. Nailor	Eighty-eighth
Jeffrey W. Coy	Eighty-ninth
Patrick E. Fleagle	Ninetieth
Stephen R. Maitland	Ninety-first
Bruce Smith	Ninety-second
Ron Miller	Ninety-third
Stan Saylor	Ninety-fourth
Stephen H. Stetler	Ninety-fifth
Mike Sturla	Ninety-sixth
Jere L. Strittmatter	Ninety-seventh
Thomas E. Armstrong	Ninety-eighth
Leroy M. Zimmerman	Ninety-ninth

John E. Barley One hundredth
 Edward H. Krebs One hundred first
 Peter J. Zug One hundred second
 Ron Buxton One hundred third
 Mark S. McNaughton One hundred fourth
 Ron Marsico One hundred fifth
 Frank Tulli, Jr. One hundred sixth
 Robert E. Belfanti, Jr. One hundred seventh
 Merle H. Phillips One hundred eighth
 John R. Gordner One hundred ninth
 J. Scot Chadwick One hundred tenth
 Sandra J. Major One hundred eleventh
 Fred Belardi One hundred twelfth
 Gaynor Cawley One hundred thirteenth
 Frank A. Serafini One hundred fourteenth
 Edward G. Staback One hundred fifteenth
 Todd A. Eachus One hundred sixteenth
 George C. Hasay One hundred seventeenth
 Thomas M. Tigue One hundred eighteenth
 John T. Yudichak One hundred nineteenth
 Phyllis Mundy One hundred twentieth
 Kevin Blaum One hundred twenty-first
 Keith McCall One hundred twenty-second
 Edward J. Lucyk One hundred twenty-third
 David G. Argall One hundred twenty-fourth
 Bob Allen One hundred twenty-fifth
 Dante Santoni, Jr. One hundred twenty-sixth
 Thomas R. Caltagirone One hundred twenty-seventh
 Samuel E. Rohrer One hundred twenty-eighth
 Sheila Miller One hundred twenty-ninth
 Dennis E. Leh One hundred thirtieth
 Pat Browne One hundred thirty-first
 Jennifer Mann One hundred thirty-second
 T. J. Rooney One hundred thirty-third
 Don Snyder One hundred thirty-fourth
 Steve Samuelson One hundred thirty-fifth
 Robert Freeman One hundred thirty-sixth
 Richard T. Grucela One hundred thirty-seventh
 Craig A. Dally One hundred thirty-eighth
 Jerry Birmelin One hundred thirty-ninth
 Thomas C. Corrigan, Sr. One hundred fortieth
 Anthony J. Melio One hundred forty-first
 Matthew N. Wright One hundred forty-second
 Chuck McIlhinney One hundred forty-third
 Thomas W. Druce One hundred forty-fourth
 Paul Irvin Clymer One hundred forty-fifth
 Mary Ann Dailey One hundred forty-sixth
 Raymond Bunt, Jr. One hundred forty-seventh
 Lita Indzel Cohen One hundred forty-eighth
 Connie Williams One hundred forty-ninth
 John A. Lawless One hundred fiftieth
 Eugene F. McGill One hundred fifty-first
 Roy W. Cornell One hundred fifty-second
 Ellen M. Bard One hundred fifty-third
 Lawrence H. Curry One hundred fifty-fourth
 Curt Schroder One hundred fifty-fifth
 Elinor Z. Taylor One hundred fifty-sixth
 Carole A. Rubley One hundred fifty-seventh
 Chris Ross One hundred fifty-eighth
 Thaddeus Kirkland One hundred fifty-ninth
 Stephen Barrar One hundred sixtieth
 Tom Gannon One hundred sixty-first
 Ron Raymond One hundred sixty-second
 Nicholas A. Micozzie One hundred sixty-third
 Mario J. Civera, Jr. One hundred sixty-fourth
 William F. Adolph, Jr. One hundred sixty-fifth
 Greg Vitali One hundred sixty-sixth

Bob Flick One hundred sixty-seventh
 Matthew J. Ryan One hundred sixty-eighth
 Dennis M. O'Brien One hundred sixty-ninth
 George T. Kenney, Jr. One hundred seventieth
 Kerry A. Benninghoff One hundred seventy-first
 John M. Perzel One hundred seventy-second
 Michael P. McGeehan One hundred seventy-third
 Alan Butkovitz One hundred seventy-fourth
 Marie Lederer One hundred seventy-fifth
 Chris Wogan One hundred seventy-sixth
 John J. Taylor One hundred seventy-seventh
 Roy Reinard One hundred seventy-eighth
 William W. Rieger One hundred seventy-ninth
 Benjamin Ramos One hundred eightieth
 W. Curtis Thomas One hundred eighty-first
 Babette Josephs One hundred eighty-second
 Julie Harhart One hundred eighty-third
 William F. Keller One hundred eighty-fourth
 Robert C. Donatucci One hundred eighty-fifth
 Harold James One hundred eighty-sixth
 Paul W. Semmel One hundred eighty-seventh
 James R. Roebuck One hundred eighty-eighth
 Joseph W. Battisto One hundred eighty-ninth
 Mike Horsey One hundred ninetieth
 Anthony Hardy Williams One hundred ninety-first
 Louise Williams Bishop One hundred ninety-second
 Steven R. Nickol One hundred ninety-third
 Kathy Manderino One hundred ninety-fourth
 Frank L. Oliver One hundred ninety-fifth
 Todd Platts One hundred ninety-sixth
 Andrew J. Carn One hundred ninety-seventh
 Rosita C. Youngblood One hundred ninety-eighth
 Albert H. Masland One hundred ninety-ninth
 LeAnna M. Washington Two hundredth
 John Myers Two hundred first
 Mark B. Cohen Two hundred second
 Dwight Evans Two hundred third

as the same have been certified to and filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the sixty-seven County Boards of Elections.

(Seal) Witness my hand and the seal of my office
 this eighteenth day of December, 1998.

Kim Pizzigrilli
 Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth

CERTIFICATE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 GREETINGS:

In accordance with the provisions of Section (1632(b) of the Pennsylvania Election Code [25 P.S. § 3252(b)], I do hereby certify that all duly elected members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have filed all of the reports and statements of contributions and expenditures required by the provisions of Article XVI of the Pennsylvania Election Code entitled "Primary and Election Expenses."

(Seal) Witness my hand and the seal of my office
 this eighteenth day of December, 1998.

Kim Pizzigrilli
Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth

The CHIEF CLERK. The election returns for all candidates for membership in the House of Representatives will be printed in the Journal of the House.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The CHIEF CLERK. Are there requests for leaves of absence?

The Chair recognizes the majority whip, Mr. Snyder.

Mr. SNYDER. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

We do not have any leaves of absence for today.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the Democratic whip, Mr. Veon.

Mr. VEON. No leaves for today.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

ROLL CALL

The CHIEF CLERK. The roll will now be taken, and the members will signify their presence by pressing the "aye" button. Members will proceed to vote.

The roll was recorded, and the following members—elect were present:

YEAS—202

Adolph	Evans	Manderino	Saylor
Allen	Fairchild	Mann	Schroder
Argall	Fargo	Markosek	Schuler
Armstrong	Feese	Marsico	Scrimenti
Baker	Fichter	Masland	Semmel
Bard	Fleagle	Mayermik	Serafini
Barley	Flick	McCall	Seyfert
Barrar	Forcier	McGeehan	Shaner
Bastian	Frankel	McGill	Smith, B.
Battisto	Freeman	McIlhattan	Smith, S. H.
Bebko-Jones	Gannon	McIlhinney	Snyder
Belardi	Geist	McNaughton	Solobay
Belfanti	George	Melio	Staback
Berninghoff	Gigliotti	Metcalfe	Stairs
Birmelin	Gladeck	Michlovic	Steelman
Bishop	Godshall	Micozzie	Steil
Blaum	Gordner	Miller, R.	Stern
Boyes	Grucela	Miller, S.	Stetler
Browne	Gruitza	Mundy	Stevenson
Bunt	Habay	Myers	Strittmatter
Butkovitz	Haluska	Nailor	Sturla
Buxton	Hanna	Nickol	Surra
Caltagirone	Harhai	O'Brien	Tangretti
Cappabianca	Harhart	Oliver	Taylor, E. Z.
Carn	Hasay	Orie	Taylor, J.
Casorio	Hennessey	Perzel	Thomas
Cawley	Herman	Pesci	Tigue
Chadwick	Hershey	Petrarca	Travaglio
Civera	Hess	Petrone	Trello
Clark	Horsley	Phillips	Trich
Clymer	Hutchinson	Pippy	True
Cohen, L. I.	Jadlowiec	Pistella	Tulli
Cohen, M.	James	Platts	Vance
Colafrella	Josephs	Preston	Van Home
Cornell	Kaiser	Ramos	Veon
Corrigan	Keller	Raymond	Vitali
Costa	Kenney	Readshaw	Walko
Coy	Kirkland	Reinard	Washington
Curry	Krebs	Rieger	Williams
Dailey	LaGrotta	Roberts	Wilt
Daley	Laughlin	Robinson	Wogan
Dally	Lawless	Roebuck	Wojnaroski

DeLuca	Lederer	Rohrer	Wright
Dempsey	Leh	Rooney	Yewcic
Dermody	Lescovitz	Ross	Youngblood
DeWeese	Levdansky	Rubley	Yudichak
DiGirolamo	Lucyk	Ruffing	Zimmerman
Donatucci	Lynch	Sainato	Zug
Druce	Maher	Samuelson	
Eachus	Maitland	Santoni	Ryan,
Egolf	Major	Sather	Speaker

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

The CHIEF CLERK. Two hundred and two members having indicated their presence, a quorum is present.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MEMBERS—ELECT

The CHIEF CLERK. A Bible has been placed on the desk of each member, for those who swear by the Bible.

Members will rise, place your left hand on the Bible, raise your right hand, and remain standing at your desk during the administration of the oath to which members will swear or affirm.

The oath of office will be administered by the Honorable Stephen J. McEwen, Jr., President Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

(Members—elect stood.)

JUDGE McEWEN. How honored I am to participate in the grand event of the ceremony of the oath for the distinguished members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to do so in a chamber which has been restored to its original glory and magnificence so as to enable this 183d session of the House to greet the new millennium, under the guidance, of course, this restoration project, under the guidance of your serene and splendid Speaker, Matthew J. Ryan.

My ministerial role as administrator of the oath precludes the full expression of the honor I feel, and so I proceed to the brief aspiration that Heaven will, during your tenure, bless you with an enhanced vision of the reign of the law and of the precedence of providence and nature, thereby providing an especial insight during deliberation and wisdom during decision, as you build upon the heritage of our founders a just and sound edifice for the citizenry of our Commonwealth.

Will the distinguished Representatives place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand, please.

Do you and each of you solemnly swear that you will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that you will discharge the duties of your office with fidelity? Please answer "I do."

(Members asserted oaths.)

JUDGE McEWEN. Thank you. Thank you all, and congratulations.

The CHIEF CLERK. Members will please be seated.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED**ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

Mr. FEESE offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives
January 5, 1999

RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Article II, Section 9, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the House do now proceed to the election of a Speaker.

NOMINATIONS FOR SPEAKER

The CHIEF CLERK. Nominations are now in order for the office of Speaker.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you.

President Judge McEwen, Mr. Chief Clerk, colleagues, family members, honored guests: Welcome to this historic chamber, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Before we get too far along here this morning in the proceedings, I would like to give a special welcome to the wife of our next Speaker. In a few moments, she will have the honor of administering the oath of office of Speaker to her husband, Matt Ryan. Please join me in welcoming the Honorable Patricia H. Jenkins, judge of the Common Pleas Court of Delaware County, to this historic House of Representatives for this occasion. Judge Jenkins, welcome.

I use the word "historic." "Historic" is a word we perhaps use more than we should. When we try to underscore the importance of an event, we label it "historic." As politicians, we sometimes fall prey to the use of hyperbole. I know because on a few occasions — just a few, mind you — I have given in to that temptation. As we elect our next Speaker today, you are going to undoubtedly hear the word "historic" more than just a few times. For once, for once, we really will be using the word in its proper context.

Today Matt Ryan, son of Thomas and Kathleen Ryan, father of 5, grandfather of 10, marine lieutenant and respected attorney, begins his 37th year as a member of this House.

I also like to remind Matt that I was a busboy and that he was a lifeguard at Avalon, which we do not talk about a whole lot.

Since 1682, when the Pennsylvania House first met, a little bit more than a month after William Penn arrived here from England, very few members have served longer careers in this body. That is a period of 317 years, from the opening of the first Provincial Assembly to today's beginning of the last session of this millennium. Only two others have served here longer, and few have served with as much distinction and honor as our Matt Ryan.

On its own, that is an extraordinary achievement, but Matt Ryan is much more than a man who has had the good fortune to serve residents of Delaware County in this House for nearly four decades. Matt Ryan is who we all strive to be as members of this House. If someone made a mold that would be used to create members of this House, that mold would be Matt Ryan: vision, fairness, dignity, loyalty; understanding the issues and the

ramifications of the decisions made in this chamber; knowing when to wage the battle and knowing when to make peace; knowing when to scold and knowing when to calmly put his arm around your shoulder and say it is finally time to vote "yes"; knowing when to tap the gavel lightly and knowing when to bang it hard to get our attention. We know that sound, and we all obey.

Matt Ryan is my mentor, my teacher, my older brother, and my friend, here in Harrisburg and back at home.

From Matt Ryan, I have learned that success comes from the decisions that you make — decisions based on gathering information from many sources, from knowing the opinions of the different members, building coalitions, and, I believe, most importantly, from being prepared for the unexpected. From Matt Ryan, I have learned that success comes to those who spend more time listening than talking; success comes from knowing when to speak and when to remain silent. Before you say anything, Matt, I know I still have a whole lot to learn in that regard. Yes, Matt Ryan should be the mold that every legislator is cut from.

Over the past 4 years, with Matt Ryan as our Speaker, we have been successful as a legislative body. Republicans and Democrats working together, we have changed Pennsylvania. We do not agree on every issue, but on the whole, the members of this House work together, making Pennsylvania a better place to live for our children and our grandchildren. That has not happened by accident. Always there, steering us, guiding us, sometimes speeding us up, sometimes slowing us down, always trying to quiet us, is the presence of Matt Ryan.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is truly a historic day. In just a few moments, we are going to engage in a historic vote as we elect Matt Ryan Speaker of this great House. When we elect Matt Ryan as our Speaker, we place him in position to become the longest serving Speaker in the last 200 years. This will be his fourth term as Speaker. At the end of this session, in November of 2000, Matt will have served 8 years as Speaker of this House. He is the longest serving Republican Speaker since the inception of the Republican Party back in the mid-1850s. That is a century ago. That, my friends, is truly a historic mark.

Please remember, you do not become Speaker simply because you — It is really a historic thing for Matt.

Please remember that you do not become Speaker just because you have been here a very long time. You become Speaker because you have qualities that stand out above the crowd. You become Speaker because God has given you something, a quality of leadership. You cannot see it, you cannot feel it, you cannot touch it, but you know it and you know when someone has it, and Matt Ryan has it, and history will record it. Matt Ryan is one of Pennsylvania's greatest leaders ever.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me as I have the privilege and distinct honor of placing the name of the Honorable Matthew J. Ryan of Delaware County in nomination as Speaker of this House of Representatives.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Perzel, places in nomination for the office of Speaker the gentleman from Delaware County, the Honorable Matthew J. Ryan.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Gannon.

Mr. GANNON. Mr. Chief Clerk, it is my honor and privilege to second the nomination of the Honorable Matthew Ryan for Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

In preparation for my remarks today, I took the opportunity to review my comments made at this podium almost 2 years ago when I spoke on behalf of the nomination of Representative Ryan. I wondered what more or what else I could say about my friend, Matt Ryan, in support of his nomination to Speaker of the House of Representatives.

At that time I said that Matt was tenacious, determined, and tolerant. I said he had the talents, the skills, and the principles of an energetic, capable, and effective leader, and most important, he was blessed with the gift of a wonderful Irish wit. My view of Matt has not changed.

I could stand here today and repeat my remarks with the same passion and sincerity as I did 2 years ago, but in composing what I would say today in offering Matt Ryan to this body as the nominee for Speaker, I considered if I could distill all of those attributes and qualifications into just one single word. After some thought, I concluded that word is "character." I believe all in this chamber will agree that Representative Matt Ryan represents the essence of the character of the type of person who should lead this House of Representatives into the next millennium.

No one sits in our Speaker's Chair by right or by gift. To take the podium as Speaker of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania is an honor that is earned, and it is earned from each and every member of this chamber.

During his 36 years of service to the people of Pennsylvania, Representative Matthew Ryan has brought dignity, respect, and wisdom to this House. I believe that Matthew Ryan has earned our respect, our friendship, and our support.

As I said 2 years ago as I stood at this podium, I stand here and say today, Matthew Ryan has continuously displayed an unwavering commitment to our shared goal to make Pennsylvania the best place in the world to live, to work, and to raise our families.

It is with honor and pride that I ask my fellow members to elect Matthew Ryan Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1999–2000 session of the General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Gannon, seconds the nomination of Mr. Ryan for the office of Speaker.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Blair County, Mr. Geist.

Mr. GEIST. Thank you very much, Mr. Chief Clerk.

It certainly is a pleasure for me to rise once again to second the nomination of Matt Ryan for Speaker of the House.

Twenty years ago, when the previous speakers at this podium, John Perzel and Tommy Gannon, and I came in as freshmen, the State of Pennsylvania was hovering at about 20 percent unemployment, the inflation rate was about 20 percent, and we had 102 Republican members of the House, and we had an Irish wit from Delaware County as our leader, Matt Ryan.

Through the good times and through the bad times of this House of Representatives, and as John Perzel says, historic times, and at times it has also been hysteric, because when the tough times really come, Matt Ryan's ability to diffuse situations that could really end up going ballistic is a true talent.

If he was not Speaker of the House, he would be Ambassador to Ireland. If he was not Ambassador of Ireland, he would be guiding fishing tours off the coast of New Jersey. But for those of

us in Pennsylvania, we are truly fortunate to have a person serve in public service as long as Matt Ryan has.

In this day and age of tabloid journalism and full-contact politics, Matt Ryan brings a very refreshing air about it. He adds dignity and class in a profession that takes an enormous amount of effort and talent.

I stand here, as an 11-term member of the House, truly excited about the fact that I have the privilege of seconding the nomination of Matt Ryan as Speaker of the House. Thank you.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Blair County, Mr. Geist, seconds the nomination of Mr. Ryan for the office of Speaker.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin County, Mr. Tulli.

Mr. TULLI. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

I move that nominations now be closed.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Dauphin County, Mr. Tulli, moves that nominations now be closed.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

The CHIEF CLERK. Those in favor of Matthew J. Ryan from Delaware County for the office of Speaker of the House will say "aye"; those opposed, "no." The "ayes" have it, and Matthew J. Ryan is unanimously elected Speaker of the House.

Congratulations, Mr. Ryan.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT SPEAKER-ELECT TO ROSTRUM

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair appoints the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Perzel, and the gentleman from Greene County, Mr. DeWeese, to escort Speaker-elect Ryan to the rostrum.

The committee to escort the Speaker will proceed with the performance of its duties.

The Chair recognizes the chairman of the committee, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Chief Clerk, I have the honor of presenting the Speaker-elect, Matthew J. Ryan.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO SPEAKER-ELECT RYAN

The CHIEF CLERK. The oath of office to the Speaker-elect will now be administered by the Honorable Patricia H. Jenkins, judge of Delaware County Court of Common Pleas and the wife of the Speaker-elect.

JUDGE JENKINS. Placing your left hand on the Bible and raising your right, repeat after me: I, Matthew J. Ryan, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that I will discharge the duties of my office as Speaker of the House with fidelity.

(Speaker-elect Ryan asserted oath.)

JUDGE JENKINS. Congratulations.

The SPEAKER. See, it is handy to have a judge. Thank you.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair requests the Honorable K. Leroy Irvis, former member of this House and Speaker in 1977–78 and from 1983 to 1988, to take the Chair for the purpose of presenting the gavel to Speaker Ryan.

Mr. IRVIS. The most productive years of my life were spent here, and I hope that all of you heard the sound of the future, not the voices of the present or the past, as we gathered here. Did you hear the small children cry out? Did you hear their voices? Do you know what it meant? They are the reasons you and I are here – not those of us who are grandfathers and grandmothers and mothers and fathers – the babies; the beginnings; the people for whom you will, I trust, continue to develop the greatest Commonwealth known to man, the Commonwealth where each one of us has a right to be heard and a right to be represented.

I was asked, as I stayed here for a few moments, if I miss this. The answer is yes; I miss it very much. But as I stand here looking at your faces and hearing your voices and knowing that you have elected this good and fair and decent man to head this parliament, I am pleased; I am grateful; I am honored to be here with you.

Matthew Ryan, as your friend, I present to you the gavel of office, knowing that you, as always, will use it correctly, fairly, and decently. Congratulations, Matt.

THE SPEAKER (MATTHEW J. RYAN) PRESIDING

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Thank you very much.

You will notice that I take orders from my wife and Paul Vathis.

Prior to making remarks, I would like to say a few words about Leroy Irvis. I am flattered, truly flattered, that he would participate in this ceremony as he has in others. I consider him a friend. I consider him more than a friend. I consider and did consider him a mentor of a sort. I watched Leroy Irvis preside as Speaker of this House as I have watched other Speakers, and he was fair and he was firm, and I think that is all that is required to be a good Speaker. There are a lot of other things that can be brought into it, but fairness and firmness at the appropriate times is the keystone, and here is a man who really met those marks. On a zero to 10, he was a 15 every time, and I want to publicly thank him for being the man he is.

This is the fourth time I have had the pleasure on swearing-in day of greeting members of this chamber, the husbands, wives, children, parents, and other relatives. Welcome to the opening ceremonies of the 183d session of the House of Representatives.

This is also the fourth time I have the honor of accepting the position of Speaker of the House. It is the job I wanted so many years ago when I arrived as a freshman, and I thank you, the ladies and gentlemen of this House, for this opportunity. I am humbled by the honor and privilege you have granted me this day. I say that sincerely to you, and I think you know it is sincere.

Today is a day of warmth and celebration – a day for fellowship, families, friendship, and flowers, lots of flowers. Also, today marks a new beginning for those of us who are in the business of making laws, and today also marks the beginning of Pennsylvania's final legislative session of the millennium – the session that brings us into the year 2000. And speaking of millenniums, this day also marks the beginning of my 37th year in the House.

When I started here many years ago, Mr. Irvis was a member, like me, and we did not have offices, we did not have secretaries, we did not have staff, and certainly, we never had home offices. We worked out of our briefcases and stood in line to use telephones. There were two telephone booths for the 106 or 108 members of the Republican Party, and we walked up to the lady that was in charge of that, and I would write down a telephone number for a long-distance call, and I would wait in line, and then I would finally get there; she would dial it for me, and I would hear the ring, and invariably, the ring was busy, and you came around and you got back in line again. That is what we had in 1963, but it is not true today.

Many things have changed since those days. Laws I voted upon and voted for have been repealed, they have been amended, and some were even found to be unconstitutional. But one thing never changed: the people and the friendships.

The House of Representatives is like a fraternity, a sorority, or a unit of military service perhaps. The main thing that you, the members, will remember throughout your lives is the camaraderie and the friendships that have been forged here during your years, not the bills that were passed or the court decisions or the floor speeches.

I was reminded of these friendships by the members who left the House at the end of the last session, and I sat here and listened to each man and woman as they came up and they used the Speaker's rostrum to make their final remarks to this House as members. Each retiring member, in the final hours of his last session or her last session, as they came to the rostrum for remarks, underscored that the most important part of their experience here in Harrisburg and what we will miss most when we leave are the friendships – male and female, Republican and Democrat. We have made these friendships and molded them through the years of our membership.

Some with breaking voices and tear-filled eyes said goodbye to us, and the older members, those who were here prior to this, remember that. Two who were elected to the State Senate spoke with pride of the personal relationships they built here in this House. Ivan Itkin, a distinguished Democratic floor leader for many years, a candidate for Governor, took this rostrum and he said farewell after 26 years as a Representative, and he stated that his fellow members of the House are among the finest people he has ever known. All 14 men and women who left indicated that the friendships made during their tenures will be cherished for a lifetime, and you, the new members, will find the same thing will be true.

Today we begin with a clean slate. We have yet to introduce HB 1, but that is not far behind, and it will be followed by many more.

With our clean slate and with this session that brings in the new millennium comes something else: a fresh face. The Capitol Complex's fresh face has been provided by artisans who have combined old techniques with new technologies. Look around you.

This magnificent chamber was both renovated and updated just this past fall — a process which is still under way, incidentally. Members and staff are moving back into the renovated and restored Annex. A repaired and regilded statue, "Commonwealth," has returned to her perch on top of this chamber. The scaffolding that encapsulated the Capitol and the Annex has come down, revealing a revived, regenerated, and spectacular facade.

Within the next 6 years, the entire Capitol will have been restored to its original splendor, and this renaissance coincides with safety, technological, and infrastructure upgrades.

I am deviating from my speech for a minute.

Leroy Irvis and I, back in 1978–79, bit this bullet called renovation and preservation, and it is something that is the most proud thing I have been part of here, and I am sure it stands very high on the list of Speaker Irvis.

These stately, superb buildings can be the emblem of a renewed and restored Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania: the State that has reinvented itself many times since its inception over 300 years ago and now is on the brink of a new century. Like the Capitol Complex, it will be more brilliant, more exciting than ever before.

Splendid as these buildings are, the Capitol's true value and majesty are also measured by the dedicated work of the good men and women elected by the citizens to serve here. Members of this House will come together for the special purpose of making laws based solely on the public will and the public trust.

This system, instituted by William Penn, is based on the same principles of our forebears and founders of this great State and nation. The members of this House are the legal successors and preservers of the government of Penn. We are the inheritors, the guardians, of freedom of speech, freedom of religion and assembly by a society under a constitution.

Today we took a solemn oath to serve with fidelity, and as we move into the next millennium, let us also vow to be guided in our public service by loyalty to our oath of office, our constituents, this institution, and our families and friends; by wisdom that rises above personal, partisan, and special interests; and by honesty that confronts things as they truly are; and last but not least, by strength of character that guides us with integrity in all that we do.

Let us now go forward this day to accomplish those things with trust in God and faith in ourselves.

Thank you very much.

If I may, as an aside — I made notes to do this first, so I want to explain it that way — today we had Louise Bishop, one of our members, act as the opening Chaplain, and we are very proud of her, and we have relied on her any number of times to do exactly what she did so well here today, and I thank her.

There were a few wet eyes in the House as Miss Pennsylvania, Mayra Acosta, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." I thought it was absolutely outstanding. I at least had the opportunity to shake her hand and tell her that, and I think the rest of you can do it, if you would like, at this time.

President Judge Stephen McEwen kissed the Blarney stone shortly before coming in here today, but that is a license that I can grant him, if you will. Steve and I were classmates all through high school. We knew one another back in grade school, and until he went to the wrong college, we were friends all the way through. The Hawk is dead. And of course, I thank Steve for his job, and my wife, Pat, I of course thank her very much.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. Now, here today I have some family with me. There is my daughter, Katie, and her husband, Cyler Walker.

And sitting next to Cyler — he is almost family — is Sam Hayes, Secretary of Agriculture. You remember him. He was here for 20 years, 25 years. Stand up, Sam.

We have in the first row, watching me closely, the Secretary of Revenue, Bob Judge.

The Auditor General is two steps behind him, watching his books, Bob Casey.

The chairman of the Republican Party and chairman of the Chester County Republican Party, Alan Novak, and his wife.

Former Speaker of the House Robert O'Donnell and his wife, Donna.

I thought I had another one of my kids here, but I do not see her. Well, too late.

PRESENTATION OF COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL

The SPEAKER. Mr. Chief Clerk, you are recognized for the purpose of presentation of a commemorative gavel.

The CHIEF CLERK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is my privilege to present this commemorative gavel to a man that displays the leadership and integrity that makes the House of Representatives an honorable institution. I am proud to have Matt Ryan as Speaker of the House of Representatives and as my friend.

Congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

GUEST INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. There is another longtime public servant with us today, Johnny Zubeck, who for more years than I can remember was Chief Clerk of this House. John.

HON. H. WILLIAM DeWEESE INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. Last and certainly not least is another former Speaker of this House, with whom we do battle regularly and make up regularly — Bill DeWeese, Democratic floor leader.

PLACING OF MACE

The SPEAKER. The oath of office having been taken by the members of the House and the Speaker being elected, the Chair instructs the Sergeant at Arms to now place the mace on the rostrum. The mace is the symbol of authority of this House. When the mace is at the Speaker's right, the House is in session.

(Mace was placed on rostrum.)

PARLIAMENTARIAN APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. In compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth authorizing the Speaker to appoint a Parliamentarian, the Chair appoints Clancy Myer as Parliamentarian of the House.

Clancy, congratulations.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJORITY FLOOR LEADERS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mercer County, Mr. Fargo, for the purpose of making an announcement.

Mr. FARGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As chairman of the Republican Caucus, I have been instructed to announce for the information of the members of the House and for the record that the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Perzel, has been elected majority leader by the Republican Caucus and that the gentleman from Lehigh County, Mr. Snyder, has been elected majority whip. Furthermore, the gentledady from Chester County, Mrs. Taylor, has been elected caucus secretary; the gentleman from Montgomery County, Mr. Cornell, has been elected policy chairman; the gentleman from Northumberland County, Mr. Phillips, has been elected caucus administrator; and the gentleman from Lancaster County, Mr. Barley, has been elected chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADERS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. Cohen.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, for the information of all in attendance today and for the record, in the Democratic Caucus elections Michael Veon of Beaver County was elected for the first time as Democratic whip and Victor Lescovitz of Washington County was elected for the first time as Democratic policy committee chairman. H. William DeWeese of Greene County was reelected Democratic leader; I, Mark Cohen of Philadelphia County, was reelected Democratic caucus chairman; Jeffrey Coy of Franklin County was reelected Democratic caucus secretary; Fred Belardi of Lackawanna County was reelected Democratic caucus administrator; and Dwight Evans of Philadelphia County was reelected Democratic Appropriations Committee chairman.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the lady from Chester County, Mrs. Taylor, for the purpose of introducing the new members on the Republican side to the House.

Mrs. TAYLOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the Republican caucus secretary, I have the honor to introduce the new members of the Republican Caucus. I welcome them to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, as I welcome

the new members on both sides of the aisle who have come here to serve the people of this great Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, as I call the names of the new members of the Republican Caucus, I will ask them if they would please stand. Please hold any applause until I have completed the introduction of all the members.

Bob Bastian; Mary Ann Dailey; Daryl Metcalfe; Ron Miller.
Welcome to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER. The Chair at this time recognizes the gentleman from Franklin County, Mr. Coy, to introduce the freshman members of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. COY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. DeWeese is glad to know that I will be reading a few more names.

The SPEAKER. I am happy though.

Mr. COY. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to introduce the new members who have been elected to the Democratic Caucus to serve in this session of the House of Representatives, and I would ask them all to rise, and to all of you, recognize them at the conclusion of the reading of their names.

From Allegheny County, the gentleman, Representative Paul Costa; also from Allegheny County, Representative Dan Frankel; from Northampton County, a reelected Representative, having served previously and now back, Representative Robert Freeman; from Northampton County, Representative Richard Grucela; from Lehigh County, the gentledady, Representative Jennifer Mann; from Allegheny County, Representative Kenneth Ruffing; from a district representing Northampton and Lehigh Counties, Representative Steve Samuelson; from Washington County, Representative Timothy Solobay; and from Luzerne County, Representative John Yudichak.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER. The Chair at this time recognizes the majority leader, Mr. Perzel, for remarks.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to mention that the last time the Republican Party controlled this legislature for three terms in a row was 1948, 1950, and 1952, and I say that because last night at dinner, Matt Ryan said he was pleased to have the privilege of being in charge of the legislature at the beginning of this millennium, and you all heard how long he has been here; he wants to be in charge at the beginning of the next millennium. So, Matt, with a little luck, that next thousand years will not be that hard.

The SPEAKER. It will pass quickly, I am sure.

Mr. PERZEL. Before I get into my speech, I wanted to mention a couple things.

I think you heard that the legislature. this is our 317th year, and in Philadelphia, Independence Hall — a couple members that I talked to did not know this — that was the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and they leased that to the Continental Congress so that they could meet there and form the United States of America. I mention that because a member here not too long ago told me that nobody could replace him, and I told him — and you will appreciate this — that Ben Franklin was a member, and if you

all take a look around, Ben Franklin is not here but all the seats are taken. And I say that because, you know, we are not the Philadelphia Flyers; when you are done here, we do not put your number up in the back of the hall of the House and say nobody can ever represent that area again. Someone else will represent the area. So I am saying that so that you have the opportunity truly to cherish this moment.

I have been very, very fortunate. I tell people I come from the city of Philadelphia, where in Philadelphia they hate me because I am a Republican; then they hate me in Harrisburg because I come from Philadelphia. So I take rejection cheerfully, no matter which way I go.

But truly, truly, you should honestly cherish this, because some of you may be here for a lot of years, some of you may never come back again, some of you may decide not to run again, so it is truly an experience like none you will ever have again in your lives. And again, I thank the members for the privilege of serving as the majority leader here — the members of my side; I was not elected by the other side — but I appreciate that opportunity. A couple times I was going to try to get elected on the other side, but I have not had any luck yet.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome every member, their families, their guests, to this House of Representatives on this historic opening session. I would like again to offer my greetings and congratulations to the newly elected and now sworn-in members who are taking their place among us for the first time today.

I used the word “historic” earlier today, because as you know, this session is the last biennial session of the millennium. The next time we meet like this will be the year 2001. In this session, we hold the key to the coming millennium in our collective hands.

I offer you again, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations once more on your election to a fourth term as Speaker.

I would also, Mr. Speaker, like to offer my greetings and congratulations to the other Speaker who joined you here today, Speaker Irvis. I have only one certificate of election hanging on my wall at my home, and it is signed by Speaker Irvis, and I cherish that. I am proud to have it hanging there, and I am proud to count Speaker Irvis as a friend. Like Speaker Ryan, you, Speaker Irvis, are a rock upon which this House sits so well today. It is good to have you here with us once again.

Speaker O'Donnell, a longtime friend, welcome back.

Speaker DeWeese, it is good to have you here today, and we like you right where you are.

Just briefly, let me touch on highlights of the session that was completed just this past November.

We cut taxes by hundreds of millions of dollars. We focused — successfully — to improve access to quality care for every Pennsylvania family. We approved charter school legislation and began to seriously deal with the mess in the Philadelphia schools. We took the first step to help our overtaxed homeowners in school districts across this great State. We began to focus on making our schools safe so teachers can teach and our children and our grandchildren can learn. We created the Keystone Opportunity Zone Program to spur development in our communities that need that help the most.

But, Mr. Speaker, that was last session. Good news, but, all the same, yesterday's news.

We are now in a session, the final session, again, as I mentioned, of the millennium. We have been elected, all of us here

today, from first-term to veteran members, to lead Pennsylvania into the 21st century. So where are we going, and how are we going to get there? That is our challenge in the coming weeks and months ahead. Your input and your participation will be crucial. We will not get there by operating solely as Democrats or Republicans. We will get there by working together in a bipartisan manner, as we have worked together truly over the past 4 years. We will get there by focusing on the needs of every Pennsylvanian — every Pennsylvanian — not just those who have greater resources at their disposal and not just those who are at the other end of the economic scale. We must, Mr. Speaker, put more focus on how we serve every Pennsylvanian, especially the hardworking families whose tax dollars support every State program.

Many of you have heard me speak of a modest personal income tax cut in the coming session. It would be a tax cut for those families that need it most. They have been waiting. We need to respond. Yes, our income tax is among the nation's lowest, but it is still a tax on millions of Pennsylvania families. Last year 30 States reduced the personal income tax burden on working men and women, and I hope this year, Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania can be the first.

Mr. Speaker, of those 30 States who reduced the personal income tax last year, 19 also reduced their business taxes as well. We can do that, too, for we must continue to make Pennsylvania an attractive place to establish a business and create new and better paying jobs.

We can help our hardworking families by building on our successes and improving the quality of education for our children and our grandchildren. We want to make sure that our many good schools become even better schools, and we want to provide opportunities for schools which need to rise to the next level of excellence. I look forward to working with the members to develop a strong child-focused, achievement-oriented education agenda this session.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, this could be a crucial year for welfare reform. Over the past 4 years, in partnership with the Federal government, we took long-overdue steps to move tens of thousands of people from dependence to lives of dignity and lives of respect. We need to measure the success of our reform. If it has worked, how can we make it even better? If it has not achieved the results that were advertised, what changes must be made to meet the goal of moving people away from depending on taxpayer handouts to becoming self-supporting wage earners? Where will that lead us? I do not know that answer, Mr. Speaker, but I would hazard a guess that we can find ways to save taxpayers' hard-earned money while continuing to help move more men and women off of the public assistance rolls. While we do this, we will continue to maintain Pennsylvania's historic commitment to those who cannot care for themselves — our children, those in ill health, and our older Pennsylvanian population.

This will be a busy, enlightening, challenging session. It is a session where we hold the key to the coming millennium in our hands. It will be up to each of us individually and all of us collectively, as Republicans and Democrats working together, to move Pennsylvania forward.

I look forward to working with each one of you to meet the challenges that are before us for these next 2 years.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and good luck in your new job.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REMARKS BY DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER. The Chair at this time recognizes the Democratic floor leader, Mr. DeWeese.

Mr. DeWEESE. "...with...greedy ear Devour up my discourse." — "Othello," Act I. Mr. Speaker, nobody ever devours up my discourse, but while this room is coruscating with new lights and refulgent with the blazonry of these garlands of flowers, I just hoped that the invocation of the mighty father of the English stage would be appropriate. The mighty father of the GOP is with us today, and we will momentarily resuscitate Shakespeare and then get on with our other matters.

Congratulations, Matt Ryan, Speaker of the House.

Speaker Irvis, it is good to see you.

Speaker O'Donnell, welcome back to our chamber.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, but primarily, primarily, Bob Freeman, welcome back. Bob is a history major, has a master's degree. He will not let me get away with anything, historically. He will not let Matt get away with anything either, unless Matt has got more votes, which he normally does.

But we have got Steve Samuelson, straight out of the Jaycees and the boards and commissions of his hometown, here with us today, and young Jennifer Mann, the only person that I know in recent years who has got a family anchored in the organized labor movement and her own personal small business experience.

We have Rich Grucela and his family here. Rich has over 30 years in a classroom, and notwithstanding the perplexities and vituperations and vexations of the modern schoolteacher, he is a manifestation of all that is good about schoolteachers and schoolteaching, and we must, as my worthy colleague, John Perzel, said a few moments ago, we must focus our perspectives on a child-centered educational agenda here in 1999 and the year 2000.

John Yudichak from Bethlehem — excuse me — Plymouth. I knew it was historical but it is not quite 2,000 years old. I am getting carried away, but they will tell you I have been carried away before. In fact, I was carried away from up there about 4 years ago. Yudichak has a background in English literature, so if no one else appreciated my initial pronouncements from "Othello," I hope that those rarefied, honey-tongued words were appreciated by John Yudichak.

And then we will go from the swiftly coursing Lehigh and the hardscrabble fields of northeastern Pennsylvania and approach the crimson ramparts of the Alleghenies and approach Allegheny County — Paul Costa, Paul Costa. Generations ago Paul Costa's family journeyed across the Laurel Highlands and settled at the confluence of the Allegheny and the Monongahela and got involved in public service, and three generations later Paul Costa carries that banner of public service forward from Allegheny County to the inimitable halls of the General Assembly.

Dan Frankel. Dan's dad, Robert, had me on the golf course this summer and showed me that artfulness and dexterity at the fire hall microphone would not do me any good on the 13th green. Dan's involvement in business and in his community is anchored as deeply as anybody I have ever served with, and he is also, more than anybody I have ever served with, more than any freshman, involved in the hardscrabble, gut excitement of our political venue, of our political work. George Will talks about baseball players, and he calls them men at work. Well, someday he will say men and women at work when he updates the book, but politics and

politicians do work. Some people gainsay that declaration, but that is just not so.

Kenny Ruffing, Kenny Ruffing, from the borough council of West Mifflin, his wife, Karen, and his young son, here in this wonderful setting for the first time, excited and hopeful and experiencing the joie de vivre. I do not know much French, but the joy of living. I thought I would just throw that in right now since I was momentarily at a loss for words — the joie de vivre. Kenny Frankel — Kenny Frankel; that is an interesting juxtaposition — Ken Ruffing and the joie de vivre. I want Dermody to tell me about that later in the day.

This has obviously an element of casuality, and it should. The very formal moments of Mr. Ryan's swearing-in were pertinent, as my wife indicates that I have not talked about Timmy Solobay, but I have got Solobay right here. I have not always had Solobay where I wanted him, I will have to admit. In fact, I was against Solobay in the primary. He prevailed, perdurably prevailed, overwhelmingly prevailed, and when I read his curriculum vitae, I understood why he prevailed — head of the Red Cross countywide, head of the 911 countywide, head of the MRI and the CAT scan units countywide, and if you ever saw Tim Solobay's brochure, he looks like an NFL (National Football League) offensive lineman crashing through a fire ready to save the day. That is why they are here.

In fact, when we were introducing everybody, I looked back and I thought you left out one. I saw a guy back there I did not recognize, and it was Representative Frank Gigliotti, and I thought, who is this guy? Who is this guy? Frank has lost about 70 pounds, and he went from a political couch potato to an Olympic hurdler. I mean, he absolutely looks stupendous today, and I want to say, welcome to the General Assembly again, Frank Gigliotti.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, I want to say welcome to Holly, my wife. I want to say welcome especially to Bob and Donna Veon and their extended family from Beaver County, who have come to welcome the steady, inexorable advance of my fraternal and political colleague, Michael Veon.

And I want to speak about a couple of issues in a favorable manner relative to the comments of the gentleman, Mr. Perzel, from Philadelphia.

The maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient public education is our constitutional mandate. John's focus has understandably been and with my colleague, Dwight Evans, they have focused on urban education and the fact that we need to laser-like focus our enthusiasms, our energies, our money, our idealism on some of those terribly distressing urban educational problems. I have a passion for rural education. The three counties I represent have many, many schoolchildren who need more attention, and I think there are bipartisan ways, hopeful ways for us to move forward on education.

Welfare reform. There are 38,000 single-parent families who will be cashiered from the welfare rolls on March 3. Many, many, many of these people have not been able to find jobs, and as the General Assembly, we have got to try to help them.

The third and final issue I want to talk about relative to our agenda is campaign finance reform. Our worthy chief executive, the Honorable Tom Ridge, spent almost \$8 for every vote that he received. His challenger, Mr. Itkin, spent pennies — 47 or 48 cents. Of course, he did not receive as many votes, so he did not have to spend as much money. But why? Why? Because the system is inherently and incontrovertibly skewed.

Our Constitution calls for equal and free elections. The money, the money, the money, as Gertrude Stein might have said, is at the core of our political problems, in my way of thinking. Ridge raised \$14 million twice — \$28 million in a period of 5 years. Itkin had a few hundred grand. That happened in New Jersey, but in New Jersey they had campaign finance reform, and Christine Todd Whitman, that elegant lady from horse country in northern New Jersey who was way ahead in the polls, she all of a sudden found out that an unknown State Senator named McGreevey, the Ivan Itkin of New Jersey, had \$3.25 million just like she did to put on TV, and those elections closed within 1 percentage point. Those were free and equal elections. Those elections paralleled our constitutional mandate.

Mr. Speaker, we do not get a chance to have these kinds of moments very often, and I do want to thank our staff, our staff. We would be bereft, as you have pointed out many times, without our very solid phalanx of helpers and supporters.

When Jim Gavin, a United States Army general, led the 82d Airborne at the Battle of the Bulge, a Life Magazine correspondent was with him, and as they moved to the very front lines, in a foxhole between mortar and 88-millimeter barrages came down, between in a 5-minute lull, the young Life Magazine reporter leaned into a foxhole and said to the American Army captain, "What makes a good officer?" And he shouted up, "A good sergeant."

I would like to thank upstairs Jim and Gwen and downstairs Mike and Laura and all of my staff and all of your staff, because we have got great sergeants in this room and in this building and back home in our offices.

My final point, Mr. Speaker, my final point has to do with civility and bipartisanship. Two years ago Pippy and DeWeese were engaged in a moment of vituperation. It was swearing-in day, and there was aggression and electricity. In fact, to bring Shakespeare back into it for a minute, I think he probably thought or somebody thought that he was being assaulted by the frauds and stealths of injurious impostors, probably me. But last night at a local restaurant, our families were dining side by side; we were talking back and forth. There was no more manifestation, no better manifestation of what you describe, Mr. Speaker, as the fraternity or the sorority or the collegiality. Two years have gone by — by the way, he won that argument and I lost, as I have lost many arguments in the last couple of years — but the core, the undergirding core of our success is our civility.

Gannon — Gannon and DeWeese at one moment last year were hurling implications and maledictions against each other with electronic, supersonic speed. There was no love between us at that moment, at that moment. Not too long later, thanks to the prescience and magnanimity of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Tom and I were addressing their annual midwinter meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, and they had the good foresight to put us at the same dinner and the same table, and this was not too long after our comparatively aggressive and mean-spirited dialogue. We chatted. Time came for the cabs to take us back, and we said, no, we will walk back, and there along Charleston Harbor under the moonlight, not exactly arm in arm, but we were looking out at Fort Sumpter — and we did not fall in love again — but Gannon and DeWeese, erstwhile partisans and momentary fire-breathing enemies, had rapprochement; we came back together.

This civility is what these flowers, and these kids, and grandma and granddad, and Bob and Donna Veon, and Vic and

Dottie DeWeese back in Greene County, and all those wonderful folks that have allowed me to serve from Greene and Fayette and Washington Counties, this is what it is all about. As Speaker Irvis said, it is about the kids.

My last remark, Mr. Speaker — yes, I usually get that — there is no greater calling than to serve your fellowman; there is no greater contribution than to help the weak. Those were the words of Walter Reuther, arguably the preeminent labor leader of the 20th century — Walter Reuther. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. That will be our ethos as Democrats.

Congratulations, Matthew Ryan.

The SPEAKER. Thank you.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. At this time I would like the gentleman, Mr. Mike Fisher, Attorney General of Pennsylvania, to rise and be acknowledged.

Seated to Mike's right is United States Senator Santorum. Senator.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY WHIP

The SPEAKER. The Chair at this time recognizes the majority whip, Mr. Snyder.

Mr. SNYDER. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations on your historic fourth term as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Before we came here this morning, my wife asked me who I was following in terms of remarks. When I told her it was Mr. DeWeese, she asked if I could change the order, but unfortunately, it did not happen that way.

First of all, I would like to welcome and add to those who have already expressed welcomes to the new members and hope that you will take time to savor this day. While many of us have had several opportunities to experience the splendor of this beautiful chamber during the festivities of an inaugural program, there is only one first swearing-in day for each of us, and hopefully for you this will be a very memorable one.

This is also a time to acknowledge those who helped make this day possible as well as to recognize the enormous responsibility that comes with being a member of the House of Representatives. The electorate has demonstrated their confidence that you possess the energy, the dedication, and most importantly, the commitment to discharge your duties of office with fidelity.

For some members of this chamber, as has already been mentioned, this day may have special significance because it may be their last inauguration in the House of Representatives. Today may mark the beginning of a final journey which will hopefully be a very productive and meaningful 2 years.

As we come together on this day filled with splendor and celebration, it is important for us to realize that each of us sitting in this grand hall has been charged with an important responsibility — the responsibility of guiding the Commonwealth into the next millennium. We have together a rare opportunity to help steer our Commonwealth into a new century. Our decisions will influence the course of Pennsylvania's future as never before. Given the magnitude of this task, it is critical that we work together in a bipartisan manner to enact legislation that exceeds political

considerations and focuses on improving the lives of all Pennsylvanians.

In order to be successful in our endeavors, we must incorporate the thoughts, visions, and ideas of every member of this body into an agenda that can address the challenges that we know lie ahead. As Representative Perzel has already noted, we must begin working on that agenda right away, building on the successful legislative accomplishments of the last several years. Now is the time to begin working harder than ever to continue the improvements to Pennsylvania's economic climate in order to enhance the opportunities for the formation of family-sustaining jobs. Now is the time to implement many of the reforms that were already adopted to improve the quality of education so that our children are prepared to compete in a highly technological society. Now is the time to assure our citizens they will have access to affordable and quality health care, and now is the time to give our local governments the tools they need to manage growth to preserve the quality of the lives of the people within their communities.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that the joy of a game is not so much in the winning of it but in the struggle involved in achieving the victory, and we certainly know that that could not be more appropriate than the political experience that occurs here in the House on a daily basis.

The one element that is critical to that process, both individually and collectively, is having the persistence to stick with an issue until it is finally resolved. That persistence is described in a poem entitled "Press On."

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not. Nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not. Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not. The world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

Those members who stay focused and committed to their legislative goals will be the ones in this chamber who make a meaningful contribution to our efforts.

As Vince Lombardi said, "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will."

Mr. Speaker, this body has effectively proven that we can respond to challenges to which we are committed to finding a solution. That persistence to meeting the expectations of those who elected us will be the keystone to achieving a very successful and rewarding legislative experience.

I would like to thank the members of my caucus for the honor of being able to serve in a leadership position in this upcoming term. There is no greater honor than working hand in hand with your colleagues in the legislative process. And as Matthew Ryan said, the friendships that come from here are ones that last a lifetime.

I would like to thank my wife and family for the support they have given me for the last 10 terms, and I would like to thank each one of you for the opportunities that I know lie ahead to work together.

Thank you, and have a great legislative experience through 1999 and 2000.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. If I may interrupt again, one of my daughters just arrived now — Terri and her husband, Bill McTear.

There is another distinguished guest in the hall of the House, the Dominican consul, Wilson Diaz Cuenca. He is here with Representative Youngblood, and we welcome the consul.

REMARKS BY DEMOCRATIC WHIP

The SPEAKER. The Chair at this time recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Veon, the Democratic whip of the House.

Mr. VEON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, mindful of the hour and mindful of the fact that I am the newest member at this microphone as part of this leadership team and mindful of the fact that we ought to only have so many eloquent speeches in one day in this chamber, I am going to make sure that my remarks are very brief.

A special congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker. You certainly, as everyone has indicated, have been the kind of member and the kind of leader that every one of us should emulate and should strive for. A special personal congratulations from me, Mr. Speaker, for everything that you have accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to give a special congratulations to the new members that are here today. There is no doubt that this day is truly special for you — your first oath of office, your first swearing-in, with your friends and your family for the first time having the joy and the honor of seeing you take your seat in this great chamber. It is so very, very special. Congratulations to the new members on both sides of this aisle, Democrat and Republican.

Mr. Speaker, respect, civility, wisdom, honesty, fraternity, truthfulness, fairness, loyalty. Every one of us and every guest here has heard those words intertwined in all the speeches that have been given by everyone so far in this ceremony, and to the new members, I would ask that you take this opportunity to commit to using those words as you do this job and as you do this work. To the senior members and the experienced members, I would ask that you renew and refresh your commitment to using those words as you do this job and we do this work.

And I think I am absolutely convinced that individually, using those words as a framework for this job, no matter what happens day in and day out, you will be successful. And collectively, if we treat each other and we work with each other with those words in mind as we go about this great work and these great jobs, no matter what happens day in and day out, we will be successful.

Again to all of you, Democrats and Republicans, congratulations and good luck.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

FORMER MEMBERS WELCOMED

The SPEAKER. The Chair acknowledges the presence in the hall of the House of two former distinguished members of the Democratic Caucus — Mrs. Ruth Harper from Philadelphia, and from the other side of the State, former Representative Tony Colaizzo. Where is Tony? There he is.

The Chair at this time recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, at this time, if we could allow the guests, particularly the ones in this area where the Senate is going to be coming over in a little bit, you would have the opportunity of going back to your parties, to your offices. But the next part of what we are going to do is not going to be quite as pretty as what you have seen the last hour, hour and a half. So if there is anyone who would like to leave, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give them an opportunity of leaving at this moment.

The SPEAKER. See you.

FORMER MEMBERS WELCOMED

The SPEAKER. Also on the floor is a former member, Dr. Edward Haluska. Doctor, where are you?

Another distinguished member of the Democrat Caucus, John White — a member of the House, a member of Philadelphia City Council, and former Secretary of Revenue. Where are you, John? I know you are here somewhere.

The members of the House are requested to remain in the House. The Sergeant at Arms will clear areas in the doorways so that guests wishing to exit at this time may do so. The House will stand at ease for a few moments until the guests clear the chamber. The guests are welcome to stay. There are seats on both sides of the hall, but they must be seated when the session restarts.

Members will please take their seats. Guests will please be seated. Sergeant at Arms, clear the area behind the rail; have the guests seated. Members will please take their seats. Members will please take their seats.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as a committee to notify the Senate that the House is organized, the lady from Erie, Ms. Seyfert; the gentleman from Mercer, Mr. Wilt; the gentleman from Northampton, Mr. Grucela.

The committee will now proceed in the performance of its duties.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints a committee to wait upon the Governor and notify him the House is organized. This committee will consist of the gentleman from Chester County, Mr. Schroder; the lady from Montgomery County, Ms. Bard; the lady from Philadelphia County, Ms. Bishop.

The committee will now proceed with the performance of its duties.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The following members have been selected to serve on the Committee on Committees: Mr. Hasay, chairman; Mr. Allen; Mr. Flick; Mr. Habay; Mr. Kenney; Mr. Raymond; Mr. Schuler; Mr. Semmel; Mr. Samuel Smith; and Mr. Tulli on the majority side. Mr. Carn will be the Democratic chairman;

Mr. McCall; Mr. Veon; Mr. Stetler; Mr. Dermody, and the Speaker will sit as well on that committee.

COMMITTEE ON PART OF SENATE RECOGNIZED

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Oliver.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, the chairman on the part of the committee from the Senate, Senator Conti.

The SPEAKER. Senator.

Mr. CONTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Senator Dent, Senator Williams, and I are privileged to return to the great hall of the people of Pennsylvania today.

Mr. Speaker, I and the Senators who accompany me to the chamber today are a special committee from the Senate of Pennsylvania. The purpose of our committee is to respectfully inform the Pennsylvania House of Representatives that the Senate of Pennsylvania is convened and organized in regular session for the 1999–2000 legislative session and ready to proceed with legislative business in this session, which will begin to prepare our Commonwealth for the coming millennium.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and welcomes back to the hall of the House the three new Senators, and we miss you.

Mr. CONTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We miss you.

And may I personally wish you and the leaders of the caucuses and all the members of the House here all the best in our 183d legislative session and further resolve that this session of the General Assembly perform our duties with a sense of purpose and compassion and a renewed spirit of bipartisan cooperation between the two chambers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

SENATE MESSAGE

JOINT SESSION

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate
January 5, 1999

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in Joint Session on Tuesday, January 5, 1999, in the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of witnessing the opening, counting and computing the official returns of the election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, held on Tuesday, November 3, 1998, in the several counties of the Commonwealth, and to elect a Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?
Resolution was concurred in.

Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

RESOLUTION**COMMITTEE TO ESCORT SENATE**

Mr. PERZEL offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives
January 5, 1999

RESOLVED, That the Speaker appoint a committee of three to escort the members and officers of the Senate to the Hall of the House for the purpose of attending the Joint Session of the General Assembly.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Speaker appoints as a committee to wait upon the Senate, the gentleman from Chester County, Mr. Hennessey; the lady from Allegheny County, Miss Orie; and the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Costa. Mr. Hennessey and the committee will leave for the Senate to advise them.

GUEST INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The Chair is pleased to note the presence in the hall of the House today, from Philadelphia, the chairman of the Black ward leaders, Carol Campbell, seated to the left of the Speaker. Will the lady please rise.

RESOLUTION**APPOINTMENT OF TELLER**

Mr. PERZEL offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives
January 5, 1999

RESOLVED, That the gentleman from Berks County, Mr. Leh, be appointed Teller on the part of the House of Representatives to open and compute the vote for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE
ESCORTING SENATE**

The SPEAKER. The Senate is now entering the hall of the House. Members will please rise.

The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the committee on the part of the House, Representative Hennessey.

The SPEAKER. Mr. Hennessey.

Mr. HENNESSEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, your committee appointed to wait upon the Senate and escort them to the hall of the House has performed its duty, and we report that the Senate is here in the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The committee is discharged with the thanks of the House.

The Chair requests the Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Mark Schweiker, to preside over the proceedings of the joint session of the General Assembly.

The President pro tem of the Senate, the Honorable Robert C. Jubelirer, is invited to be seated on the rostrum.

The members of the Senate will please be seated immediately in front of the Speaker.

The House will come to order.

The Chair is pleased to hand the gavel used in this session to the Honorable Mark Schweiker, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**JOINT SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY****THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
(MARK S. SCHWEIKER) PRESIDING****ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED**

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Thank you, sir.

The joint session of this General Assembly will please come to order.

The members will take their seats. The session will come to order. Members are encouraged to take their seats.

This being the day and time agreed upon by a concurrent resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of this Commonwealth for the opening and computing of the official returns of the election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor held on Tuesday, November 3, 1998, in the several counties of this Commonwealth, the returns will now be opened and read.

The teller on the part of the Senate is the Senator from Erie, Senator Earll, and the teller on the part of the House of Representatives is the Representative from Berks County, Representative Leh. The tellers will please— They have come forward to the assigned desk and now will proceed in the performance of their duties.

The following election returns were read:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

HONORABLE SIRS:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 3, 1998, for the office of Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Tom Ridge, Republican, received 1,736,844 votes,
Ivan Itkin, Democrat, received 938,745 votes,
Peg Luksik, Constitutional, received 315,761 votes,
Ken V. Krawchuk, Libertarian, received 33,591 votes,
Write-in Votes, 211 (scattered),

as the same have been certified to and filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the sixty-seven County Boards of Elections.

(Seal) Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this eighteenth day of December, 1998.

Kim Pizzigrilli
Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

HONORABLE SIRS:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 3, 1998, for the office of Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Mark Schweiker, Republican, received 1,736,844 votes,
Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, Democrat, received 938,745
votes,
Jim Clymer, Constitutional, received 315,761 votes,
Henry E. Haller, III, Libertarian, received 33,591 votes,
Write-in Votes, 211 (scattered),

as the same have been certified to and filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the sixty-seven County Boards of Elections.

(Seal) Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this eighteenth day of December, 1998.

Kim Pizzigrilli
Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth

CERTIFICATE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1632(b) of the Pennsylvania Election Code [25 P.S. § 3252(b)], I do hereby certify that Tom Ridge, Governor, and Mark Schweiker, Lieutenant Governor, have filed all of the reports and statements of contributions and expenditures required by the provisions of Article XVI of the Pennsylvania Election Code entitled "Primary and Election Expenses."

(Seal) Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this eighteenth day of December, 1998.

Kim Pizzigrilli
Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth

TELLERS' REPORT

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Senator Earll.
Ms. EARLL. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and members of the General Assembly, the tellers agree in their count and submit the following tallies in the election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor held on November 3, 1998:

Ken V. Krawchuk, Libertarian, received 33,591 votes;
Peg Luksik, Constitutional, received 315,761 votes;
Ivan Itkin and Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, Democratic,
received 938,745 votes;
and Tom Ridge and Mark Schweiker, Republicans, received
1,736,844 votes.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Thank you.
Tom Ridge and Mark Schweiker, having received the highest number of votes, are duly elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years from the third Tuesday of January of 1999.

The General Assembly will now be at ease for a moment while we sign the certificates of election, and then we will move on. This joint session is at ease.

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION FILED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The joint session will come to order. The joint session will come to order. The members are encouraged to take their seats. We do have some business to take care of as well as a swearing-in. Members are encouraged to take their seats. Thank you.

I would point out that the certificates of election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, having been signed by the officers and tellers on the part of the Senate and House of Representatives, will be filed.

The following signed certificates of election were filed:

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 5, 1999

We, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the fifth day of January, A.D., one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for Governor of this Commonwealth, and publish the same in the presence of both houses of the General Assembly, conforming to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of said Commonwealth, and upon counting the votes by a Teller appointed on the part of each house, it appeared that The Honorable Tom Ridge had the highest number of votes; whereupon The Honorable Tom Ridge was declared to have been duly elected Governor of this Commonwealth.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year written above.

(Seal) Mark. S. Schweiker
President of the Senate

(Seal) Matthew J. Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Jane M. Earll
Teller on the part of the Senate

Dennis E. Leh
Teller on the part of the House of Representatives

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 5, 1999

We, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the fifth day of January, A.D., one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for Lieutenant Governor of this Commonwealth, and publish the same in the presence of both houses of the General Assembly, conforming to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of said Commonwealth, and upon counting the votes by a Teller appointed on the part of each house, it appeared that The Honorable Mark S. Schweiker had the highest number of votes; whereupon The Honorable Mark S. Schweiker was declared to have been duly elected Lieutenant Governor of this Commonwealth.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year written above.

(Seal) Mark S. Schweiker
President of the Senate

(Seal) Matthew J. Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Jane M. Earll
Teller on the part of the Senate

Dennis E. Leh
Teller on the part of the House of Representatives

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. We will now move to the election of a Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Nominations are now in order.

For this purpose the Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Cumberland County, Representative Vance.

Mrs. VANCE. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to nominate Carl Mease of Camp Hill to serve as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau for the 1999–2000 session, a job he has performed most ably for the past number of years. He brings valuable experience to this highly technical area. He first served as a drafting attorney, then as statutory editor of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, then as Acting Director, and in the past 2 years, has served as Director of the Bureau.

We in the legislature are very fortunate to have someone of this kind of expertise to serve us, and I am delighted to place the name of Carl Mease in nomination as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Representative Vance has placed in nomination for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau Carl L. Mease.

And for the same purpose — that is, nomination — the Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Senator Mowery.

Mr. MOWERY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am very pleased to nominate Carl L. Mease also, of Camp Hill, to serve as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. This is one of the key positions that enables the General Assembly to perform efficiently and effectively. Carl Mease is an individual who is well versed in the workings of State law and highly qualified for this position. He has worked for the Reference Bureau for more than 27 years and has held the position of Director for the past 2 years. Carl has done a great job in moving the bureau forward during this challenging past 2-year period.

Like a number of my colleagues, Carl is a graduate of a fine local institution — the Dickinson School of Law. I know Carl as a member of our community as well as a respected professional. I am confident that he will do an excellent job on our behalf and which will enable us to better serve our constituents.

It is my privilege to nominate Carl Mease as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you, Mr. President.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair thanks Senator Mowery.

Are there any further nominations?

The Chair hears none, and the Chair now declares the nominations closed.

And the nominee for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau is the Honorable Carl L. Mease. Those in favor of Carl Mease for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau will say “aye”; those opposed, “no.” The “ayes” have it, and Carl L. Mease is declared unanimously elected Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

COMMITTEE TO ESCORT DIRECTOR-ELECT OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair would ask that the Representative from Cumberland County as well as the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Mowery, will escort Carl L. Mease to the front of the rostrum for the purpose of taking the oath of office.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Please rise.

The Chair will now call upon the Honorable Stephen J. McEwen of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania to administer the oath of office to Carl L. Mease, and then we will, after that, move to adjournment.

Your Honor.

JUDGE McEWEN. Lieutenant Governor Schweiker, Speaker Matt Ryan, Senate President Bobby Jubelirer, a few years ago Jack Nicholson was in a movie that was titled “As Good As It Gets.” Well, let me tell you, there is a guy from Upper Darby named Steve McEwen — Upper Darby, Delaware County — that says, it does not get any better than this. This is the best — to be

able to participate in a ceremony of this joint session — and I thank you.

May I ask you to raise your right hand, place your left hand on the Bible, and repeat after me: I, Carl Mease, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

(Mr. Mease asserted oath.)

JUDGE McEWEN. Thank you, and congratulations.

JOINT SESSION ADJOURNED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. That completes our business.

The Chair also would ask the members of the House and visitors to please remain seated for just a moment while the members of the Senate prepare to leave the hall of the House.

And the Chair would ask the members of the Senate to please reassemble in the Senate chamber after we depart the House for some quick business after we depart this hall.

The business for which the joint session has been assembled having been transacted, this session is now adjourned.

THE SPEAKER (MATTHEW J. RYAN) PRESIDING

The SPEAKER. The House will be in order.

MOTION TO PRINT PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT SESSION

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the proceedings of the joint session of the Senate and House held this 5th day of January 1999 be printed in full in this day's Legislative Journal.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

SENATE MESSAGE

ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate
January 5, 1999

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate adjourns this week, it reconvene on Tuesday, January 19, 1999, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives adjourns this week, it reconvene on Tuesday, January 19, 1999, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,

Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?

Resolution was concurred in.

Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

RESOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER. Members will please take their seats. Guests, please take seats. The House will come to order.

The Chair at this time recognizes the majority leader, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask for the adoption of two resolutions regarding the rules. The first resolution will be calling for an adoption of a temporary rule, which would provide that the resolution adopting rules for this House shall be unamendable. The second resolution provides for the adoption of rules of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we first adopt the temporary rule providing that the resolution on House rules be unamendable.

The following resolution was read:

House Resolution No. 2

A RESOLUTION

Providing for the adoption of a temporary rule relating to the consideration of a resolution providing for the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives considers the resolution for the adoption of the Rules of the House, a temporary rule of the House is hereby adopted providing that that resolution be an unamendable resolution.

On the question,

Will the House adopt the resolution?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. On the question of the adoption of the resolution, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, I intend to make a motion to postpone consideration of HRs 1 and 2, and I further intend to move that the rules which governed us last session be continued until January 19, our next session day. Is that motion now in order?

The SPEAKER. The motion to postpone would be in order at this point, just that one motion.

Mr. VITALI. That is correct.

MOTION TO POSTPONE

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, then I so move that HR 1 and HR 2 be postponed until January 19 and that the rules which governed us by the 1997–1998 session be in effect until that time.

The SPEAKER. Mr. Vitali, with your permission, I would suggest that the motion be amended to include only resolution No. 2. We cannot handle two of them at once. We have to take them in order, and resolution No. 2 is the first in order and the only thing before the House right now.

Mr. VITALI. Yes, Mr. Speaker. I accept your suggestion.

The SPEAKER. So the question before the House is, shall the House postpone the consideration of HR 2 until what date?

Mr. VITALI. January 19, 1999.

The SPEAKER. Until January 19, 1999.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the members to oppose the motion. Let us get on with the rules for now. The seven first legislative sessions that I was here, Mr. Speaker, we adopted the rules on swearing-in day, and I would like to go back to that practice, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question, Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the adoption of House rules is probably one of the most important things we will do in this legislative session, because they will dictate whether the making of legislation in the next 2 years will be an open process by which all members are included and all members of the public are able to view it and participate or whether this will be a process where legislation is decided by a handful of men in back rooms. So this is a very important issue we have to decide.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of at least 21 amendments offered by at least four members which need to be discussed in this process, and I would suggest to you that the way we handle those 21 amendments plus any others that might be offered is in a deliberative process after we have had a chance to caucus on these amendments, after we have had a chance to discuss them, not on a day when our families and our friends are waiting and eating in our various offices, not when our children are waiting for us, but during a slow, deliberative process where we can read them, consider them, caucus on them. Mr. Speaker, this is not the environment, and I would suspect that many of us have not read even the basic HR 1 we will be asked to vote on let alone the resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, we will not be prejudiced by waiting until January 19, because there is really no intervening business to attend to. No legislation will be delayed; no important matters pressing the Commonwealth will be in any way prejudiced, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, by adopting the resolution which the majority leader suggests we adopt, we will be passing up the opportunity to change the rules in a way that we will have very basic notices—rank-and-file members will have very basic notices

—such as adequate notice of committee meetings, notices of which bills are on the board.

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman, Mr. Vitali, confine his remarks to the question that is before the House, and that is of postponement.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Thank you.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, I will just conclude, in summary, that by failing to postpone, we are giving up the opportunity to consider a very important process in a very deliberative manner, so I would ask that we vote in favor of this motion to postpone.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the lady from Indiana County, Ms. Steelman.

Ms. STEELMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also rise in support of the motion to postpone.

At the end of last session there was considerable public outcry over the passage of HB 907, which acquired the cognomen the “stealth bill,” and a large number of legislators were forced to attempt to defend themselves and their vote on that bill by saying that they did not actually know what it was that they were voting on.

The SPEAKER. Will the lady yield.

It appears to the Speaker that the lady is debating the merits of some proposed amendment. The question before the House, though, is not the merits of any amendment or any rule except the one before the House, which is rule No. 2, which suggests, not suggests, but which, if adopted, would do away with amendments, and I think you have got to get over that hurdle before you start debating what you would or would not do.

Ms. STEELMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The point to which I was referring, however, is the motion to postpone. I think the decisions about the rules, whether they are decisions about whether to adopt a temporary rule making our rules, as a whole, unamendable today or whether they are other decisions about the rules, should be undertaken in a spirit of thought and deep consideration. That is what we are unlikely to be able to do today, and therefore, I would very strongly encourage my colleagues, if you do not want to see other episodes like the episode of HB 907, to vote today to postpone consideration of the rules and give us all time to think about how we can make the process better. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon County, Mr. Krebs.

Mr. KREBS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote the majority leader from a 1994 editorial, and he basically said, “Few people appreciate the impact legislative rules have on Pennsylvania’s laws,” and I think that we have had experiences that show that our law process could be improved. And by passing this rule, what we are doing is, we are taking away our ability to amend the rules except if it is done through the Rules Committee, because any rules changes after these rules are passed will have to be done by the Rules Committee, not by the rank and file. It will finally come to the floor but it can be killed in the Rules Committee, which is basically leadership-driven.

I think that we need to hold this bill over until January 19 because it is too important for the rank and file to give rules changes totally to just the leadership of this House. I think that we need to take time to study the issue. And particularly those

18 members that are new this term, if you think that you are voting in the dark — and you are voting in the dark today, because you did not even know that this was coming up — this is how you are going to be treated over the next 2 years, that if you vote in the dark today, they will keep you in the dark for the next 2 years. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

For the information of the gentleman, I believe he was suggesting that the Rules Committee has the power to make new rules. That is not so.

The gentleman, Mr. Krebs.

Mr. KREBS. What I am suggesting, if you read rule 77, it says that if anybody wants to change the rules once these rules are adopted, they have to come up with a resolution and it has to be referred to the Rules Committee, in effect giving the power to the leadership, because they do not need to report that out.

The SPEAKER. I understand. I apologize.

The gentleman, Mr. Hanna, is recognized.

Mr. HANNA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, rise to support the motion to postpone. I know today is a time for ceremony and not for debate, but I believe we cannot accept our rules as permanent. Why? Because what we do here is only as good as how we do it.

Our leaders spoke today about the success of last session. Newspapers across the State reported on the last session as achieving moderate success, but the reports concluded, quote, "...they need to change the whole way they deliberate and vote on laws." Again, to paraphrase, what we do is only as good as how we do it. We should not adopt permanent rules here today, especially if we want to change how we are going to do things.

This vote affects the process of everything we do. This vote may be your only opportunity in this session to correct that process, and that process needs to change. To see why, you need only look at HR 2, the vote that you are going to be asked to cast on right now. Read the last two words. It makes HR 1, quote, an "unamendable resolution."

HR 2 could be titled the "muzzle resolution." It is designed to muzzle all of those of us who have amendments. We need to make sure that we do not adopt muzzle amendments, muzzle rules, and we need to be sure that we look at our rules and allow everyone to participate in this process.

For that reason I would urge all members to vote "yes" to postpone HR 2 so that we can change this process so that we can be proud both of what we do and how we do it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Michlovic.

Mr. MICHLOVIC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to correct the gentleman or at least give him my impression of earlier times.

The majority leader had indicated earlier that for his first seven terms he had done business this way, and I dispute that. I can recall that I made a motion on this floor, with the guests all here, the first day we were in session, probably my third or fourth term, urging that we either amend or adopt temporary rules, and it was at that time, in my third term — I have been here for 20 years — that we started to adopt temporary rules so that at a later date we could debate the rules and change them in whatever fashion.

I do not want people here, particularly those who are just starting their term, to think that this practice is new of changing the rules. This has become a normal process for us now — we debate these rules; we adopt the rules; and as the previous speaker has indicated, they really determine how we do business here and if it is going to be an open process or a shut process.

For that reason I would support my colleague, Mr. Vitali's motion to postpone. I think we have to do this in a cautious, deliberative process when we have a little more time and are a little more focused to do that kind of work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair would admonish the visitors that we do not permit photography, still or moving, of the two boards. So I would ask that at any time a vote is taken, that you aim your cameras down in the well of the House or at each other but not at the boards.

The gentleman, Mr. Freeman, is welcomed back and is recognized for the purpose of debating this issue.

Mr. FREEMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion of the gentleman, Mr. Vitali, to postpone these rules.

This is a very proud day for all of us. We have been elected to a deliberative body, and I emphasize the word "deliberative." It is both our right and our responsibilities as members of this chamber to decide the course of legislation, to decide the course of our actions. Let us not abdicate today our deliberative powers. We do that if we adopt these rules today.

The effort to postpone is a reasonable one. It will allow us all, as members of this body, to rise to our responsibilities and our duties and fashion a set of rules which will afford us the opportunity to function as a truly democratic institution — small "d" democratic institution.

I would urge the membership of this chamber to please vote to postpone the motion and preserve our opportunity to affect the course of policy in the next 2 years. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman, and the gentleman, Mr. Lawless, from Montgomery County is recognized.

Mr. LAWLESS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support Representative Vitali. After listening to many of the opening speeches today from both the majority side and the minority side, many family members here as well as new members of this House were told that this is a bipartisan place; this is a place where you have been elected to represent the people that have chosen you to represent them. And what do we have? Our very first order of business is to close off you new members, as well as the members such as myself who have been here a number of years, the very first order of business is to close off your ability to offer an amendment, to close off your ability to represent your people from your hometown that you were brought here to represent. So I think that it is very important that when you do cast this vote, that you think about that. You think about you are closing off the very first order of business to allow you who have been elected by the people of your hometown to represent you in this great Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again — as you well know, Mr. Speaker, I have never risen on the House floor to speak about rules; it is not one of my issues — but time again and time again, now my fifth term, I am seeing this freight train, the same freight train that embarrassed us in HB 907 that flew through this House, and not one rule, as I read it, has changed as the rules are being

presented to prohibit HB 907 from embarrassing every member of this House once again. And I will ask when we get on the resolution for the majority leader to explain to us how this rule change or any rule changes will prohibit us from being embarrassed once again to the constituencies that we represent.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question, the gentleman, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, just to clarify the record, the only person embarrassed by what happened in 907 was the mayor of Pittsburgh, Mayor Murphy. He did not read the bill properly. It never did what the press said it did. And they all high-fived it and tried to make fun of you all, and as best I could, I tried to lay calm the perception of what the bill did not do and it never did do. You cannot repeal a repealer and have it have the effect of law. But because I know the public has a tough time with that, I did the press conference to explain what that piece of legislation did. So 907 never ever did what anybody here said it did.

I would like to set a couple things straight, though, Mr. Speaker. Four years ago I did work with a number of members of this chamber on changing the rules, and 2 years ago I sat for 17 hours — 17 hours — with the rules reformer, and we thought we came to an agreement; everybody shook hands. We walked out of the room, and some of the people that just spoke here voted “no” after they left the room saying that they were okay with everything; then after the changes occurred, they did not like the changes that occurred because it did not do what they thought it was going to do. So now they want to go back and change the rules, 21 of them which I never saw until today, Mr. Speaker — I saw them today, 21 rules changes.

Four years ago I was accorded the courtesy of having someone speak to me about the rules; 2 years ago I was accorded that. This time nobody bothered to even call. Members of the other side of the aisle came to us and said that one of the things that was important to them was adding one person from each party— No; not that one. I apologize.

The SPEAKER. Mr. Perzel—

Mr. PERZEL. All right; I will get off that. I will get back on this.

Mr. Speaker, there were 300 amendments to the budget, and we listened to them all. On health-care reform we sat here and listened to everybody’s ideas for hours and hours. Everybody was afforded an opportunity. This is an open process. Nobody has been denied. We even have one particular member on the other side — I do not see him here right this moment — who, by looking at the schedule and following the rules, never missed filing one of his amendments to every bill that we brought on this floor.

I would respectfully ask the members to vote “no” to postpone, and I would ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Krebs, for the second time on the issue.

Mr. KREBS. I would like to dispute part of or explain part of what the majority leader said about that he was afforded the opportunity of discussions 4 years ago. I was in on those discussions. He was afforded the opportunity of discussions on the rules 2 years ago. I would think—

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman rise for a point of personal privilege or are you debating the issue that is before the House?

Mr. KREBS. I am trying to correct a perception that he has given.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman may—

Mr. KREBS. It was my understanding when I talked to the Parliamentarian, it was either 3 or, about 3 weeks ago, about what we were going to do about rules on swearing-in day, and at that time I was informed that it would probably be an adoption of a temporary set of rules until some later date, and under that perception we did not feel that we wanted to bother people with a rules fight during the holiday season. It was only at the end of last week that I found out that the procedure had been changed and that they had decided they wanted to — whoever “they” is — had decided that we would do the permanent rules today, which none of us rules reformers wanted to get into. We feel this is a day of ceremony, and I think we are disgusted that we have to put the other members through this process.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The question recurs, will the House adopt the resolution? Ms. Steelman for the second time.

Ms. STEELMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Simply because we are having this disagreement about whether there has been adequate discussion of the proposed amendments to the rules, that seems to me to be the strongest possible argument to vote for postponement, so that we can discuss this rationally, so that we can discuss it deliberatively, and so that instead of getting into a “he said, she said, they said, we said” argument, we can come back in 2 weeks and talk about how we want to run the House for the next 2 years.

We are not asking for very much, but what we are asking for, I think, is absolutely reasonable.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

The question recurs, will the House— The gentleman, Mr. George, desires recognition. The gentleman is recognized.

Mr. GEORGE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Incidentally, congratulations.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I really do not know what is going on here today. I brought Edna along so she can sort of apprise me. I think it will take the whole family before we can find out why we are arguing, but I do know one thing, Mr. Speaker: It is a great day, not only for the freshmen but for somebody who has been here 25 years, because today I witnessed almost 2½ hours of solidarity, you know, and that just is not ordinary here in the House of Representatives.

Now, the gentleman, the majority leader, said that the rules as they are work well. I just wanted to challenge his statement to tell you, many times we did not have an opportunity to amend, that a bill would be put on 5 minutes before the 2 o’clock deadline, and by the time we turned on the computer we could not amend. I just wanted to straighten that up.

Now, I do not know whether you want to suspend and what the reason is that we are going to push this through, and I guess it does not really make any difference, because we will have our say and the majority will have its way. But if we noticed what had gone on just in the last election, where people really do not care about whether you are Republican or Democrat, they are incensed over the fact that we are not being truthful with them. And whether you just came in for your first session or you have been here as long as some of us, you come down here to do the very best you can, and if you are saddled, if in fact you are held back because of the so-called rules that limit your opportunity to do what the

Constitution gives you that very right to do, then I do not think that we should continue to tell those hundreds of nice people, our families and friends, just how civil and how honorable and how decent and how convincing we are when we try to do the right thing for the people.

I do not know when I stand here whether I want to vote or not vote, because I do not know why the rules are being pushed in this fashion, in this manner, on this day. So until I find out, Mr. Speaker, for those of you that have been here just one term, surely you would not want to be here for 24 terms or 24 years and not understand what is going on. So I am going to vote along with the individual that wants to postpone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman, Mr. Krebs, desire recognition briefly?

Mr. KREBS. Yes. I have a parliamentary inquiry.

I think the rules do state that only those members that are in their seats are supposed to vote, and since we are voting on the rules, I hope that that is enforced.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman has the right to challenge anyone that is voted that he believes is not on the floor of the House. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Mr. KREBS. Okay.

The SPEAKER. On the question, will the House adopt the motion of the gentleman, Mr. Vitali, to postpone the consideration of HR 2 until a later date certain — January 19, 1999 — on that question, those in favor of the Vitali motion will vote “aye”; those opposed to the Vitali motion will vote “no.”

On the question recurring,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—62

Battisto	Horsey	Mundy	Santoni
Belfanti	James	Myers	Scrimenti
Buxton	Josephs	Oliver	Solobay
Caltagirone	Kirkland	Pesci	Steelman
Cawley	Krebs	Petrarca	Sturla
Colafella	LaGrotta	Petrone	Surra
Curry	Laughlin	Pistella	Tangretti
Daley	Lawless	Preston	Thomas
Donatucci	Levdansky	Ramos	Travaglio
Eachus	Lucyk	Rieger	Trich
Frankel	Manderino	Roberts	Van Home
Freeman	Mann	Robinson	Vitali
George	McCall	Ruffing	Washington
Gruccia	Melio	Sainato	Williams
Haluska	Metcalfe	Samuelson	Yewcic
Hanna	Michlovic		

NAYS—115

Allen	Dermody	Maitland	Saylor
Argall	DeWeese	Major	Schroder
Armstrong	DiGirolamo	Markosek	Semmel
Baker	Egolf	Masland	Seyfert
Bard	Evans	Mayernik	Smith, B.
Barley	Fairchild	McGeehan	Smith, S. H.
Barrar	Fargo	McGill	Snyder

Bastian	Feese	McIlhattan	Staback
Belardi	Fichter	McIlhinney	Stairs
Benninghoff	Fleagle	McNaughton	Steil
Bishop	Forcier	Micozzie	Stern
Blaum	Gannon	Miller, R.	Stevenson
Boyes	Gladeck	Miller, S.	Taylor, E. Z.
Browne	Godshall	Nailor	Taylor, J.
Bunt	Habay	Nickol	Tigue
Butkovitz	Harhart	O'Brien	Trello
Chadwick	Hennessey	Orie	True
Civera	Herman	Perzel	Tulli
Clark	Hershey	Phillips	Vance
Clymer	Hess	Pippy	Veon
Cohen, L. I.	Hutchinson	Platts	Walko
Cohen, M.	Jadlowiec	Raymond	Wilt
Cornell	Kaiser	Readshaw	Wogan
Corrigan	Keller	Reinard	Wojnaroski
Costa	Kenney	Rohrer	Wright
Coy	Lederer	Rooney	Zug
Dailey	Leh	Ross	
Dally	Lescovitz	Rublely	Ryan,
DeLuca	Maher	Sather	Speaker
Dempsey			

NOT VOTING—25

Adolph	Flick	Hasay	Shaner
Bebko-Jones	Geist	Lynch	Stetler
Birmelin	Gigliotti	Marsico	Struttmatter
Cappabianca	Gordner	Roebuck	Youngblood
Carn	Gruitza	Schuler	Yudichak
Casorio	Harhai	Serafini	Zimmerman
Druce			

EXCUSED—0

Less than the majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the motion was not agreed to.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. On that question, those in favor will vote “aye”— Mr. Vitali, forgive me. Mr. Vitali, you are acknowledged for the purpose of speaking on the resolution.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I might initially note — and I rise in opposition to HR 2 — I initially note that I have heard no good reason from the speaker, the maker of the resolution, why we should support this resolution.

I agree with the characterizations from the Representative from Lock Haven that this could accurately be characterized as a muzzle resolution, and I think I might want to direct my remarks initially to House members, new-coming House members, because in your first vote you define yourselves, and I think you have to ask yourself, how do you want to define yourself, and with regard to this resolution, Mr. Speaker, let us take a look at what it does. What this resolution does is prevents debate, prevents involvement. What it does is allows the deal, the language that was drafted last night by about a half dozen people to the exclusion of the other, oh, maybe 195 of us, to go unchallenged. It prevents us from being part of this process, and it also prevents our constituents from being part of the process, the 60,000 people or so you represent. So what you are doing, especially you new members, by voting for HR 2 is giving the first slap in the face to the people you represent, because you are excluding them as well as yourselves from the process.

Mr. Speaker, we need to defeat HR 2 because the House rules desperately need to be amended, and we have heard from other speakers — the gentleman from Montgomery County and so forth — about the damage that can be caused by rules which allow bills to go through unbeknownst, whose contents are unbeknownst to the rest of the members, bills that go solidly against public opinion by allowing public funding for stadiums. I believe it was 2 years ago we inadvertently deregulated numerous hospitals in what they can and cannot do.

Mr. Speaker, a good set of rules, not the current set but a good set of rules, would reduce the impact of that from happening. Mr. Speaker, the current set of rules, the rules which we went by last session, do not even require that when a bill is brought before us that it be identified by its content in any way, and the problem with that is that in the waning days of session when bill after bill is passed in 18-hour marathon sessions, we are voting blindly. So, Mr. Speaker, if you want to be forced in the position to vote blindly and if you want that for your constituents, then you will support something like this, but if you want to know what you are voting on, you would oppose this.

Mr. Speaker, another thing that the current House rules do not do is give adequate notice of committee meetings. If you new members want to be in a position where you are called off the floor without any notice—

The SPEAKER. Mr. Vitali, you are into specifics and debating the rules themselves. That is not what is before the House.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to do is give reasons why this resolution, which prevents amendment, is bad. It is bad because it does not allow sorely needed amendments. It is bad because it does not allow us to consider things that are not in the current rules, and I am just trying, and I will do it in outline form, but point out some of those things.

The SPEAKER. Stay away from specifics, because the specifics lead you into a general debate on the amendments themselves that you would have or the resolution, and that is really not what is before us.

Mr. VITALI. I understand. I will just—

The SPEAKER. I have no problem with what you are doing other than that.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will just in outline form try to make my points, Mr. Speaker.

Another thing that the current rules do not allow for is an open budget process where our constituents as well as ourselves can see that process. That is another reason why these rules need to be amended.

Mr. Speaker, there are other technical, perhaps, more arcane things, but when we vote on bills that we have passed and have come back to us from the Senate amended, the scope right now is much too narrow. It should be broad, and by passing this resolution, we are preventing ourselves from changing the rules so we can have a broad scope of debate.

Mr. Speaker, I have other points, other rules, that need to be made and I am sure other speakers do, but in summary, we should not be supporting things that muzzle our ability to participate in the process. We should, if we want to do rules today, have an open process where all ideas can be considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Mr. Sturla.

Mr. STURLA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, much like the majority leader, I did not come here prepared to talk about this today. He said he was not prepared to talk about 21 amendments. I did not come prepared to talk about a resolution which I had not seen until I walked in here this morning, but I will take a stab at it anyway.

Several years ago when I was first elected to the House of Representatives, I was never much involved in the rules debates, because to me, there was always one rule that reigned over all the other rules, and that was the rule that said you could suspend all the rules anytime you wanted to and do whatever you wanted to, and that was the only rule that I cared about, because as long as you could convince some people in the minority to go along with you, or when you were in the minority, if you could convince some people in the majority to go along with you, you could suspend the rules and you could get something accomplished in this House of Representatives.

Then several years ago we passed what I considered a rather ominous rule that said, well, you needed a supermajority to do that, and today we are looking at a resolution that says we are going to then adopt a following resolution that says in some cases it may take as many as two-thirds of the members of this House to suspend the rules, and we cannot amend that if we adopt the resolution that we are talking about. So that idea that ultimately good ideas could find their way through the maze here in Harrisburg, because ultimately if you brought it to the floor of the House, you could get a few people to go along with you and you could suspend some rules and amend things, that is all going out the window with this resolution right here.

I would encourage members to seriously consider what it is that they are doing with this resolution, to say that our rules would be unamendable, because when you look at those rules that we are talking about doing subsequently, they require two-thirds majorities in some cases, and that cuts us all out of the process.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I did not come here today prepared to talk about this, but certainly it appears that this is an attempt to stifle members for the next 2 years and catch us off guard, and I will be glad to talk about the rules when we finally get to that point. But on this resolution, I think the unamendable portion of that is rather egregious, and I would hope that members would agree not to adopt HR 2. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne County, Mr. Blaum. No; the gentleman waives off.

Ms. Steelman. Ms. Steelman, you are recognized.

Ms. STEELMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Because our rules have always permitted the majority leadership to have almost total control of the calendar, amendments are practically the only process by which a minority voice can make itself heard in the House of Representatives. For us to start a session by adopting even a temporary rule that makes it impossible for the voice of reform to be heard in the House of Representatives sets a terrible precedent.

At the very least, if we want to adopt permanent rules for the next 2 years today, we should at a minimum be willing to consider amendments that will prevent us from going through the situation that we went through after the passage of HB 907, which in fact was embarrassing for many members, not so much because of its content as because it pointed out the severe deficiencies in the process that cause bills to be voted upon without members having adequate time to examine and discuss them. A vote to refuse

amendments to the resolution adopting the rules is a vote to continue and to assent to the process that gave us HB 907.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, when we get to the next resolution, I will talk about the fact that the members were only handed a sheet that described the three changes that we were making, but the rest of the rules are the same rules as the last legislative session.

I would just ask the members for an affirmative vote on HR 2.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—129

Adolph	Druce	Maher	Sather
Allen	Egolf	Maitland	Saylor
Argall	Evans	Major	Schroder
Armstrong	Fairchild	Markosek	Schuler
Baker	Fargo	Marsico	Semmel
Bard	Feese	Masland	Serafini
Barley	Fichter	Mayernik	Seyfert
Barrar	Fleagle	McGeehan	Smith, B.
Bastian	Flick	McGill	Smith, S. H.
Belardi	Forcier	McIlhattan	Snyder
Benninghoff	Gannon	McIlhinney	Staback
Birmelin	Geist	McNaughton	Stairs
Blaum	Gigliotti	Micozzie	Steil
Boyes	Gladeck	Miller, R.	Stern
Browne	Godshall	Miller, S.	Stevenson
Bunt	Habay	Nailor	Strittmatter
Butkovitz	Harhart	Nickol	Taylor, E. Z.
Buxton	Hasay	O'Brien	Taylor, J.
Chadwick	Hennessey	Orie	True
Civera	Herman	Perzel	Tulli
Clark	Hershey	Phillips	Vance
Clymer	Hess	Pippy	Van Home
Cohen, L. I.	Horsey	Platts	Veon
Cohen, M.	Hutchinson	Preston	Wilt
Cornell	Jadlowiec	Raymond	Wogan
Corrigan	Kaiser	Readshaw	Wojnaroski
Coy	Keller	Reinard	Wright
Dailey	Kenney	Rohrer	Zimmerman
Daily	LaGrotta	Rooney	Zug
DeLuca	Lederer	Ross	
Dempsey	Leh	Rubley	Ryan,
DeWeese	Lescovitz	Ruffing	Speaker
DiGirolamo	Lynch	Sainato	

NAYS—59

Battisto	Grucela	Metcalf	Surra
Bebko-Jones	Haluska	Michlovic	Tangretti
Belfanti	Hanna	Mundy	Thomas
Bishop	James	Myers	Tigue
Caltagirone	Josephs	Oliver	Travaglio
Cappabianca	Kirkland	Pesci	Trello
Casorio	Krebs	Petrone	Trich
Colafrella	Laughlin	Roberts	Vitali
Curry	Lawless	Robinson	Walko
Daley	Levdansky	Samuelson	Washington
Dermody	Lucyk	Santoni	Williams
Eachus	Manderino	Scrimenti	Yewcic
Frankel	Mann	Solobay	Youngblood
Freeman	McCall	Steelman	Yudichak
George	Melio	Sturla	

NOT VOTING—14

Carn	Gordner	Pistella	Roebuck
Cawley	Gruitza	Ramos	Shaner

Costa
Donatucci

Harhai
Petrarca

Rieger

Stetler

EXCUSED—0

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

* * *

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Perzel, who presents the following resolution, which the clerk will read.

The following resolution was read:

House Resolution No. 1

A RESOLUTION

Providing for the adoption of permanent rules of the House of Representatives with a new rule relating to appropriation bills and amendments to Rules 45 and 46 relating to roll verification and to membership.

RESOLVED, That the existing rules of the 1997–1998 session with a new rule relating to appropriation bills and amendments to Rules 45 and 46 be and are hereby adopted as the permanent rules for the 1999–2000 session of the House of Representatives.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. For the information of the members, you have on your desk or you should have on your desk a three-page document called HR 1. What this represents is the different provisions in the proposed HR 1 than the existing rules from the last session. There also is either on your desk or available in front of the Speaker a complete set of the rules with the proposed amendments in it. That is just to try and clear up the question of whether or not you have before you what we are considering.

On the question of the adoption of the rules, the Chair recognizes the majority leader, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. A couple of comments, Mr. Speaker.

First off, I heard a lot of comments about changing the rules so that we can protect ourselves from 907, although I have already clarified, 907 does not do what the members thought it did. But there is no way for us to create a rule to tell a Senate staff person to tell us the truth. Now, there is no way to pass something like that. We can do it, but there is no way to enforce it, Mr. Speaker. So I just wanted to clarify that.

I also wanted to clarify the fact that I have talked with members of my side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle and agreed to set up a committee to look at the rules and come back by June to make recommendations for changes in the rules. So I thought I ought to at least put that out there, Mr. Speaker.

There were three rules changes from the last session. Number one, the Manderino rule has been added to the normal set of our rules. The Manderino rule requires a dollar-for-dollar offset of budget amendments. Once a dollar figure is agreed to, you have to take money from other sections of the budget in order

to fund your budget items so that we do not spend \$35 billion when we have a budget that contains \$18 billion and make ourselves look foolish, Mr. Speaker. That is what the first amendment does.

The second amendment is pretty plain and straightforward. It adds one person from each party to the Rules Committee, and I would suggest that the members on the other side that were upset talk to their leadership about being that member.

And then lastly, requiring that the minority chairmen just sign off on committee attendance records, only because we have had members who are telling us they are at the committee meetings and they are not listed as being on the records as having been at that particular meeting, and that is not fair whether we are in the minority or majority or whether the Democrats are in the majority or minority.

Those are the three changes that are in this three pages you received. That is what they are. The rest of the rules are exactly the way they were. I would ask the members to vote "yes," and thank you for your time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon County, Mr. Krebs, on the question of the adoption of HR 1.

Mr. KREBS. Mr. Speaker, I just would like to read some comments from previous legislators that have left the House and they have commented on the legislative process, and I think this information is very relevant to what we are discussing today. This first one is from Representative Terry Scheetz from Lancaster County, who served here for 12 years, and it is just several paragraphs that I think are important. It says:

"When he first took office in 1983, Terry Scheetz figured it was pretty easy being a state representative.

"I thought, 'I'm coming...to Harrisburg. I sit in a room with everybody else, and we vote what's best for the people of Pennsylvania. It's as simple as that.'"

"The Stevens hog farmer quickly learned that the legislative process, thanks to intense partisan politics and pressure from special interests, bears little resemblance to textbook versions of democracy."

And he is talking about on November 22, 1994, "...in fact, he spent his final day in Harrisburg as he had spent many others: waiting hours for the House to get down to business, then voting on dozens of bills in a frantic session that ran past midnight.

"It was a classic example," he recalled last week. "Running bill after bill after bill, not even knowing what you're voting for. It's just an absolute joke."

"Having the last laugh, he believes, are the career politicians who run the House and use the stall-and-rush strategy to suppress the opposition and limit the power of rank-and-file..." members. That is number one.

Number two is from Representative George Saurman, who also retired the same year. He was a long-serving Republican Representative from Montgomery County, and this one is called "Confessions of a lawmaker: Last-minute marathon sessions raise risk of serious mistakes," and I am just going to do part of it.

"Unfortunately, in spite of several scheduled session days remaining on the calendar and the pressure of adopting the budget, the Democratic leadership" — in this case — "insisted on a second marathon session that finally ended at 8 a.m. June 21. Bills came from everywhere, and the posted schedule of legislation to be voted was abandoned. Supplemental calendars were printed

beginning at A and running through Q. There was concern that we might run out of alphabet designations.

"I confess that I'm not certain what I voted for in every case. I cast several 'no' votes but simply could not keep up with the bills being voted because most had been marked as being passed over. There was no opportunity to get amendments prepared. An attempt to adjourn to allow time for reflection was defeated.

"As the hours passed, patience (which is never in plentiful supply at any time) dwindled, and even legitimate questions or attempts at debate met with hostility. The prevailing attitude was just to reach the bottom of what seemed an endless list of bills. I hope that no serious damage was done, but frankly I cannot assure anyone of that.

"My purpose in writing this column is to alert the public to the fact that there are some serious procedural problems in Harrisburg. They also abound in Washington. While it might be interpreted by some as real devotion to duty to work all night, in truth it was an act of insanity and accomplished only at the risk of serious mistakes."

And the last comment I would like would be from another Representative that served here, the son of a former Speaker, Ken Lee, Jr., and when he sent a letter to his constituents saying he would not run again, he said the major reason for leaving was the frustration with the legislative process. But prior to that he had come out with a press release when I changed parties, and I think it is very opportune to read that. He basically was saying, "The concept of a cooperative legislative system is so contrary to the entire nature and history of the Pennsylvania legislature, that it meets with strong opposition both from legislative leaders and many rank and file members. In private, the skeptics are quick to point out that if one diffuses and broadens the power base in the House to...rank and file members and members of the minority, one will be placing a great deal of power in the hands of individual House members. According to conventional legislative wisdom, the rank and file cannot or does not wish to be burdened with this responsibility. In fact, the fear is that if the rank and file is given responsibility, the House will degenerate into an anarchic mob and absolutely nothing will be accomplished."

I think what we have here, particularly for the new members, is that you are seeing today that we are being rushed, we are being pressured, by the events of the day to do something quickly, no matter what the consequences might be, and I think that is a travesty. I think that we need to defeat HR 1.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. A parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VITALI. By what rules is the House currently being governed by?

The SPEAKER. The general customs and usages of the legislature in past years.

Mr. VITALI. Would that follow pretty closely to last session's rules?

The SPEAKER. It would be part of it, yes.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, I raise a point—

The SPEAKER. Part of the consideration, yes.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, I would raise a point of order with regard to the inadequate notice given to HR 1.

Mr. Speaker, we were instructed by the Parliamentarian that any resolutions we needed to file needed to be filed by 2 o'clock yesterday. We in fact— I failed to see the text of this resolution, and it certainly was not filed by any applicable deadlines that would have been in effect last session. So I would raise a point of order, and I would ask that HR 1 be ruled out of order.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

In response to the gentleman's question, when I said customs and usages, this was called to my attention, and after considerable research by someone other than myself and then discussions with the Parliamentarian of the Senate as well as the Parliamentarian here, the custom and usage over many, many, many years, at least the years I have been here, consisted of adoption of rules or temporary rules, as the case may be—it has varied over the years—on opening day, without respect to any notices, and I rely on that to suggest to you that this is not out of order at this time.

MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES

The SPEAKER. Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, I would rise to make a motion.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state his motion.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, I would move to suspend HR 2 for the limited purpose of allowing the consideration of amendment 6 to HR 1, which would require the bill, title, or brief analysis to be read prior to the voting on a bill.

The SPEAKER. That motion would be out of order, Mr. Vitali. The matter before the House is HR 1.

Mr. VITALI. A clarification, Mr. Speaker.

What I would like to do is amend HR 1. It is my understanding that what is preventing me from doing that is HR 2. Therefore, I am moving to suspend HR 2 so I can amend HR 1.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Vitali, come to the desk, please.

(Conference held at Speaker's podium.)

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would amend my motion and simply move to suspend the rules for the introduction of amendment No. 6 to HR 1.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

The SPEAKER. On the question of suspension of the rules, the Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. I would oppose the suspension of the rules, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Mr. Vitali, do you desire to debate this?

Mr. VITALI. Yes.

The SPEAKER. I assume the gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, yields to you. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What this amendment would do, very briefly, would be simply to require, before we vote on any bill, that its title or brief analysis be read. It is a very innocuous amendment, and the purpose, which will become more apparent to freshman members, is—

The SPEAKER. Mr. Vitali, the question before the House is suspension of the rules, not the content of what you would do if you are successful in suspending. Please, you know better.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, suspension of the rules is the only vehicle we will have to effectuate a much-needed change to our House rules. It is a very basic change; it should not be opposed, and I would simply ask for the support of members.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,

Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—44

Battisto	Grucela	Michlovic	Steelman
Bebko-Jones	Hanna	Mundy	Sturla
Bishop	Josephs	Pesci	Surra
Caltagirone	Krebs	Petrone	Tangretti
Cappabianca	Laughlin	Preston	Thomas
Casorio	Lawless	Ramos	Travaglio
Colafella	Levdansky	Roberts	Trich
Curry	Lucyk	Samuelson	Vitali
Daley	Manderino	Santoni	Williams
Eachus	Mann	Scrimenti	Yewcic
Freeman	Melio	Solobay	Yudichak

NAYS—140

Allen	Egolf	Maher	Sather
Argall	Evans	Maitland	Saylor
Armstrong	Fairchild	Major	Schroder
Baker	Fargo	Markosek	Schuler
Bard	Feese	Marsico	Semmel
Barley	Fichter	Masland	Serafini
Barrar	Fleagle	Mayernik	Seyfert
Bastian	Flick	McCall	Smith, B.
Belardi	Forcier	McGeehan	Smith, S. H.
Belfanti	Frankel	McGill	Snyder
Benninghoff	Gannon	McIlhattan	Staback
Birmelin	Geist	McIlhinney	Stairs
Blaum	George	McNaughton	Steil
Boyes	Gigliotti	Metcalfe	Stern
Browne	Gladeck	Micozzie	Stevenson
Bunt	Godshall	Miller, R.	Stritmatter
Butkovitz	Gordner	Miller, S.	Taylor, E. Z.
Buxton	Gruitza	Nailor	Taylor, J.
Cawley	Habay	Nickol	Tigue
Chadwick	Harhart	O'Brien	Trello
Civera	Hasay	Orie	True
Clark	Hennessey	Perzel	Tulli
Clymer	Herman	Phillips	Vance
Cohen, L. I.	Hershey	Pippy	Van Home
Cohen, M.	Hess	Pistella	Veon
Cornell	Horsey	Platts	Walko
Corrigan	Hutchinson	Raymond	Wilt
Costa	Jadlowiec	Readshaw	Wogan
Coy	Kaiser	Reinard	Wojnaroski
Dailey	Keller	Rohrer	Wright
Dally	Kenney	Rooney	Zimmerman
DeLuca	LaGrotta	Ross	Zug
Dempsey	Lederer	Rubley	

Dermody	Leh	Ruffing	Ryan,
DeWeese	Lescovitz	Sainato	Speaker
DiGirolamo	Lynch		

NOT VOTING—18

Adolph	Harhai	Petrarca	Shaner
Carn	James	Rieger	Stetler
Donanucci	Kirkland	Robinson	Washington
Druce	Myers	Roebuck	Youngblood
Haluska	Oliver		

EXCUSED—0

Less than a majority of the members elected to the House having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the motion was not agreed to.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the lady, Ms. Steelman.

Ms. STEELMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The lady will yield; the lady will yield, please. Conferences on the floor, please.

Ms. Steelman.

Ms. STEELMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to ask for a suspension of the rules in order to permit me to introduce amendment 10 to HR 1.

The purpose of amendment 10 is to change the amendment process—

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker?

Ms. STEELMAN:—such that we would amend bills—

The SPEAKER. The lady will yield.

Ms. STEELMAN. —on second consideration—

The SPEAKER. The lady will yield for a moment.

For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. PERZEL. She is getting into the substance before the suspension, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Well, I am watching that, Mr. Majority Leader, and we have always allowed a brief description of what was going to take place with the suspension. I find the lady in order. She may continue briefly on that subject, as long as she wants on the question of suspension.

Ms. STEELMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The purpose of this amendment would be to change the amendatory process so that substantive amendments to bills would be made on second consideration, and on third consideration we would vote a final copy of the bill. Having struggled at times with situations in which amendments appear to contradict each other or in which many members, say particularly over the budget bill, they do not know everything that has been put into the bill by the time the amendatory process is finished, it would improve our ability to understand what we are voting on if we voted on a clean copy on third consideration, having done the amendments on second consideration.

Please support my suspension of the rules in order to permit this.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The SPEAKER. On the question of suspension of the rules, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. I could get into point-counterpoint, point-counterpoint. I am not going to, Mr. Speaker.

I would just ask the members to vote “no” on the motion to suspend the rules.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—46

Battisto	Hanna	Myers	Sturla
Bishop	James	Pesci	Surra
Caltagirone	Josephs	Preston	Tangretti
Cappabianca	Krebs	Roberts	Thomas
Casorio	Laughlin	Robinson	Travaglio
Cawley	Levdansky	Ruffing	Trello
Cury	Lucyk	Samuelson	Trich
Daley	Manderino	Santoni	Vitali
Eachus	Mann	Scrimenti	Williams
Freeman	Melio	Solobay	Yewcic
Grucela	Michlovic	Steelman	Yudichak
Haluska	Mundy		

NAYS—138

Adolph	DeWeese	Leh	Rublely
Allen	DiGirolamo	Lescovitz	Sainato
Argall	Egolf	Lynch	Sather
Armstrong	Evans	Maher	Saylor
Baker	Fairchild	Maitland	Schroder
Bard	Fargo	Major	Schuler
Barley	Feese	Markosek	Sermmel
Barrar	Fichter	Marsico	Serafini
Bastian	Fleagle	Masland	Seyfert
Belardi	Flick	Mayemik	Smith, B.
Belfanti	Forcier	McCall	Smith, S. H.
Benninghoff	Frankel	McGill	Snyder
Birmelin	Geist	McIlhattan	Staback
Blaum	George	McIlhinney	Stairs
Boyes	Gigliotti	McNaughton	Steil
Browne	Gladeck	Metcalfe	Stern
Bunt	Godshall	Micozzie	Stevenson
Butkovitz	Gordner	Miller, R.	Strittmatter
Buxton	Gruitza	Miller, S.	Taylor, E. Z.
Chadwick	Habay	Nailor	Taylor, J.
Civera	Harhart	Nickol	Tigue
Clark	Hasay	O'Brien	True
Clymer	Hennessey	Orie	Tulli
Cohen, L. I.	Herman	Perzel	Vance
Cohen, M.	Hershey	Petrone	Veon
Colafella	Hess	Phillips	Walko
Cornell	Horsy	Pippy	Wilt
Corrigan	Hutchinson	Pistella	Wogan
Costa	Jadlowiec	Platts	Wojnaroski
Coy	Kaiser	Raymond	Wright
Dailey	Keller	Readshaw	Zimmerman
Dally	Kenney	Reinard	Zug
DeLuca	LaGrotta	Rohrer	
Dempsey	Lawless	Rooney	Ryan,
Dermody	Lederer	Ross	Speaker

NOT VOTING—18

Bebko-Jones	Harhai	Ramos	Stetler
Carn	Kirkland	Rieger	Van Horne
Donatucci	McGeehan	Roebuck	Washington
Druce	Oliver	Shaner	Youngblood
Gannon	Petrarca		

EXCUSED—0

Less than a majority of the members elected to the House having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the motion was not agreed to.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the lady from Philadelphia County, Ms. Manderino.

Ms. MANDERINO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have both a parliamentary inquiry, and then I wish to speak on the bill.

The SPEAKER. The lady is in order.

Ms. MANDERINO. Thank you.

A parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

I have before me two separate items, both with the same cover page "HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1." One was at my desk and is 3 pages long; the other one was at the front of the podium and is 80 pages long. My parliamentary inquiry is, in voting on HR 1 right now, which of these am I voting on?

The SPEAKER. On all 80 pages.

Ms. MANDERINO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A further parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The lady will state it.

Ms. MANDERINO. While I guess I am going to be happy that maybe we are saving a few trees today, I am wondering if whether this issue is properly before us until HR 1 in its 80 pages has been distributed to the members.

The SPEAKER. The copies are available. Anybody that needs one can walk up or signal to a page and they will be delivered.

I believe it is properly before the House.

Ms. MANDERINO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the members to very seriously consider voting "no" on HR 1. In particular, in rule 19(b), in addition to what has been described with regard to appropriations bills and the dollar amount that will be agreed upon by the Appropriations Committee or the level that is passed by the Appropriations Committee being the level at which all amendments must conform, I call your attention to page 22, lines 11 through 16. This language in particular is designed to make a part of our permanent rules a limitation on debate.

Now, I know in the past and particularly when we have had bills that have had a number of amendments, a large number of amendments, that we have informally—informally—adopted a rule asking members to try to keep their comments to 5 minutes, and I do not object to that informal policy. But I do object to making as a permanent part of our rules a limitation on debate, particularly

debate about the most important bill that we pass every year, and that is the fiscal budget of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. What that language says is that debate will be limited to 5 minutes and speaking only one time on an amendment or on the bill unless you are the sponsor of the bill, and then, of course, you have two times, I guess, to speak at 5 minutes.

I think most members informally try to keep their remarks to that time line, and I think it is proper for us to encourage people to keep their remarks to that time line. But I really think it is foolish to make a permanent part of our rules a limitation on the very essence of what we are here to do, which is debate in full the people's business. So I ask for a "no" vote on HR 1.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Northampton, Mr. Freeman.

Mr. FREEMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman, Mr. Perzel, stand for a brief interrogation?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman indicates he will stand for interrogation. You may proceed.

Mr. FREEMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am seeking clarification on a section within the resolution that is before us.

On page 21 of the resolution, lines 15 through 20, and I will quote, "In order to be considered, amendments to the General Appropriation Bill must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk by 2:00 P.M. of the Monday of the week prior to the scheduled vote of the General Appropriation Bill," and then it goes on to read, "The Appropriations Committee for special and proper reason and by majority vote, may waive this deadline." My question, Mr. Speaker, is this: If the Appropriations Committee can waive the deadline, what procedure then will be followed in offering amendments to the bill?

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, two things. First off, we asked for the additional 10 days, and the reason for the 10 days was so that your Appropriations Committee and our Appropriations Committee could do fiscal notes and give complete explanations of the 300 amendments that were offered to last year's budget.

The second part of what you are asking is, we allowed during the last appropriations process Representative Barley and Representative Evans to waive that for last-minute amendments that both sides knew people were trying to get in before the deadline but were not quite able to do that. That was the only time we used that last session.

Mr. FREEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I again need additional clarification.

As I read this, we are not talking about last-minute amendments; we are talking about amendments that would conform with the 2 p.m. rule, and as I read this language, it is saying that they can waive that rule. In essence, the 2 p.m. rule prevents last-minute amendments, but the language that follows allows the committee to waive that rule, which then leaves no rule in effect on how you offer amendments, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. PERZEL. I hear the gentleman, but the last three budgets have been bipartisan, and this is the rule that we have used to allow the two Appropriations chairmen, both Representative Evans and Representative Barley, to be able to bring amendments to us that were last-minute amendments that could be agreed upon and that could be voted on by this entire House.

We did get this idea from Representative Jim Manderino, a former Speaker, and it has been the same amendment all along. So we have not changed it at all, Mr. Speaker. It just allows both sides enough flexibility so that if somebody at the last minute missed the deadline, because it is a much earlier deadline than the other amendments, which are only 2 o'clock the day before, it allows them a chance to bring their amendments up.

Mr. FREEMAN. If I understand the gentleman — and I apologize, but I do need further clarification — Mr. Speaker, is it the understanding that this allows for a waiving of the rule to accept amendments; it would not in any way impede amendments being offered under this rule?

Mr. PERZEL. Oh, yes; yes.

Mr. FREEMAN. So it is your position, Mr. Speaker, that this language, by allowing the committee to waive it, does not prohibit the rule from being followed, only to add additional amendments after the time has lapsed.

Mr. PERZEL. That is the way I see it according to the way it has been explained to me, yes.

Mr. FREEMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. On the question, the gentleman, Mr. Thomas, from the county of Philadelphia.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a matter of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state his point of parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. THOMAS. Is it appropriate at this time for me to move to suspend the rules in order to offer amendment 0011?

The SPEAKER. Yes.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to move to suspend the rules so that I might offer an amendment to HR 1.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Thomas, moves that the rules of the House be suspended to permit him to offer amendment— What number is that, Mr. Thomas?

Mr. THOMAS. A0011; amendment 11.

The SPEAKER. —amendment 11 to HR 1.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

The SPEAKER. On the question of suspension of the rules, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have opposed all the others. I would ask the members to oppose this one also.

The SPEAKER. Mr. Thomas.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, this amendment is a reintroduction of an amendment that I offered last year. It is an amendment that would bring the House in line with the Pennsylvania Senate and all other executive and judicial branches of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The House remains the only institution that has not adopted these provisions as a part of

its overall rules. At what point do we continue to walk to a different drumbeat?

The Senate, which—

The SPEAKER. Mr. Thomas, the question is suspension of the rules.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,

Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—58

Belfanti	Grucela	McGeehan	Sturla
Bishop	Haluska	Melio	Surra
Butkovitz	Hanna	Michlovic	Tangretti
Buxton	Horsey	Mundy	Thomas
Caltagirone	James	Myers	Tigue
Cappabianca	Josephs	Pesci	Travaglio
Casorio	Kaiser	Petrone	Trich
Cawley	Keller	Robinson	Van Horne
Cohen, M.	Krebs	Ruffing	Vitali
Colafella	Laughlin	Samuelson	Williams
Curry	Lederer	Scrimenti	Wojnaroski
Daley	Levdansky	Shaner	Yewcic
Eachus	Manderino	Solobay	Youngblood
Freeman	Mann	Steelman	Yudichak
George	McCall		

NAYS—127

Adolph	Fairchild	Maitland	Sather
Allen	Fargo	Major	Saylor
Argall	Feese	Markosek	Schroder
Armstrong	Fichter	Marsico	Schuler
Baker	Fleagle	Masland	Semmel
Bard	Flick	Mayermik	Serafini
Barley	Forcier	McGill	Seyfert
Barrar	Frankel	McIlhattan	Smith, B.
Bastian	Gannon	McIlhinney	Smith, S. H.
Battisto	Geist	McNaughton	Snyder
Belardi	Gigliotti	Metcalfe	Staback
Benninghoff	Gladeck	Micozzie	Stairs
Blaum	Godshall	Miller, R.	Steil
Boyes	Gordner	Miller, S.	Stern
Browne	Gruitza	Nailor	Stevenson
Bunt	Habay	Nickol	Strittmatter
Chadwick	Harhart	O'Brien	Taylor, E. Z.
Civera	Hasay	Orie	Taylor, J.
Clark	Hennessey	Perzel	Trello
Clymer	Herman	Phillips	True
Cohen, L. I.	Hershey	Pippy	Tulli
Cornell	Hess	Pistella	Vance
Corrigan	Hutchinson	Platts	Veon
Costa	Jadlowiec	Raymond	Walko
Coy	Kenney	Readshaw	Wilt
Dailey	LaGrotta	Reinard	Wogan
Dally	Lawless	Rohrer	Wright
Dermody	Leh	Rooney	Zimmerman
DeWeese	Lescovitz	Ross	Zug
DiGirolamo	Lucyk	Rubley	
Druce	Lynch	Sainato	Ryan,
Egolf	Maher	Santoni	Speaker
Evans			

NOT VOTING—17

Bebko-Jones	Donatucci	Petrarca	Roberts
Birmelin	Harhai	Preston	Roebuck

Carn	Kirkland	Ramos	Stetler
DeLuca	Oliver	Rieger	Washington
Dempsey			

EXCUSED—0

Less than a majority of the members elected to the House having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the motion was not agreed to.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes, for the second time on the issue, the gentleman, Mr. Krebs.

Mr. KREBS. I want to move to suspend the rules to offer amendment No. 17 to HR 1.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Krebs, moves the rules of the House be suspended to permit him to offer amendment PN 17?

Mr. KREBS. Yes.

The SPEAKER. —17 to HR 1.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, we have opposed all the others. I have no option but to oppose the suspension of the rules on this one also.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Krebs.

Mr. KREBS. I think I should at least be allowed to explain what the amendment does.

The SPEAKER. I have recognized you for that purpose.

Mr. KREBS. Okay.

On a bill that is coming back on concurrence in Senate amendments, it goes to the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee at this point is allowed to amend it, and then it goes to the floor. At that time it has to be voted up or down; there are no amendments allowed on the floor. What this amendment would do would say that if the Rules Committee amends the Senate amendments, then the House could amend those amendments on the floor.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—47

Bishop	Grucela	McCall	Sturla
Buxton	Hanna	Melio	Tangretti
Caltagirone	Horsey	Michlovic	Thomas
Cappabianca	James	Mundy	Tigue
Casorio	Josephs	Myers	Travaglio
Cawley	Kaiser	Pesci	Trich

Cohen, M.	Kirkland	Roberts	Vitali
Colafella	Krebs	Robinson	Washington
Curry	Lawless	Samuelson	Williams
Daley	Levdansky	Scrimenti	Yewcic
Freeman	Manderino	Solobay	Yudichak
George	Mann	Steelman	

NAYS—137

Adolph	Eachus	Maher	Sather
Allen	Egolf	Maitland	Saylor
Argall	Evans	Major	Schroder
Armstrong	Fairchild	Markosek	Schuler
Baker	Fargo	Marsico	Semmel
Bard	Feese	Masland	Serafini
Barley	Fichter	Mayernik	Seyfert
Barrar	Fleagle	McGeehan	Smith, B.
Bastian	Flick	McGill	Smith, S. H.
Battisto	Forcier	McIlhattan	Snyder
Belardi	Frankel	McIlhinney	Stairs
Belfanti	Gannon	McNaughton	Steil
Benninghoff	Geist	Metcalfe	Stern
Blaum	Gigliotti	Micozzie	Stevenson
Boyes	Gladeck	Miller, S.	Stritmatter
Browne	Godshall	Nailor	Surra
Bunt	Gordner	Nickol	Taylor, E. Z.
Butkovitz	Gruitza	O'Brien	Taylor, J.
Chadwick	Habay	Orie	Trello
Civera	Harhart	Perzel	True
Clark	Hasay	Petrone	Tulli
Clymer	Hennessey	Phillips	Vance
Cohen, L. I.	Herman	Pippy	Van Home
Cornell	Hershey	Pistella	Veon
Corrigan	Hess	Platts	Walko
Costa	Hutchinson	Raymond	Wilt
Coy	Jadlowiec	Readshaw	Wogan
Daily	Keller	Reinard	Wojnaroski
Dally	Kenney	Rohrer	Wright
DeLuca	LaGrotta	Rooney	Zimmerman
Dempsey	Laughlin	Ross	Zug
Dermody	Lederer	Rubley	
DeWeese	Leh	Ruffing	Ryan,
DiGirolamo	Lescovitz	Sainato	Speaker
Druce	Lucyk	Santoni	

NOT VOTING—18

Bebko-Jones	Harhai	Preston	Shaner
Birmelin	Lynch	Ramos	Staback
Carn	Miller, R.	Rieger	Stetler
Donatucci	Oliver	Roebuck	Youngblood
Haluska	Petrarca		

EXCUSED—0

Less than a majority of the members elected to the House having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the motion was not agreed to.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES

The SPEAKER. Mr. Krebs, do you seek further recognition?

Mr. KREBS. Yes; I have another motion for suspension.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is recognized.

Mr. KREBS. I move to suspend the rules to offer amendment No. 16 to HR 1.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Krebs, moves the rules of the House be suspended to permit him to offer amendment PN 16 to HR 1.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is recognized at this time for a brief description of what he is talking of.

Mr. KREBS. What this amendment does, at the present time we have standing committees that put bills out, and it goes either to Appropriations or Rules, and at this time those committees sometimes change those bills for whatever purpose they deem fit. What this amendment would do is that it basically says that the Appropriations Committee and the Rules Committee could not amend a bill unless they were the committees of origin.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question of suspension of the rules, the Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. I would oppose the motion to suspend, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—48

Bebko-Jones	Freeman	McCall	Sturla
Belfanti	George	Melio	Tangretti
Bishop	Grucela	Michlovic	Thomas
Buxton	Haluska	Mundy	Tigue
Caltagirone	Hanna	Pesci	Travaglio
Cappabianca	Harhai	Roberts	Trello
Casorio	Josephs	Robinson	Trich
Cawley	Kirkland	Samuelson	Vitali
Colafella	Krebs	Scrimenti	Walko
Curry	Levdansky	Shaner	Washington
Dailey	Manderino	Solobay	Williams
Eachus	Mann	Steelman	Yudichak

NAYS—138

Adolph	Egolf	Lucyk	Sainato
Allen	Evans	Maher	Santoni
Argall	Fairchild	Maitland	Sather
Armstrong	Fargo	Major	Saylor
Baker	Feese	Markosek	Schroder
Bard	Fichter	Marsico	Schuler
Barley	Fleagle	Masland	Semmel
Barrar	Flick	Mayemik	Serafini
Bastian	Forcier	McGeehan	Seyfert
Battisto	Frankel	McGill	Smith, B.
Belardi	Gannon	McIlhattan	Smith, S. H.
Benninghoff	Geist	McIlhinney	Snyder
Blaum	Gigliotti	McNaughton	Stairs
Boyes	Gladeck	Metcalfe	Steil
Browne	Godshall	Micozzie	Stern
Bunt	Gordner	Miller, R.	Stevenson
Butkovitz	Gruitza	Miller, S.	Strittmatter
Chadwick	Habay	Nailor	Surra
Civera	Harhart	Nickol	Taylor, E. Z.
Clark	Hasay	O'Brien	Taylor, J.
Clymer	Hennessey	Orie	True
Cohen, L. I.	Herman	Perzel	Tulli
Cohen, M.	Hershey	Petrone	Vance
Cornell	Hess	Phillips	Van Home

Corrigan	Horsey	Pippy	Veon
Costa	Hutchinson	Pistella	Wilt
Coy	Jadlowiec	Platts	Wogan
Dailey	Kaiser	Raymond	Wojnaroski
Dally	Keller	Readshaw	Wright
DeLuca	Kenney	Reinard	Yewcic
Dempsey	LaGrotta	Rohrer	Zimmerman
Dermody	Lawless	Rooney	Zug
DeWeese	Lederer	Ross	
DiGirolamo	Leh	Rublely	Ryan,
Druce	Lescovitz	Ruffing	Speaker

NOT VOTING—16

Birmelin	Laughlin	Petrarca	Roebuck
Carn	Lynch	Preston	Staback
Donatucci	Myers	Ramos	Stetler
James	Oliver	Rieger	Youngblood

EXCUSED—0

Less than a majority of the members elected to the House having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the motion was not agreed to.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES

The SPEAKER. Ms. Steelman, did you desire recognition?
Ms. STEELMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would move to suspend the rules in order to consider amendment No. 8 to HR 1.

We have heard several times from the majority leader that somehow the problem of HB 907 had to do with what Senate staffers said to House leadership or what was actually in the bill. He still does not get it. The problem with that bill was a process problem, and the process problem arises from the fact that we tend to do a great deal of legislation in a very small compass of time, with the result that people do not consider carefully what it is they are voting on. They do not have time to. The process is set up so that they do not have time to.

This amendment would add to our House rules a rule that would require an automatic calendar procedure, such that within 24 legislative days of the time that a bill is voted out favorably from a committee, it would have to come to a vote on the House floor. If we managed our legislative calendar in this way, with bills moving steadily forward—

The SPEAKER. Ms. Steelman, a brief explanation, not a debate on the subject of suspension, please.

Ms. STEELMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate your tolerance so far, and I will try not to test your patience further. But we need to have a better organized process for passing legislation so that we do not wind up with these enormous logjams, and this automatic calendar rule would give us that.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?

The SPEAKER. On the question, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, the Local Government Commission made recommendations for repealing old laws. The Representative just does not get it. HB 907 was the repeal of a repealer. You cannot repeal a repealer and have it have the effect of law. Nothing changed.

I would ask the members to vote "no." Nothing we could do today or tomorrow will ever change the fact of what happened with 907. It is dead; it has been vetoed; it is gone. Please vote "no."

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,

Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—41

Bishop	Grucela	Melio	Steelman
Buxton	Hanna	Michlovic	Sturla
Caltagirone	Harhai	Mundy	Surra
Cappabianca	James	Myers	Tangretti
Casorio	Josephs	Pesci	Thomas
Cawley	Kirkland	Roberts	Tigue
Colafella	Laughlin	Robinson	Vitali
Curry	Levdansky	Samuelson	Washington
Daley	Manderino	Scrimenti	Williams
Freeman	McCall	Shaner	Yudichak
George			

NAYS—147

Adolph	Egolf	Maitland	Saylor
Allen	Evans	Major	Schroder
Argall	Fairchild	Mann	Schuler
Armstrong	Fargo	Markosek	Semmel
Baker	Feese	Marsico	Serafini
Bard	Fichter	Masland	Seyfert
Barley	Fleagle	Mayernik	Smith, B.
Barrar	Flick	McGeehan	Smith, S. H.
Bastian	Forcier	McGill	Snyder
Battisto	Frankel	McIlhattan	Solobay
Belardi	Gannon	McIlhinney	Staback
Belfanti	Geist	McNaughton	Stairs
Benninghoff	Gigliotti	Metcalfe	Steil
Birmelin	Gladeck	Micozzie	Stern
Blaum	Godshall	Miller, R.	Stetler
Boyes	Gordner	Miller, S.	Stevenson
Browne	Gruitza	Nailor	Strittmatter
Bunt	Habay	Nickol	Taylor, E. Z.
Butkovitz	Harhart	O'Brien	Taylor, J.
Chadwick	Hasay	Orie	Trello
Civera	Hennessey	Perzel	Trich
Clark	Herman	Petrarca	True
Clymer	Hershey	Petrone	Tulli
Cohen, L. I.	Hess	Phillips	Vance
Cohen, M.	Horsley	Pippy	Van Horne
Cornell	Hutchinson	Pistella	Veon
Corrigan	Jadlowiec	Platts	Walko
Costa	Kaiser	Raymond	Wilt
Coy	Keller	Readshaw	Wogan
Dailey	Kenney	Rohrer	Wojnaroski
Dally	LaGrotta	Rooney	Wright
DeLuca	Lawless	Ross	Yewcic
Dempsey	Lederer	Rublely	Zimmerman
Dermody	Leh	Ruffing	Zug
DeWeese	Lescovitz	Sainato	
DiGirolamo	Lucyk	Santoni	Ryan,
Druce	Maher	Sather	Speaker
Eachus			

NOT VOTING—14

Bebko-Jones	Krebs	Ramos	Roebuck
Carn	Lynch	Reinard	Travaglio
Donatucci	Oliver	Rieger	Youngblood
Haluska	Preston		

EXCUSED—0

Less than a majority of the members elected to the House having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the motion was not agreed to.

On the question recurring,

Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—151

Adolph	Druce	Lucyk	Santoni
Allen	Eachus	Maher	Sather
Argall	Egolf	Maitland	Saylor
Armstrong	Evans	Major	Schroder
Baker	Fairchild	Markosek	Schuler
Bard	Fargo	Marsico	Semmel
Barley	Feese	Masland	Serafini
Barrar	Fichter	Mayernik	Seyfert
Bastian	Fleagle	McGeehan	Smith, B.
Battisto	Flick	McGill	Smith, S. H.
Belardi	Forcier	McIlhattan	Snyder
Belfanti	Gannon	McIlhinney	Staback
Benninghoff	Geist	McNaughton	Stairs
Birmelin	Gigliotti	Metcalfe	Steil
Blaum	Gladeck	Micozzie	Stern
Boyes	Godshall	Miller, R.	Stetler
Browne	Gordner	Miller, S.	Stevenson
Bunt	Gruitza	Nailor	Strittmatter
Butkovitz	Habay	Nickol	Taylor, E. Z.
Buxton	Harhai	O'Brien	Taylor, J.
Cawley	Harhart	Orie	Travaglio
Chadwick	Hasay	Perzel	Trello
Civera	Hennessey	Petrarca	True
Clark	Herman	Petrone	Tulli
Clymer	Hershey	Phillips	Vance
Cohen, L. I.	Hess	Pippy	Van Horne
Cohen, M.	Horsley	Pistella	Veon
Cornell	Hutchinson	Platts	Walko
Corrigan	Jadlowiec	Raymond	Williams
Costa	Kaiser	Readshaw	Wilt
Coy	Keller	Reinard	Wogan
Dailey	Kenney	Rohrer	Wojnaroski
Dally	LaGrotta	Rooney	Wright
DeLuca	Lawless	Ross	Zimmerman
Dempsey	Lederer	Rublely	Zug
Dermody	Leh	Ruffing	
DeWeese	Lescovitz	Sainato	Ryan,
DiGirolamo	Lucyk	Samuelson	Speaker
Druce			
Eachus			

NAYS—35

Bishop	Grucela	Michlovic	Surra
Caltagirone	Haluska	Mundy	Tangretti
Cappabianca	Hanna	Pesci	Thomas
Casorio	Josephs	Roberts	Tigue
Colafella	Krebs	Robinson	Trich
Curry	Levdansky	Scrimenti	Vitali
Frankel	Manderino	Solobay	Yewcic
Freeman	McCall	Steelman	Yudichak
George	Melio	Sturla	

NOT VOTING—16

Bebko-Jones	Kirkland	Oliver	Roebuck
Carn	Lynch	Preston	Shaner
Donatucci	Mann	Ramos	Washington
James	Myers	Rieger	Youngblood

EXCUSED—0

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

VOTE CORRECTIONS

The SPEAKER. The Chair at this time recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Yudichak.

Mr. YUDICHAK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to be recognized to correct the record.

On HR 2, the motion to postpone, I would like to be in the affirmative on that vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The remarks of the gentleman will be spread upon the record.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Westmoreland, Mr. Casorio.

Mr. CASORIO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to correct the record, please.

On HR 2, motion to postpone, my machine malfunctioned. I would like to be recorded as voting in the affirmative.

The SPEAKER. The remarks of the gentleman will be spread upon the record.

Mr. CASORIO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Members, please, may I have your attention?

The members should go to the Chief Clerk's Office before they leave town and sign the register.

VOTE CORRECTIONS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes, from the county of York, the gentleman, Mr. Miller, for the purpose of correcting the record.

Mr. MILLER. On HR 1, amendment 17, the motion to suspend, I would like to be recorded in the negative.

The SPEAKER. The remarks of the gentleman will be spread upon the record.

The gentleman, Mr. Schuler.

Mr. SCHULER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to correct the record.

On HR 2, the motion to postpone, I wish to be recorded as a "no" vote. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY MR. PERZEL

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, I realize that most of the members have left, but I did want to mention the fact that I was reading through the remarks of 1991 when Governor Casey outspent

Barbara Hafer 16 to 1, and there were no comments about spending too much money on gubernatorial campaigns.

I just thought I would like to bring that up, Mr. Speaker, and I do have an open invitation to the other side of the aisle to talk about campaign finance reform when we start to talk about soft money, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

VOTE CORRECTIONS

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Serafini.

Mr. SERAFINI. Mr. Speaker, on HR 2, motion to postpone, I would like to be recorded in the negative. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The remarks of the gentleman will be spread upon the record.

Mr. Gannon, do you seek recognition?

Mr. GANNON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on the Vitali motion to suspend the rules, my machine malfunctioned. I would like to be recorded in the negative.

The SPEAKER. The remarks of the gentleman will be spread upon the record.

Mr. Flick.

Mr. FLICK. Mr. Speaker, on HR 2, motion to postpone, I was not recorded. I would like to be recorded in the negative, please.

The SPEAKER. The remarks of the gentleman will be spread upon the record.

REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the lady from Berks County, Mrs. Miller, who submits the following remarks for the record.

Mrs. MILLER submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to bring to the attention of the Speaker and the members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives the names of Sankar Bhamidipaty, Andrew Borst, James Geisler, Joshua Hartman, Braden Houser, Ashish Kapoor, Adam Kenderdine, Jon Kline, Zachary Matthew, John Miller, Keegan Orzechowski, Jeff Pawelski, Brian Poole, Andrew Sickler, Keith Terefenko, and Eric Turgeon, who were awarded Scouting's highest honor in 1998, the Eagle Scout. Jennifer Miller, who was awarded Girl Scouting's highest award in 1998, the Gold Award.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read to the members of the House of Representatives the following citation of merit honoring Jon Kline member of Troop 144, Andrew Borst, James Geisler, Brian Poole, Keith Terefenko, Eric Turgeon members of Troop 430, Joshua Hartman, Braden Houser, Keegan Orzechowski members of Troop 431, Sankar Bhamidipaty, Ashish Kapoor members of Troop 437, John Miller, Jeff Pawelski members of Troop 457, Zachary Matthew, Andrew Sickler members of Troop 459, Adam Kenderdine member of Troop 473. Jennifer Miller member of Troop 20.

Whereas, these fine young men and women from Berks County have earned the Eagle and Gold Awards in Scouting. This is the highest award the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts can bestow and as such represents great sacrifice and tremendous effort. The leadership skills that Scouting encourages in these young people through their efforts to achieve the Eagle and Gold Awards will serve these young people for their entire lifetimes.

Now therefore, Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Representatives, it is my privilege to congratulate and place their names in the Legislative Journal.

The SPEAKER. Does the majority leader or Democratic floor leaders have any further business?

RULES SUSPENDED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that rule 15 of the House be suspended so that the House may convene on Tuesday, January 19, 1999, at 11 a.m. instead of at 1 p.m.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Phillips.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, January 19, 1999, at 11 a.m., e.s.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to, and at 3:56 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.