

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2003

SESSION OF 2003

187TH 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The CHIEF CLERK. As many of you know, one of our members, Leroy Zimmerman, died December 6 of 2002. Prior to the prayer being offered by Rev. Dr. George F. Riley, assistant to the president of Villanova University, members and guests will please rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of our beloved colleague and remain standing for the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the members of the House and all visitors stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of the Honorable Leroy M. Zimmerman.)

The CHIEF CLERK. Father Riley.

PRAYER

REV. DR. GEORGE F. RILEY, assistant to the president of Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

O God, our common God, we come here today on this auspicious occasion as warm and wonderful followers of You.

In today's world, where to be in in some circles you have to be far out, gratitude is an often neglected virtue. We who stay on our toes so very much forget to get on our knees.

But indeed Abraham Lincoln told us and prayed, give us a clear vision, Lord, so we might know where to stand and what to stand for, because unless we stand for something, we might fall for anything. And that is why as weak, finite human beings, we need three important bones, and they are the wishbone, the backbone, and the funny bone. All three are critical, all three essential, all three inseparable, and all three give us a sense of sanity in our ever-changing and convulsive society.

Indeed, as we leave this historic event this afternoon, may we always have faith in You, O Lord. Be proud of our great country, be more loyal to this Commonwealth, be more friendly toward one another, and be more indebted to our common God, who is number one in heaven as all Pennsylvanians are always number one on earth.

Amen. Shalom. God bless. That is it.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED

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

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Chief Clerk, the Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, Mr. Kenneth Rapp.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes Deputy Secretary Rapp.

Mr. RAPP. Thank you.

I have the distinct honor and privilege to present the returns and statement of campaign expense compliance for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the election held November 5, 2002.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair extends its thanks from the House to Deputy Secretary Rapp.

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 returns of the General Election held November 5, 2002. 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
Florindo J. Flo Fabrizio	Second
Karl Boyes	Third

Tom Scrimenti	Fourth	Tom Yewcic	Seventy-second
John R. Evans	Fifth	Gary Haluska	Seventy-third
Teresa Forcier	Sixth	Camille George	Seventy-fourth
Michael C. Gruitza	Seventh	Dan A. Surra	Seventy-fifth
Dick Stevenson	Eighth	Mike Hanna	Seventy-sixth
Chris Sainato	Ninth	Lynn Herman	Seventy-seventh
Frank LaGrotta	Tenth	Dick L. Hess	Seventy-eighth
Guy A. Travaglio, Jr.	Eleventh	Richard A. Geist	Seventy-ninth
Daryl Metcalfe	Twelfth	Jerry A. Stern	Eightieth
Arthur D. Hershey	Thirteenth	Larry O. Sather	Eighty-first
Mike Veon	Fourteenth	C. Adam Harris	Eighty-second
Vince Biancucci	Fifteenth	Steven W. Cappelli	Eighty-third
Susan Laughlin	Sixteenth	Brett Feese	Eighty-fourth
Rod E. Wilt	Seventeenth	Russ Fairchild	Eighty-fifth
Gene D. DiGirolamo	Eighteenth	Allan Egolf	Eighty-sixth
Jake Wheatley	Nineteenth	Patricia H. Vance	Eighty-seventh
Don Walko	Twentieth	Jerry L. Nailor	Eighty-eighth
Frank J. Pistella	Twenty-first	Jeffrey W. Coy	Eighty-ninth
Michael Diven	Twenty-second	Patrick E. Fleagle	Ninetieth
Dan B. Frankel	Twenty-third	Stephen R. Maitland	Ninety-first
Joseph Preston, Jr.	Twenty-fourth	Bruce Smith	Ninety-second
Joseph F. Markosek	Twenty-fifth	Ron Miller	Ninety-third
Tim Hennessey	Twenty-sixth	Stanley E. Saylor	Ninety-fourth
Thomas C. Petrone	Twenty-seventh	Stephen H. Stetler	Ninety-fifth
Mike Turzai	Twenty-eighth	Mike Sturla	Ninety-sixth
Bernie O'Neill	Twenty-ninth	Roy E. Baldwin	Ninety-seventh
Jeffrey E. Habay	Thirtieth	David S. Hickernell	Ninety-eighth
David J. Steil	Thirty-first	Leroy M. Zimmerman	Ninety-ninth
Anthony M. DeLuca	Thirty-second	Gibson C. Armstrong	One hundredth
Frank Dermody	Thirty-third	Mauree Gingrich	One hundred first
Paul Costa	Thirty-fourth	Peter J. Zug	One hundred second
Marc J. Gergely	Thirty-fifth	Ron Buxton	One hundred third
Harry Readshaw	Thirty-sixth	Mark S. McNaughton	One hundred fourth
Thomas C. Creighton	Thirty-seventh	Ron Marsico	One hundred fifth
Kenneth W. Ruffing	Thirty-eighth	John D. Payne	One hundred sixth
David Levdansky	Thirty-ninth	Robert Belfanti, Jr.	One hundred seventh
John A. Maher	Fortieth	Merle H. Phillips	One hundred eighth
Katie True	Forty-first	John R. Gordner	One hundred ninth
Tom Stevenson	Forty-second	Tina Pickett	One hundred tenth
Scott W. Boyd	Forty-third	Sandra J. Major	One hundred eleventh
John Pippy	Forty-fourth	Fred Belardi	One hundred twelfth
Nick Kotik	Forty-fifth	Gaynor Cawley	One hundred thirteenth
Victor John Lescovitz	Forty-sixth	Jim Wansacz	One hundred fourteenth
Keith Gillespie	Forty-seventh	Edward Staback	One hundred fifteenth
Timothy Joseph Solobay	Forty-eighth	Todd A. Eachus	One hundred sixteenth
Peter J. Daley	Forty-ninth	George C. Hasay	One hundred seventeenth
Bill DeWeese	Fiftieth	Thomas M. Tighe	One hundred eighteenth
Larry Roberts	Fifty-first	John T. Yudichak	One hundred nineteenth
James E. Shaner	Fifty-second	Phyllis Mundy	One hundred twentieth
Robert W. Godshall	Fifty-third	Kevin Blaum	One hundred twenty-first
John E. Pallone	Fifty-fourth	Keith McCall	One hundred twenty-second
Joseph A. Petrarca	Fifty-fifth	Neal Goodman	One hundred twenty-third
James E. Casorio, Jr.	Fifty-sixth	David G. Argall	One hundred twenty-fourth
Thomas A. Tangretti	Fifty-seventh	Bob Allen	One hundred twenty-fifth
R. Ted Harhai	Fifty-eighth	Dante Santoni, Jr.	One hundred twenty-sixth
Jess Stairs	Fifty-ninth	Thomas R. Caltagirone	One hundred twenty-seventh
Jeff Coleman	Sixtieth	Samuel E. Rohrer	One hundred twenty-eighth
Kate M. Harper	Sixty-first	Sheila Miller	One hundred twenty-ninth
Dave Reed	Sixty-second	Dennis E. Leh	One hundred thirtieth
Fred McIlhattan	Sixty-third	Pat Browne	One hundred thirty-first
Scott E. Hutchinson	Sixty-fourth	Jennifer Mann	One hundred thirty-second
Jim Lynch	Sixty-fifth	T. J. Rooney	One hundred thirty-third
Sam Smith	Sixty-sixth	Douglas G. Reichley	One hundred thirty-fourth
Martin T. Causer	Sixty-seventh	Steve Samuelson	One hundred thirty-fifth
Matthew E. Baker	Sixty-eighth	Robert Freeman	One hundred thirty-sixth
Bob Bastian	Sixty-ninth	Richard T. Grucela	One hundred thirty-seventh
John W. Fichter	Seventieth	Craig A. Dally	One hundred thirty-eighth
Edward P. Wojnaroski, Sr.	Seventy-first	Jerry Birmelin	One hundred thirty-ninth

Thomas C. Corrigan	One hundred fortieth
Anthony J. Melio	One hundred forty-first
Matthew N. Wright	One hundred forty-second
Chuck McIlhinney	One hundred forty-third
Katharine M. Watson	One hundred forty-fourth
Paul I. Clymer	One hundred forty-fifth
Mary Ann Dailey	One hundred forty-sixth
Raymond Bunt, Jr.	One hundred forty-seventh
Melissa Murphy Weber	One hundred forty-eighth
Daylin Leach	One hundred forty-ninth
Jacqueline R. Crahalla	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
Mario Scavello	One hundred seventy-sixth
John J. Taylor	One hundred seventy-seventh
Scott A. Petri	One hundred seventy-eighth
William W. Rieger	One hundred seventy-ninth
Angel Cruz	One hundred eightieth
W. Curtis Thomas	One hundred eighty-first
Babette Josephs	One hundred eighty-second
Julie Harhart	One hundred eighty-third
William 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
Kelly Lewis	One hundred eighty-ninth
Michael Horsey	One hundred ninetieth
Ronald G. Waters	One hundred ninety-first
Louise Bishop	One hundred ninety-second
Steven R. Nickol	One hundred ninety-third
Kathy M. Manderino	One hundred ninety-fourth
Frank L. Oliver	One hundred ninety-fifth
Beverly Mackereth	One hundred ninety-sixth
Jewell Williams	One hundred ninety-seventh
Rosita C. Youngblood	One hundred ninety-eighth
William I. Gabig	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

Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this twenty-third day of December, 2002.

(SEAL)

C. Michael Weaver
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."

Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this twenty-third day of December, 2002.

(SEAL)

C. Michael Weaver
Secretary of the Commonwealth

The CHIEF CLERK. The election returns for all candidates for membership to 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. Smith.

Mr. S. SMITH. There are no requests of leave, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the Democratic whip, Mr. Veon.

Mr. VEON. No requests for leave.

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:

PRESENT—202

Adolph	Evans, D.	Lewis	Sainato
Allen	Evans, J.	Lynch	Samuelson
Argall	Fabrizio	Mackereth	Santoni
Armstrong	Fairchild	Maher	Sather
Baker	Feese	Maitland	Saylor
Baldwin	Fichter	Major	Scavello
Bard	Fleagle	Manderino	Schroder
Barrar	Flick	Mann	Scrimenti
Bastian	Forcier	Markosek	Semmel
Bebko-Jones	Frankel	Marsico	Shaner
Belardi	Freeman	McCall	Smith, B.
Belfanti	Gabig	McGeehan	Smith, S. H.
Benninghoff	Gannon	McGill	Solobay
Bianucci	Geist	McIlhattan	Staback

Birmelin	George	McIlhinney	Stairs
Bishop	Gergely	McNaughton	Steil
Blaum	Gillespie	Melio	Stern
Boyd	Gingrich	Metcalfe	Stetler
Boyes	Godshall	Micozzie	Stevenson, R.
Browne	Goodman	Miller, R.	Stevenson, T.
Bunt	Gordner	Miller, S.	Sturla
Butkovitz	Grucela	Mundy	Surra
Buxton	Gruitza	Myers	Tangretti
Caltagirone	Habay	Nailor	Taylor, E. Z.
Cappelli	Haluska	Nickol	Taylor, J.
Casorio	Hanna	O'Brien	Thomas
Causser	Harhai	Oliver	Tigue
Cawley	Harhart	O'Neill	Travaglio
Civera	Harper	Pallone	True
Clymer	Harris	Payne	Turzai
Cohen	Hasay	Perzel	Vance
Coleman	Hennessey	Petrarca	Veon
Cornell	Herman	Petri	Vitali
Corrigan	Hershey	Petrone	Walko
Costa	Hess	Phillips	Wansacz
Coy	Hickernell	Pickett	Washington
Crahalla	Horsey	Pippy	Waters
Creighton	Hutchinson	Pistella	Watson
Cruz	James	Preston	Weber
Curry	Josephs	Raymond	Wheatley
Dailey	Keller	Readshaw	Williams, J.
Daley	Kenney	Reed	Wilt
Dally	Kirkland	Reichley	Wojnaroski
DeLuca	Kotik	Rieger	Wright
Dermody	LaGrotta	Roberts	Yewcic
DeWeese	Laughlin	Roebuck	Youngblood
DiGirolamo	Leach	Rohrer	Yudichak
Diven	Lederer	Rooney	Zug
Donatucci	Leh	Ross	
Eachus	Lescovitz	Rubley	Ryan,
Egolf	Levdansky	Ruffing	Speaker

ADDITIONS—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 each member will swear or affirm.

The oath of office will be administered by the Honorable Chris R. Wogan, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia, and a former member of the House.

(Members-elect stood.)

JUDGE WOGAN. Where was all that when I needed somebody to pick up a check last night?

I have indeed been fortunate to have had the honor of serving in this chamber for 21 years with some of the finest men and women, both members and staff, not only in Pennsylvania but

I am certain in the entire country, and for the last year I have had the additional privilege of serving as a common pleas court judge in the First Judicial District of our State, which is Philadelphia County. But equal to these is the honor of giving the oath of office to so many old friends today. This will always be a second home to me. I want to express my gratitude to Speaker Ryan for this privilege. Thank you, Matt.

You know, while we members and former members all know just how well respected and popular Matt is on both sides of the aisle here, in the last year I have found out that Matt is also very highly regarded by judges from every corner of our State. Matt is the consummate and quintessential legislator, but he has been known for standing for cooperation and comity between these two branches of our government, and the citizens of Pennsylvania expect us, within the parameters set for us by the Constitution, to cooperate, to work together. Pennsylvania, the citizens of Pennsylvania have indeed been fortunate to have Matt Ryan as their Speaker.

And now if each member would raise your right hand, I will administer your oath of office.

Do 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? If so, answer "I do."

(Members asserted oath.)

JUDGE WOGAN. Congratulations, friends.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester County, Mr. Hennessey.

Mr. HENNESSEY. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

I rise to propose a resolution that we now elect the Speaker of this House for the 2003-2004 session.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Chester County, Mr. Hennessey, presents a resolution, which the clerk will read.

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

In the House of Representatives
January 7, 2003

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 very much, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Please let me take this opportunity to offer my personal congratulations to my newly sworn-in colleagues and welcome

you, your family, and your friends here as we begin the new session of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Let me also thank Judge Christopher Wogan, who for many years worked here in this glorious chamber representing the 176th Legislative District in the city of Philadelphia, a district which Representative Kenney and I now have the privilege of representing.

Chris, as a colleague and as a friend, I am sure it was very exciting for you to have the opportunity of swearing in your colleagues and your friends and giving them the oath of office here today. Thank you very much for doing that for us.

Please also join me in welcoming Judge Pat Jenkins, who will soon administer the oath of office to our next Speaker, her husband, Matthew J. Ryan. Judge, welcome to this chamber, and thank you very much for coming here today.

To all of our guests and family, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, welcome. Welcome to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

This is my 14th opening day, and it is as exciting today as it was for the first time for me in 1979. That day, as today, I looked around the chamber, as I am sure all of you have, and looked at the majesty, the works of art, and the people in this chamber. You have no choice when you sit here for the first time but to look around and say to yourself, what a gorgeous, gorgeous room this is, probably one of the prettiest in the world. But you have to think a little bit also about William Penn. He is right up there on the mural in the very center. It is now our job, each and every one of us, to carry on his dream, a dream of freedom and a dream of opportunity.

Penn's dream was that Pennsylvania would be "the seed of a nation," and as you are all well aware, the United States of America was founded here in Pennsylvania. Our nation has grown since those days, and in fact, I think that Matt Ryan of Delaware County could probably recount some of those days from his personal experiences working with William Penn and Benjamin Franklin. I was 12 when Matt was elected, and I am no kid anymore myself.

But seriously, our challenge as representatives of the people, as community leaders, and as policymakers is to foster the freedom and the opportunity dream of William Penn, that Pennsylvania will again be the Keystone State. We need to build that dream with wisdom and integrity. Wisdom and integrity. While I cannot think of any better words, I am certain that Mr. DeWeese, a colleague of mine on the other side, would use some words that no one here or Webster's ever heard of to describe what Matt Ryan personifies. Before many of you in this room were born, Matt Ryan, with wisdom and integrity, has been serving the people not only of Delaware County but of this entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As members, we need not look any further than Matt Ryan for the perfect role model. In fact, all public servants would do very well by emulating him.

I am here today in large part because of my working with Matt Ryan. He taught me how to be a leader. He showed me that leadership is much more than just getting the votes, although that is pretty important in this chamber, making sure you have 102. By example, he showed me that leadership comes from developing relationships. Matt Ryan showed me that true leadership is balancing political expediency with the long-term impact of exactly what we do here on the floor of this House. Matt Ryan showed me the true meaning of your word being

your bond. There is not enough of that in our society today in the world, but there is more of that type of integrity in this chamber than in many other places, and in very large part because of Matthew J. Ryan.

Under the Speakership of Matthew J. Ryan since 1995, this chamber has worked in a truly bipartisan manner to improve the quality of life for millions of Pennsylvanians. Members on both sides of the aisle know Matt and praise him for being impartial, fair, nonpartisan, as he presides over this House. His respect for this institution, his commitment to fairness, his wit and wisdom make him a true Speaker of the people's House, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Matt Ryan is a United States Marine Corps veteran, very respected unifier, spirited debater, parliamentary tactician, legislative master, political guru, and genuine leader. He is a husband, a father, and a grandfather, yet he has given more than half of his life to this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Matt, as you continue your service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and this institution, I am confident that you will carry out the business of the House in an honorable, respectful, and just manner. That has become your trademark.

Even through trying times, you have remained friendly and accessible to all the members. You remain a wise leader, a mentor. Matt, you are truly a great man and truly a great leader of this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We look forward again to your service as Speaker of this House.

Now I am extremely honored to nominate my friend and my colleague from Delaware County, Matthew J. Ryan, to be the Speaker of the Pennsylvania 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. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

It is my honor and privilege to second the nomination of the Honorable Matthew Ryan for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

In preparation for my remarks today, I took the opportunity to review my comments made at this podium in prior years when I spoke on behalf of the nomination of Representative Ryan. I wondered what else more could I say about my friend, Matt Ryan, in support of his nomination to Speaker of the House of Representatives. I have said that Matt was tenacious, determined, and tolerant, that he had the talents, the skills, and the principles of an energetic, capable, and effective leader, and most important, he is blessed with the gift of an Irish wit.

I could stand here today and repeat my remarks with the same passion and sincerity as I did 2 years ago, and some might say I just did, but in considering what I would say today in offering Matt Ryan to this body as nominee for its Speaker, I considered if I could distill all of those attributes and qualifications into just one single word, and after some thought I concluded that 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 in the next legislative session – a unifier, a feisty debater, and a parliamentary tactician.

No one sits in our Speaker chair by right or by gift. To take the podium as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of

Representatives is an honor that is earned, and it is earned from each and every member of this chamber by his or her vote, an honor that Matt Ryan has earned on five previous occasions.

During his 41 years of service to the people of Pennsylvania, Representative Matt Ryan has brought dignity, respect, and wisdom to the House of Representatives. I believe that Matt Ryan has earned our friendship, our respect, and our support.

As I said before as I stood at this podium and I stand here and say today, Matt 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 Representative Matthew Ryan Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 2003-2004 sessions 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 recognizes the gentleman from Blair County, Mr. Geist.

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

This is really a pleasure for me to rise to second the nomination of Matt Ryan.

When you look around this room today and you see all the flowers that are out there and you think that we are still all vertical when we are getting flowers, that is pretty amazing. Well, it is also pretty amazing when you have a building with a stone with your name carved in it, and how many of us in this business and this Capitol could ever have a building named after us. Matt Ryan does, and deservedly so.

John talks about how long he served here and Tom talks about how long he served here, and we all came in in the same class, oddly enough, and between us there is 75 years, and that does not total up to all Matt's experience.

And I also want to say this about Matt Ryan. You heard all the other things that you are going to hear from them, but, you know, from the heart, here is a guy that life has dealt a joker to off the bottom of the deck, and most of us would have quit, most of us would have really given up, and Matt has soldiered on, and believe me, for those of us who have done this, it is really something to be admired.

He is a man who has taught so many this business. He is a man who has advanced so many careers, so many people who started as pages in this place and ended up judges, so many other people that Matt has helped along the road of life, and I do not know whether any of them ever say thank you or not, but a lot of us look and observe and really respect somebody that takes time to do that.

Today I was going to ask my nephew, Mark, to make my remarks for me, because he is quite a speechmaker, and the future is really the young kids, and it is guys like Matt Ryan who have paved the way so that Mark and my other nephews have somebody as a role model to look up to so that they can dedicate their lives to doing good.

Matt Ryan is the model of public service, and I am pleased to second his nomination, and I hope it is a unanimous vote. 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 Schuylkill County, Mr. Allen.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chief Clerk, I move that the nominations be closed at this time.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Schuylkill County, Mr. Allen, moves that the 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 will say "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 their duties.

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

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Chief Clerk, I have the honor of escorting the Speaker-elect, Matthew J. Ryan, here to the podium.

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, Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, and the wife of the Speaker-elect.

JUDGE JENKINS. Raise your right hand, place your left hand on the Bible, and repeat after me: I, Matthew J. Ryan, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that I will discharge the duties of the office of Speaker with fidelity, so help me God.

(Speaker-elect Ryan asserted oath.)

The CHIEF CLERK. Members may be seated.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair requests the Honorable K. Leroy Irvis, former member of this House and Speaker from 1977 to 1978 and 1983 through 1988, to take the Chair for the purpose of presenting the gavel to Speaker Ryan.

Mr. IRVIS. This former Speaker has held a number of positions beginning with the Boy Scouts, but this former Speaker has never met a man the equal of the man you have just elected as Speaker of this House. Matthew Ryan is what a Speaker should be – wise, articulate, knowledgeable, and above all, fair – and I congratulate not Matt Ryan but I congratulate all of you on the floor for your wise decision.

Those of you who were here last year I thank for your affirmative vote in naming a building for me. For a time I did not believe it, but finally, when the Senate voted for it, I said it must be real.

I have been warned by my wife, who is to my right, that I am not being sworn in as Speaker, that it is my job to speak briefly to you, and knowing that I have to go home, I shall follow her advice.

I congratulate and I thank the Speaker, I congratulate the majority leader, Mr. Perzel, and I congratulate the minority leader, the Democratic leader, Mr. DeWeese, and I thank them for leading the fight to get the building named for me. And I say to those of you who now serve where I once did, and some of you have asked me if I miss it, the answer is absolutely yes, absolutely yes.

The people who have sent you here have given you what I call an adjectival modifier. I am sure the gentleman to my right, who is smiling so broadly, Mr. DeWeese, will love that phrase. When you ran for office, you were Miss or Mrs. or Mr., but once you were elected, the people of your district gave you a very, very, very great gift and a very, very, very deep trust. They call you now not Representative Smith or Jones; they call you the Honorable Mr. Smith or Jones. It will be up to you to live up to those anticipations which they had when they sent you here, to do for them what they cannot do for themselves, and to do for all Pennsylvanians what needs to be done to make Pennsylvania and keep Pennsylvania the very best place on earth for all of us to live.

I thank you so very, very much for this honor, and to you, Matthew Ryan, one of the finest men I have ever known and the best Speaker I have ever served under, congratulations.

THE SPEAKER (MATTHEW J. RYAN) PRESIDING

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. I do not know where to begin thanking people for their kind remarks, for their many kindnesses over many years that they have really showered on me, made up principally of the people that are serving in this House and who have served in the past in this House with me.

FAMILY INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. My supporters range beyond the room of this great chamber to the State of Maryland, Colorado, and Philadelphia with my family, the Philadelphia region.

I am going to try and get through the family, if I may. My son, Matt; stand up, Matt. I have not seen whether Ann Marie, your wife— Yeah; there she is. Stand up, Ann Marie. And then my girlfriend, Annie, their daughter, and Jack Ryan of Clancy fame and Matt III. Stand up, boys. Next to them is Cuyler Walker and Katie, his wife, my daughter, with Harry and Avery in hand. There you go, Harry. He showed up at a fundraiser once and started to sing and dance, and I could not get the microphone away from him. Behind him is my son-in-law, Bill Kramer, who is very good at dismantling Christmas trees – he is tall enough to reach the top without problems – his wife, my daughter, Jayne; their boys, Bill and Connor. Stand up, Jaynie and Bill. Now, Terri, I do not see Terri. Oh, she did not show up. So I have two missing, Terri and Maureen, and if I put all the grandchildren together, I would have to clear the gallery; there are 12 of them, and my five children. My wife you have met, and that is my immediate family that I want to introduce to all of you.

I listened to the speech of John Perzel carefully, the remarks of Mr. Gannon carefully, Rick Geist, and I notice that Perzel calls me old, Gannon calls me a character, and these guys are supposed to be my friends. Geist at least kept quiet as to fishing abilities of your newly elected Speaker. He did not let the truth out on my fishing abilities, which Rick and I have shared on a number of occasions and really neither one of us did much to brag about. But I thank all of you gentlemen for what you have done and what you have said for me.

More than three centuries ago William Penn decided that a constitutional form of government was best for the people of Pennsylvania. In meeting today, we fulfill the continuing triumph of that dream.

Today is truly a day of celebration, a new beginning. Today we set in motion Pennsylvania's 187th legislative session. For the next 2 years we will make the laws that will affect the present generation and future generations.

For the past 321 years we have made laws. This General Assembly, this House of Representatives, we have made laws, just as our Founding Fathers made them. We get an idea, we do the research, we hold hearings, we discuss and pass the bills, send them on to the Senate, and then hopefully on to the Governor, where it is signed. It is a tried and true constitutional formula.

Because of our party system – and you will note, I am sitting on the Democrat side of the aisle today. I am assigned a seat there. I am going to try and convert some – because of our party system, within that constitutional formula lies the predictability of debate. Conflict among legitimate values may be inevitable, but through a thoughtful, well-reasoned assessment of competing dreams, we can chart a highly principled if not ideal course of action.

In the extreme, single-mindedness becomes narrow-mindedness. It leads to suppression of dissenting views, to the denial of life and liberty. That is why we in this House celebrate the exercise of negotiation and compromise.

In a free society we seek to counter the tendency for controversy – we are not always successful – by establishing rules and observing customs and decorum that preserve civility.

In this institution we have a strong tradition of tolerating controversy. Free expression is protected if within the rules of this House, and our rules are already broad on that.

Free expression is protected within the rules of the House. That is something we have to keep in mind. We just do not have the right to stand up and blurt out things, say things. We have to follow the rules of the House in doing that. Sometimes these words that we allow to be said are hurtful, but that is the right. We have that right if it is within our rules.

Our controversies for the most part honor the rules of civility. We are following Penn's Holy Experiment for Pennsylvania of "orderly progress." By doing this we can work harder, think deeper, manage better, produce more abundantly, and care more for others. We can think, manage, and care as much as the illustrious spirits whose images appear in the mural directly behind me.

This is something that when I first came to Harrisburg many years ago, as you have heard, I sat back in the hall and I looked at "The Apotheosis" – I could not pronounce it; I had to get Bill DeWeese 10 years later to pronounce it for me – "The Apotheosis of Pennsylvania," and I wondered who these people were, and nowhere could I find out their identities; some were self-evident. So I went to the library, and I took a staff person – I was a first-term member, so you know how much staff I had 40 years ago – and looked and looked and looked and found out who these people were. And today, if you look at the brochures that are handed out when you come into this building or by the tour guides, you will see an outline of this "Apotheosis" with numbers on the outline of the people, and they are all identified. At a later date I had staff people – and I am saying this for a purpose – I had staff people search out who all these people were and what did they contribute to Pennsylvania, because that is why they are here; they are here because they were meaningful for Pennsylvania, and that data I distributed for a number of years – I distributed it on the floor. And before we put these machines on the desks, you could lift the desk lids up, and I would tell people, when you get bored with the speeches, paste up this sketch, and instead of falling asleep, which no one has ever done, identify these people and learn something about this great Capitol Building and the paintings and the glassware that is here. Penn, of course, you would recognize right off; Thaddeus Stevens; inventor and former Speaker of this House Benjamin Franklin. They loved Pennsylvania with a passion and intensity. I mean, they really loved Pennsylvania.

Whenever I look at this painting, our "Apotheosis," a reflection of the greatness that is Pennsylvania, and that is what it is – her heroes, explorers, pioneers, intellectual and spiritual leaders, workers in the sciences and industry, her military commanders – this work encourages the dreamer in me as it may in all of us and all of you, particularly the new members who should get interested in this type thing. At least try it out, and you may get as wrapped up in it as I did over the years.

When I look at it, I dream of the greatness of Pennsylvania. It is bigger, brighter, more diverse, more creative, and more complex than any place I know. In our schools, on our street corners, in our churches, synagogues, mosques, and other places of worship, from Easton to Ohio's border, from Gettysburg to Wellsboro in the northern tier, as Pennsylvanians, we mirror the rich mosaic of America and the human race. It is a great State and a great citizenry.

In our research and development laboratories, our operating rooms, our governing councils and commissions, our steel mills and factories, our fields of corn and wheat, our colleges and

universities, and right here in this chamber, Pennsylvania is the home of unparalleled richness, and as elected representatives, we are charged with the task of protecting these ideals. To that end, where others see problems, we see possibilities, for we know, we know, that more important than the bill that is proposed and PR'd is the bill that becomes law and what it is that we have passed.

We know that our friends are not always our allies, and we know that our adversaries are not always our enemies. We know not only how to count votes but how to make our votes count. We also know that words are our weapons, but more importantly, as stated earlier, our word is our bond. We know that only if we leave room for discussion and room for concession that we can craft the best laws for Pennsylvania, and we know that the best way to be a winner is to make the other side feel it does not have to be a loser.

Republicans and Democrats, whatever divides us, this much unites us. We care, we honestly care, about one another. We care about Pennsylvania. Our concern revolves around a passionate belief in the democratic process.

Some are content to twiddle their thumbs; those of us who work in this chamber prefer to roll up their sleeves. Some people let things happen; those who work here choose daily to make things happen. In my years as a legislator – I am now in my 41st – I have seen what members, men and women, can do for each other. I have also seen what they can do to each other, sometimes unconsciously and not mean-spirited but actions that have not been thought out before they were acted upon, and that is something we all have to worry about. We all have to correct that; I include myself.

I have seen war and peace, recessions and prosperity, sickness and health. I have seen the depths of suffering and the peaks of triumph.

I have served in the minority, of course – too long – and in the majority in this chamber. I know in my heart that the men and women who work here are good, and what is right will always prevail.

In closing, my fondest hopes on this swearing-in day in the year 2003 is that the House of Representatives will travel the road forward, never forgetting our historic, heroic origins, never failing to appreciate the people's trust. Let us march boldly, bravely together into a future limited only by our capacity to dream and to care. May every day be a new beginning and every dawn bring us closer to our dreams.

I sincerely, wholeheartedly thank you for what you have done here today for me, and I have enjoyed meeting many of your families and look forward to meeting more.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The next thing I want to do is make a very important announcement. Today is Perzel's birthday. So you can figure it out. If he was 12 when I was elected and I have been here 41 years, I wonder how old John is today.

FORMER SPEAKERS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. We have some former Speakers of the House here with us. K. Leroy Irvis you of course met, and he has been a dear friend, a mentor of a sort to me, a mentor not of a sort, a mentor in fact to many Republicans and Democrats

over many, many years. He is a man among men. And his wife – Cathy? – his wife, Cathy. Cathy, stand up, please. Next to Cathy is former Democratic Speaker of the House Bob O'Donnell and his wife, Donna. Bob. When I did these introductions 2 years ago, I forgot the most obvious former Speaker of the House who was in the hall of the House, Bill DeWeese. He will not stand up. Stand up. Thank you.

Incidentally, one further comment. You hear how we were all taken with William Penn and Benjamin Franklin. The Bible that I had my hand on when I was sworn in was Benjamin Franklin's Bible. Clancy, hold that up. This is in the museum, and it has been brought over to have Speakers—Benjamin Franklin was a former Speaker of this House, and his Bible has been used time and time again for Speakers' ceremonies such as this, regardless of party. I mean, I just think a lot of people do not realize that these are some of the things that go on behind the scenes.

PRESENTATION OF COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL

The SPEAKER. Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On this day of celebration, nothing makes me prouder than to present a commemorative gavel to the man I admire, I respect, and most of all, he is my friend, Speaker Matt Ryan.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the Chief Clerk for the presentation of the gavel.

PLACING OF MACE

The SPEAKER. The oath of office having been taken by the members of the House and the Speaker 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.

I would ask the mace bearer to hold that up so that some of the guests can see what this is like, and I encourage you to get brochures of this building before you leave, and you will see a story as to just what the mace is, what it represents, and its size and how it is made. It is an interesting bit of our history.

(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.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJORITY LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming, Mr. Feese, for the purpose of making an announcement.

Mr. FEESE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as Republican Caucus chairman, it is my privilege to announce to the members and for the record of

these proceedings that the Republican Caucus has met and elected the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Perzel, as majority leader; the gentleman from Jefferson County, Mr. Smith, as majority whip. Further, the caucus has met and elected the lady from Chester County, Mrs. Taylor, as caucus secretary; the gentleman from Montgomery County, Mr. Cornell, as policy chairman; the gentleman from Northumberland County, Mr. Phillips, as caucus administrator; and the gentleman from Schuylkill County, Mr. Argall, as chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Would these leaders please rise just so the people can see who you are. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, I have been instructed to announce for the information of the members of the House and our guests and the record that the gentleman from Greene County, Mr. DeWeese, has been reelected Democratic leader by the caucus; that the gentleman from Beaver County, Mr. Veon, has been reelected Democratic whip. Furthermore, the gentleman from Franklin County, Mr. Coy, has been reelected caucus secretary; the gentleman from York County, Mr. Stetler, has been elected policy chairman; the gentleman from Lackawanna County, Mr. Belardi, has been reelected caucus administrator; and the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Evans, has been reelected minority chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The SPEAKER. Would these distinguished members of the Democratic leadership please rise to be acknowledged.

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the lady from Chester, Mrs. Taylor, to introduce the freshman members of the Republican Caucus.

Mrs. TAYLOR. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

And may I say, congratulations to you. We as members of this House and certainly all Pennsylvanians are honored with your leadership as Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor now. As I call the names of the new members of the Republican Caucus, will they please stand. Please hold any applause until I have completed the introduction of all of the members.

Roy Baldwin; Scott Boyd; Martin Causer; Jacqueline Crahalla; C. Adam Harris; David Hickernell; Keith Gillespie; Mauree Gingrich; Bernard O'Neill; John Payne; Scott Petri; David Reed; Douglas Reichley; and welcome especially back to my good friend, Katie True; Melissa Murphy Weber.

Let us give them a hand.

Mr. Speaker, before I relinquish this mike, I might point out that 1976 must have been a good year. You know, Perzel was elected; Elinor Taylor was elected. So having served for 26 years and looking forward to 2 more years, you know, I have really been privileged to serve the members of this House.

I would like to also point out that in 1976 we had 3 Republican women and today we have 17 Republican women, and so, Mr. Speaker, maybe we put a crack in that ceiling. Thank you.

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

Mr. COY. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and may I add our congratulations on your reelection as Speaker. We strongly support you in your continued service, and we wish you all the best in the future.

The SPEAKER. Thank you.

Mr. COY. It is also good to see our good friends, Leroy Irvis and Bob O'Donnell, back at this occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to announce the new names of the members of the Democratic Caucus, and as I announce their names, would they please stand, and if those of you could hold your applause until the very end of the list.

It is my privilege to introduce the gentleman from Beaver County, Mr. Vince Biancucci; the gentleman from Erie County, Mr. Florindo Fabrizio; the gentleman from Allegheny County, Marc Gergely; the gentleman from Schuylkill County, Neal Goodman; the gentleman from Allegheny County, Nick Kotik; the gentleman from Montgomery County, Daylin Leach; the gentleman from Allegheny County, Jake Wheatley.

Would you welcome these new members of the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Thank you, Mr. Coy.

And a special congratulations and welcome aboard to all of the new members who have just been introduced.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER. At this time the Chair recognizes the majority leader, Mr. Perzel, for the purpose of making some remarks.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, again I would like to thank the judges for coming and swearing us in. Judge Wogan, Judge Jenkins, thank you very, very much.

I would like to just take a moment to introduce the most important person in my life – my wife, Sheryl. She is here with me today. She does not want to stand up, so I am not going to ask her to do that, but I did want to acknowledge her and say, thank you for being my adviser, my true partner, my friend, and my lover. Thank you very much, Sheryl.

I also have with us here today my mother, Susan Perzel. Susan, just one second would you stand up. This is my mom. Thank you.

Our four sons, Andrew, David, John, Jr., and Sam, just like a lot of your family members, are downstairs watching this on television, but I just wanted to mention them.

Mr. Speaker, welcome. Welcome to, as you said, the 187th legislative session of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and welcome to a part of history. We are not here today as Republicans or Democrats but as Representatives of the Pennsylvania State House – a unique and diverse body, as the State is itself.

While today is a very special day for all of us, we all have very different backgrounds, experiences, and beliefs. We are

men, women, Republican, Democrat, liberal, conservative, moderate, black, white, big, small, young, and some, as like myself, as was mentioned earlier, not so young. The point is that we are diverse, as diverse as the 12 million Pennsylvanians who sent us here to serve them.

Our diversity, though, should help us in our job to make life better. That is really why every one of us wanted to come here in the first place – to make life better, to make Pennsylvania a better place. It is our common goal – to make life better for our families, our communities, and for our future.

Today is the beginning of an opportunity, an opportunity we all have to fulfill our common goal. By working together, we will accomplish some great things. Let us remain focused and not allow our differences to divide us as we travel forward. We must remain mindful of the positive direction our Commonwealth is heading. From the very beginning of Pennsylvania in 1681, it has been the State House of Representatives that has set our State's direction. Those of you that have sat here in these seats over the past several years have set a direction to transform this State into the New Pennsylvania – a Pennsylvania no longer considered a Rust Belt, a Pennsylvania with low unemployment, and a Pennsylvania embracing technology yet adhering to our manufacturing past.

Those of you returning to this great chamber and those of you sitting here for the first time can be certain that we will continue to build on the powerful foundation that we have all created. We should all expect to continue the work of building a safer, more prosperous Pennsylvania.

But now let me just add a word of caution: Do not expect headlines or thank-yous for the work that you do. Much of the stuff we do in this chamber is not very sexy or attention grabbing but very necessary for Pennsylvania.

Take for example some of the laws that we passed this last session: the Next Generation Farmer Loan Program to help our first-time farmers in Pennsylvania; and the just passed Workforce Development Act – probably one of the most important pieces of legislation that we did in the last session, and not a word was written about it, but it was that important – this was the first time it guarantees job training and placement results for dislocated workers, something I am sure that every one of us here is for; helping thousands of kids through the expansion of the unprecedented CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program; and ending the State income taxes for those least able to pay them.

These are issues and programs that affect real people, and we did them all here in the State House of Representatives. Did we get any credit? Maybe, maybe not, but the point is that every one of us really does make a difference in the lives of all the people of Pennsylvania.

Whether affecting jobs, the environment, seniors, or working families, we deal with it here. The initiatives may not be well known or well publicized but are just as important as the high-profile work that we will do.

You see, unlike a Governor or other chief executive who just makes a final decision, we need to get into the nitty-gritty, the nuts and bolts, of exactly what happens. We find out exactly who is affected by every piece of legislation and how, and that is hard work. It is easy to be for or against. It is the nuts and bolts of doing what we do day to day that is very hard.

Some of the hard work we can expect to deal with in the very near future will affect every Pennsylvanian. We are going to

work on some very important issues — issues that Pennsylvanians discuss at their kitchen tables with their families, their friends, and their neighbors.

We will deal with property taxes and education, but please keep in mind that nearly half the State budget is already devoted to some form of education. As many know, this has been studied and discussed at length for a very long time, and there is still no easy answer. Standard & Poor's has shown that more money is not necessarily the answer for improved education; innovation is. We need to work to encourage innovation in our rural and our urban school districts. To allow our communities to keep their local integrity, we need to find a way to keep education funding as local as feasible. Taxpayers deserve school boards that are fiscally honest and prudent.

Health care will be on the agenda early. Last year this House took up some major initiatives to help our doctors, our hospitals, and more importantly, our patients. In fact, I cannot think of a single constituency that more was done for in one single year, yet apparently more needs to be done due to the high cost of medical liability insurance for our doctors and our hospitals. While I am not certain that a bailout for the doctors is the only solution, we must remember that foremost it is the patients that are the most important. It is my hope that, focusing on Pennsylvania's patients, the insurers, doctors, and lawyers can get together themselves to devise some reality-based solutions that we can take a strong look at here in this House.

Helping our communities and those that live in them is what our job is all about. Everything we do goes back to just that. Our goal and the goal of the General Assembly should be to make our communities the best and most vibrant in our nation. Let us work together, Mr. Speaker, to provide local governments the tools needed to fight blight, plan proper growth, and bring people back to Main Street.

Through history, Pennsylvania has truly been the Keystone State of this nation. Our canals brought food to the big cities and pioneers to the West; the railroads sent goods from our factories throughout the country; our coal and our oil fueled the nation's and the world's factories; our steel built the modern cities you see; and our soldiers fought defending our freedom.

Together, as members of this chamber, we can make Pennsylvania the Keystone State once again, and setting that direction, the agenda for the 321st year, will be the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives.

We have a long history of working together in a bipartisan manner, and it is my expectation that we will continue to do just that. In fact, it has been that cooperation that has helped us pass fiscally prudent budgets during the current national recession. In fact, Pennsylvania is faring far better than many other States, such as California, which is projecting a \$34.8-billion shortfall by the end of next year, and Arizona, which is projecting a shortfall of \$450 million.

I look forward to working with all of you and the Governor-elect as we craft a new budget that will be fiscally prudent and within our means.

I sincerely look forward to working with each one of you in the coming legislative session. Please know that my door is always open to you and my phone number is listed. I used to give it out, but my wife would get mad because it would be on television, but it is still listed in the phonebook, so you only have to look it up. And I say this because I want you to know

that I am truly available for any of you that would like to have an opportunity of speaking to me — all of you, on both sides of the aisle — if there is a problem of any type, a problem that we may be able to work on together. If I can help, please call or stop by and see me.

Together, let us grasp this great opportunity in front of us to make life better for all of us.

Congratulations, and again, welcome, and thank you very much.

REMARKS BY DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Democratic leader, Mr. DeWeese, for remarks.

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Speaker; Judge Jenkins; Speaker Irvis and Cathy; Speaker O'Donnell and Donna; my worthy cohort and majority leader, Mr. Perzel; new members especially, new members and new members' families; ladies and gentlemen:

I am almost in awe, as many of you are. I know LeAnna Washington is; we talked about it earlier today. This is a room that is incomparable, and this is a day festooned with garlands of flowers and family that make this setting even more auspicious and special.

The ineffable, soaring beauty of this stupendous secular basilica is, as was said earlier, I think it was by Mr. Perzel, one of the most special rooms in America. Some observers have claimed it is preeminent in the Western Hemisphere and, other than at the Vatican, there is no room quite this special.

This domed and colonnaded and balustraded room, this ornate and dramatic room bathed in the radiance of these stupendous and scintillating chandeliers, is our sanctuary, and that sanctuary has been discussed by every one of the men and women who have spoken thus far.

This is our exalted refuge, as Penn would want it. This is our citadel, as Franklin would have wanted it. And the social compact that was conceived by the Quakers and projected by the Revolutionaries — and I especially like that word — Revolutionaries of the 1770s, has given us today, here in this epicenter of government for 12 million people, a very exciting moment — exciting moment for Vince Biancucci especially as a new member, because Vince served on the staff and now he is one of us, and Flo, Flo Fabrizio, from Erie, Pennsylvania, I would have to say that upwelling in his perspective, there is something very tantalizing about the prospect of public service on the horizon.

There are all kinds of people in this room. I see Democrats and I see Republicans, and who knows; there may be a couple of Sandinistas or Zoroastrians or latitudinarians. I met a latitudinarian once in Connellsville, Pennsylvania. He told me he was a cousin of Jim Shaner, but I did not believe him.

But we have all kinds of people in this room, and Speaker Ryan is very fortunate to have been around for over four decades amidst the rough-and-tumble, hurly-burly of this room and being excited and inspired, as he is today, to be at the Speaker's dais.

This is where we come to work, and Marc Gergely and Neal Goodman, my two new colleagues in the freshman class, have to be, have to be, upwelling with excitement about this room and these challenges.

But, Mr. Speaker, before the dull, staccato chant of the calendar call, I would like to observe just a couple of seconds

about some of the giants upon whose shoulders we have been privileged to perch.

Speaker Fineman had the gavel when I first walked in, and he was the morning star of the renaissance for staff development in this building. We have more people with fine-tuned legal and accounting and government educations than we have ever had.

And Speaker Irvis, like Jean-Jacques Rousseau's famous commentary about the essential goodness of human nature, no one, no one, embodied the essential goodness of human nature in the public arena more than the Honorable K. Leroy Irvis, our Speaker, and to him and Cathy, we extend our welcome.

And the nondogmatic, nondoctrinaire, recrudescing, witty, intelligent Bob O'Donnell, Speaker of the House who preceded me, and his lovely wife, Donna, welcome to the hall of the House.

And of course, that Gaelic troubadour from Delaware County, the mellifluous and honey-tongued Matthew Ryan, the incomparable Speaker of the House.

I was trying to think of something I could say about Matthew's sidekick and our collective bosom pal, the Honorable Chief Clerk of the House, Ted Mazia, and I read a book recently on St. Francis of Assisi, and I know the metaphor is extenuated, but you will hear a few of those from me. Ted Mazia is the St. Francis of Assisi of the House of Representatives.

John Perzel, John Perzel. I remember what Abraham Lincoln said, not about John Perzel but about U.S. Grant. U.S. Grant, John Perzel is the U.S. Grant of this building. But Lincoln said when U.S. Grant takes ahold of an objective, he holds on to it like he inherited it. Now, I would hope that that is not a metaphor that would embrace his holding on to the majority until time immemorial, but nevertheless, I doff my hat to my colleague, and I am looking forward to working with John.

One more giant, in my view, is my colleague and my friend, Michael Veon of Beaver County, and although I am not bereft of metaphors and hopefully never will be, I had trouble this morning trying to think of what to say about Mike, so I just concluded that I would call him an amalgamation of Mike Ditka and Lord Nelson at Trafalgar – gritty, focused, and unremitting.

But enough of the giants; enough of the giants except for one that I should never forget, the Honorable James J. Manderino, the rock of Monessen from Westmoreland County, who preceded several of us to the Speaker's dais. I think the nicest thing I could say about the gentleman, Mr. Manderino, is – and it was quoted in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette several years into his leadership – that he would have been as comfortable at the Monessen Elks Club as he would have been addressing the University of Michigan School of Law, and that political universality is something that he radiated on this floor.

And again, the giants upon whose shoulders we are privileged to perch need to be recognized from time to time, especially in a moment like this, in a setting like this, and certainly with his daughter, Kathy Manderino, being amongst our membership.

Now, I have, after these introductory remarks – and I am cognizant of the time, but nevertheless, I am one of the few Democrats that gets to speak today – I have two comments I want to make, having allowed that my previous asseverations have been introductory, one on a couple issues and one on the Governor-elect.

On September 22, 1776, a young man named Nathan Hale was taken from his setting of incarceration and led to the gallows. When he was unfettered, Mr. Speaker, he extended his hand to a senior British officer who was getting ready to hang him, and he said, "I suppose you won't shake hands with a spy," and the senior British officer said, "No, but I will shake hands with a brave man."

The handshakes that Mr. Perzel and our side of the aisle and his rank and file and committee chairmen and our rank and file and committee chairmen, especially our new members like Nick Kotik and Jake Wheatley, these kinds of handshakes will galvanize – to use one of my colleague's favorite words – will galvanize our opportunities that have already been discussed.

I do not want to seem like Dylan Thomas, announcing ruin like a crier in Pompeii, but we have our work cut out for us, sir. Mr. Speaker, we have many challenges on the horizon. As Mr. Perzel alluded, the New York Times commented 2 weeks ago that there is an eerie, even unnerving perspective like a contagious and crippling disease amongst the budget States or amongst the States and their budgets in the United States.

Just a fortnight ago, Connecticut laid off 3,000 workers; Kentucky opened the doors for 500 inmates; and as John said, California faces a \$34.8-billion deficit in the next 18 months. I am sure my friend, Art Hershey, read the release recently that the most dire fiscal situation since World War II stands immediately in front of us. That was from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

We have our work cut out for us.

When it comes to property taxes and school funding equity, unfortunately, the former administration and both sides of this building, the House and the Senate, controlled by my worthy colleagues, have not been galloping, have not been trotting, have not even been inching along toward our property tax problems, in my view, and toward our education funding problems. We reduced taxes in Pennsylvania by \$6 billion for our businesses, while property taxes escalated by \$2 billion. And kids in my district are getting educated sometimes for 7,500 or 8,500 bucks; up in Mount Lebanon and Fox Chapel, they are getting educated at 12,000 or 13,000 bucks, and that is not fair.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have our work cut out for us, and we should not put off until tomorrow what we can do today. By delay, Hannibal lost Rome.

My final comment is about our new Governor, and I am going to give a momentary yet exuberant panegyric about Ed Rendell.

In North Africa in 1942, preeminent German tank commander Erwin Rommel was observed by his troops aggressively and famously with a line that where Rommel is, there is the front. He was involved in strategy and tactics and day-to-day maneuvering like no general before him.

And there is no doubt in my mind, although I agree that the metaphor is elliptical, Edward G. Rendell will be involved and he will put his imprimatur on this session of the General Assembly like no one has ever done before.

I think that if the equivalent of F.D.R.'s first 100 days in January, February, March, and April of 1932 is looked at, I think there will be a comparison. This magnetic extrovert will stamp the ineffaceable imprint of his massive personality upon the next session of the General Assembly, and like L.B.J. used

to say, he will be like a guy with one hoe trying to kill two rattlesnakes.

This is going to be an exciting session of the General Assembly, a challenging session of the General Assembly, but I think that Edward G. Rendell will be successful, and I believe it for one primal reason: our majority leader. We all have much in common, but they have much in common: geography, instinctive political perspicacity of the first order, and a high-minded perspective about what is good and decent and wholesome and fair for our Commonwealth.

So as I was chatting with Mike Veon a little bit earlier today, I think we are going to have an exciting, robust, honorable, and successful session.

And in closing, and in closing, especially to Daylin Leaches of the world – there are too many Republicans to mention all you guys and gals, much to my lament – but to the new folks, I am going to leave you with one final metaphor: 1937, spring training, Florida, New York Yankees, Joe DiMaggio, the whole team was there – Gehrig, Ruth, and a young rookie – and DiMaggio was in centerfield, casually, and the infielders were taking practice. A sharp ground ball was hit in the direction of the shortstop. It hit a rock in the infield and bounced over his head. And Joe McCarthy, the legendary manager of the New York Yankees, came out and raised all kinds of dickens with his young shortstop, and the shortstop said, “It was a bad hop; it was a bad hop.” McCarthy said, “Don’t give me any excuses about the bad hops. Anybody can field the good ones.”

In the game of life and especially in these exciting chapters of politics within that game of life, there are going to be a lot of bad hops; there are going to be a lot of good ones, too. So someday, far from now, in that sublime retrospection that you will have about this day, with these flowers and these friends and this fraternity, you will not be thinking about the bad hops; you will be thinking about all the ones you were able to field.

In the field of life and in the field of politics, I welcome you, and let me admonish once again, we have our work cut out for us. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY WHIP

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Democratic whip, Mr. Veon. Pardon me, Mr. Veon, would you yield.

Mr. Smith, I apologize. The majority whip, Mr. Smith.

Mr. S. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That is not a problem.

Mr. Speaker and our former Speakers that are here, honorable justices, members and guests:

It is a pleasure to once again be here for this ceremonial day. In the midst of the ceremony, though, I find that it is hardly a hackneyed event in that we always have a few surprises and something out of the ordinary.

I would like to begin by just thanking, obviously, the members for an opportunity to once again take part in the leadership of this organization and this institution. I obviously want to thank the voters back in the 66th District for allowing me the opportunity to serve them again. And most importantly, I want to say a special thank-you to my family for their love and support. As we all know as members and as the new members will find out shortly if they have not experienced it previously,

the demands on our family is something that really is not apparent until you are in this role and you realize the privacy that you have given up.

The past 2 years have been filled with a lot of opportunities and challenges for me, and I kind of wanted to touch on a couple of things. I do not know if the previous whips experienced this, but the title of “whip” being kind of unique and a little bit different, I find a lot of people asking about it – “what is it you do?” The origin of “whip,” of course, some of you may not be aware, came from the English. There was an individual who in the course of them hunting— They went on foxhunts, and there was a person who was called a whipper-in, who actually had a whip and kept the dogs in line. Now, I hope I am not making a wrong analogy here, because – woof, woof; they are woofing now – and the English Parliament subsequently took that term “whipper-in” and applied it to within their leadership roles as someone who helped to kind of whip the members back into order.

I have found over the course of the last 2 years, that thought that the whip gets to go back the aisle and actually, you know, whip the members into shape and make them do what we want them to do does not always work that way. Sometimes I go back the aisle and I kind of hand them the whip and say, beat on me until you see it my way, and consequently, you get to enjoy the concerns and interests of all the members of the House and particularly of your caucus, and of course, that is part of the role of whip, is to be some of the eyes and ears of the majority leader and to help us keep ourselves collectively going in the right direction.

I find some comfort, though, in listening to the concerns and the questions that the members have. In an observation by one of the great military leaders of our time, Colin Powell, who said, “The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.” That is true here on the floor, and it is true for each of us in our respective legislative districts. The day our constituents stop coming to us with their problems is the day they have concluded we either cannot help them or do not care.

We come here with those same kinds of concerns that all of our constituents have, and we come here with distinctive yet similar priorities. There are personal priorities, parochial priorities, and political priorities.

Our personal priorities are often those based around our family, and I think it is important for us to talk about it just a little wee bit, because so often in this public life our families get lost in the shuffle. It may have to do with a newborn child or perhaps worrying about the care for elderly parents, or perhaps it is even our own individual health that is at risk.

In my case, I have a 13-year-old son and a 14-year-old daughter. For instance, I have a priority of trying to make it to some of my son’s basketball games or perhaps just kind of trying to beat the boys away from the door of a 14-year-old girl.

We have parochial issues that we all come here with, those local issues. Perhaps it has to do with roads or jobs in our individual districts or safe neighborhoods.

We come here also with the political priorities. Those issues are sometimes the larger philosophical ideas that we come here with that maybe are attuned to our individual political parties. They are different, but yet we all come here with the same goal,

and that is to make Pennsylvania a better place in which to live and raise a family.

I also think it is important that we do not allow the thought to continue that this is the only place politics exists. I oftentimes find that back home you will engage in every bit as much of a feisty political battle within the politics of your church or perhaps the politics at the local fire hall, and maybe the one that I often think is the most volatile is in youth athletics. The politics of those types of organizations sometimes are every bit as wild and woolly as the political world that we operate under here.

But regardless of those issues of our background and what brings us here and the politics of our local communities, what our personal priorities are, our parochial priorities, or our political priorities – and I think the Speaker referenced this in his remarks – regardless of our background, together we will forge, through the collective wisdom of this room, through the collective wisdom of the individuals in this room, we will forge the future direction of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

To do that, it may be that we should apply the words of Ronald Reagan, who once said, “If you want to know which way to go in the future, you have to know which path you took in the past and where you stepped in a gopher hole along the way.” That is sound advice. It is something that we should keep in mind as we reset our personal priorities for our families or our parochial priorities for our districts or the political priorities for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Yes, we have had some great successes in this General Assembly over the last several years, and I think the majority leader referenced some of those in his earlier remarks, but like each of you, we have also encountered some roadblocks and stumbled into a few gopher holes. As leaders in Pennsylvania, our missteps should serve only to help us refine our priorities and help keep us moving toward our overall goals, but above all, we ought to lead with love, let the peace of God be in our hearts, and be thankful.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REMARKS BY DEMOCRATIC WHIP

The SPEAKER. The Chair now recognizes the Democratic whip, the gentleman from Beaver, Mr. Veon.

Mr. VEON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let me add my personal congratulations to you as you begin this historic term as Speaker of the House. It is well deserved. I wish you the best of luck in this historic term.

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, as you can imagine, if this is your first time here and if you are a returning member or guest, you well know that I have a particular challenge being the last, fourth, formal speaker of this incredible ceremony here today, but let me tailor my remarks very briefly to the new members that are with us here today.

Those of us who have been here for a while know very well that there are a lot of important lessons that we learn here on the floor of the House, lessons that we teach each other – sometimes the easy way, sometimes the hard way – and one lesson that I learned early on that I hope has served me well is that at times brevity is a virtue, and, Mr. Speaker, clearly on this day, at this time, brevity would serve me well.

So I think it is safe to say on behalf of all the returning members here today, to the new members, but also to your family and friends that have joined you for this great occasion, congratulations and good luck.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Mr. Veon, I am not sure whether that outburst of applause was due to the content of your speech or the brevity of it, but it is deserving on both sides.

So the members and guests understand what happens from here, the Senate is going to join us shortly, and at that time the folks in the well of the House are going to have to give up their seats to the Senators, or you can fight with them; it does not matter to me. And after the joint session begins, we have invited the Governor of the Commonwealth to come in and address us briefly, and then there is some voting going to take place. We are all aware of the fact that the question of adoption of our rules must take place.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as a committee to wait upon the Governor and notify him that the House is organized, the gentleman from Lebanon, Mr. Zug; the lady from Montgomery, Ms. Murphy Weber; the gentleman from Allegheny, Mr. Wheatley.

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

The gentleman from Allegheny, Mr. Pallone. For what reason do you seek recognition at this time?

Mr. PALLONE. To correct the record, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you. It is Armstrong and Westmoreland now. I am no longer in Allegheny, by the way, so we will correct that record.

But if we could correct the record also, in the program today, my name is incorrectly spelled. I am hoping that the official documents of today's events will be properly spelled. It is listed as “John C. Pallone.” It should be “John E. Pallone.”

The SPEAKER. We will take care of that. Thank you.

Mr. PALLONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

COMMITTEE ON PART OF SENATE RECOGNIZED

The SPEAKER. 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 Senate, Senator Conti.

The SPEAKER. The House will come to order, please. The House will please come to order.

The Chair recognizes a distinguished former member of this House, now a Senator, who is the chairman of the committee that is about to make a report to us, Senator Conti.

Mr. CONTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am personally delighted and professionally honored to inform this august chamber of our colleagues that we are a committee from the Senate of Pennsylvania to inform the House that we are convened and organized in regular session and ready to proceed with the business of our great Commonwealth.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR**REQUEST FOR JOINT SESSION**

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication in writing from the office of His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of the Governor
Harrisburg

December 24, 2002

To the Honorable, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

If it meets with the approval of the General Assembly, I would like to address the Members in Joint Session on Tuesday, January 7, 2003, at a time convenient to the General Assembly upon the completion of your swearing in activities.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

RESOLUTION**COMMITTEE TO ESCORT GOVERNOR**

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

In the House of Representatives
January 7, 2003

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

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as a committee to wait upon the Governor, the gentleman from Montgomery, Mr. McGill; the lady from Lancaster, Mrs. True; the gentleman from Beaver, Mr. Bianucci.

The committee will proceed with the performance of its duties.

RESOLUTION**APPOINTMENT OF TELLER**

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

In the House of Representatives
January 7, 2003

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

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
APPOINTED**

The SPEAKER. The following members have been selected to serve on the Committee on Committees: the gentleman, Mr. Hasay, chairman; the gentleman, Mr. Allen; the gentleman, Mr. Baker; the gentleman, Mr. Flick; the gentleman, Mr. Habay; the gentleman, Mr. Kenney; the gentleman, Mr. Marsico; the gentleman, Mr. Raymond; the gentleman, Mr. Semmel; the lady, Mrs. True; the gentleman, Mr. Freeman; the gentleman, Mr. DeWeese; the gentleman, Mr. Veon; the gentleman, Mr. George; the gentleman, Mr. Blaum; and the Speaker.

**GOVERNOR'S INAUGURAL
COMMITTEE APPOINTED**

The SPEAKER. The following members have been appointed to serve on the Governor's Inauguration Committee: the gentleman, Mr. Perzel; Mr. Smith; Mr. Feese; Mr. Argall; Mr. Phillips; Mr. Cornell; Mr. Fichter; Mr. Flick; Mr. Schroder; Mr. Stern; Mr. DeWeese; Mr. Veon; Mr. Cohen; Mr. Coy; Mr. Stetler; Mr. Belardi; Mr. Evans; Mr. McGeehan; Mr. Rooney; and the Speaker.

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 7, 2003

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in Joint Session on Tuesday, January 7, 2003, 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 5, 2002, in the several counties of the Commonwealth; to hear an address by his Excellency, Mark S. Schweiker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; 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.

SENATE MESSAGE**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT
OF INAUGURAL COMMITTEE**

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 7, 2003

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the President Pro Tempore of the Senate be and is hereby authorized to appoint a committee of sixteen Senators to act in conjunction with a committee of twenty Members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker, to make necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the Governor-elect to wait upon His Excellency; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the inaugural ceremonies take place at twelve o'clock noon on the third Tuesday of January, the twenty-first instant, 2003, on the Rear Plaza of the Main Capitol Building.

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.

ARRIVAL OF SENATE

The SPEAKER. The House will please come to order. Members will take their seats. Members and guests will be seated.

Members, please take your seats. The Senate of Pennsylvania is entering the chamber.

Members will please take their seats. Guests will please be seated. Guests will please be seated.

The Chair is pleased to announce that the members of the Senate are in the chamber. We ask them to please be seated.

And at this time the Chair presents to the President pro tem/Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Robert Jubelirer, a gavel for the purpose of presiding over the joint session.

JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (ROBERT C. JUBELIRER) PRESIDING

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair thanks the members.

This being the day and hour agreed upon by a concurrent resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives to hear an address by His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Mark S. Schweiker, this joint session will please come to order.

The General Assembly will be at ease while it awaits the arrival of His Excellency, the Governor.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ESCORTING GOVERNOR

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The General Assembly will please come to order.

The Governor is entering the hall of the House. Members and guests, kindly rise.

The Chair recognizes the chairman of the committee to escort the Governor, the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Mr. TOMLINSON. He was with me.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the General Assembly, as chairman of the committee to escort my constituent from Bucks County and my friend, Governor Mark S. Schweiker, I am pleased to report that the Governor is present and in this hall and ready to address this joint session.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair thanks Chairman Tomlinson and his committee.

Members of the General Assembly, I now have the honor and the privilege of presenting His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Mark S. Schweiker, who will now address this joint session.

ADDRESS BY GOV. MARK SCHWEIKER

The GOVERNOR. Thank you so much.

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At the same time let me acknowledge also the new members of the General Assembly.

As you undertake what truly will be one of the most rewarding callings of your lives, let me tell you an encouraging story. It is a story that helps remind me why I first entered public service more than two decades ago.

Last month I helped to open the newly expanded Farm Show Building. Many of you were there. It was a great day. Nearly 1,000 people had gathered to celebrate this wonderful new monument to Pennsylvania's number one industry – agriculture.

After the program, unexpectedly, I might add, a woman approached me very gingerly to say thanks. She was not there to thank me for the expansion. She was there to thank me for helping her fight cancer.

You see, this determined woman never knew she had cancer because she could not afford to see a doctor; that is, until we provided Pennsylvania's adultBasic insurance program early last year.

Now, now, thanks to adultBasic and her doctor, the cancer was diagnosed and she is well on her way to recovery, and since that teary-eyed woman took the time to thank me, in turn I would like to thank each of you collectively for all that you have done to help us care for over 12 million Pennsylvanians during one of the most challenging times, I think you would acknowledge, in our Commonwealth's proud history.

And to the new members of the General Assembly, take heart, for this story provides just one splendid example of the incredible opportunities each of you will have to touch the lives of so many good and decent Pennsylvanians.

Now, during my inaugural address, I said my administration would seek to take care of Pennsylvanians, but it would not be a caretaker administration.

My friends, it is exactly what we have done.

By any measure, our last 15 months together have made Pennsylvania a healthier, safe, and more economically secure place to live.

We made sure that every dime of our \$11-billion tobacco settlement will be used to make Pennsylvanians healthy. We not only created adultBasic for 40,000 Pennsylvanians who could not afford it otherwise, we also managed to celebrate the

10th anniversary of our Children's Health Insurance Program by reaching a wonderful milestone.

I am proud to stand here and say that Pennsylvania has now tripled the number of children enrolled in CHIP since 1995. All told, more than 125,000 children are getting their checkups and medicine thanks to our historic investments in CHIP.

Friends, we are taking care of Pennsylvanians.

And while other States are only now focusing on homeland security, we boast one of the premier readiness platforms in the nation – so good, so strong, that we have been asked by the nonpartisan National Governor's Association to tutor other States on the finer points of protecting their citizens.

To further strengthen our platform this year, we made a historic \$200-million investment in homeland security. We have put more law enforcement officers on the streets to make your hometowns safer. We have instituted a Statewide Amber Alert program to help find abducted children, if need be.

And soon Pennsylvania will launch both the statewide public radio network for quicker communication both in times of crisis and normal times as well as launch the biosurveillance system.

Friends, we are taking care of Pennsylvanians.

But our security goes far beyond the reach of emergency response and counterterrorism efforts. It is also evident in our economic and financial security.

Across this nation, large States like ours are facing shocking deficits.

One – and I will not mention by name, but let us just say that the lack of electricity is not its only problem – is back as much as \$36 billion.

Now, we have taken our hits, and I think you would also acknowledge that times have been tough, but the New Pennsylvania we have built together, one that has shed its Rust-Belt image in order to compete in a technology-driven, 21st century global marketplace, is proving to be more resilient than ever before.

Let me give you some perspective on this point. During the first 19 months of the last recession, in the early nineties, that is, at this point Pennsylvania's unemployment rate during that recession had increased by 2.2 percent. If you are counting, that is 102,200 Pennsylvanians who lost their jobs and paychecks.

During this same timeframe, in this recession, at this very point Pennsylvania has seen its unemployment rate increase by only .2 percent.

That, friends, I would suggest, is emblematic of the new-found resilience of the New Pennsylvania.

So, too, is our commitment to fiscal discipline.

One year ago, only a few months into my term as Governor, Pennsylvania government was facing a large deficit, but thanks to our joint commitment to save during the robust times, we stared down a \$1.3-billion shortfall, and we did it – and we did it – without raising core taxes.

Let me give you some perspective on this. Since World War II, Pennsylvania government always responded to a recession by raising taxes on its citizens and job creators. That did not happen in the New Pennsylvania.

We did not raise the sales tax. We did not raise the income tax. We did not raise business taxes that cost hardworking Pennsylvanians their jobs.

We just tightened our belts and made the tough decisions that strong leaders make, and we got through without crippling

Pennsylvania's families and taught the nation a valuable lesson, and it is this: even in robust times, one must prepare for the day when revenues will decline.

Because that day surely will come.

Last month we tightened our belts once again. Facing a projected \$433-million shortfall by June 30, we froze agency spending and used a small portion of the Rainy Day Fund.

So on January 21 my successor will inherit a balanced budget and a quarter of a billion dollars in the State's Rainy Day Fund.

Friends, I say it again – we are taking care of Pennsylvania.

Be it health, security, stability, this will be the legacy of the work we have done together these last, tough 15 months, and I want you to know this: In each instance, your leadership during such difficult times has truly made a difference.

Please realize that as you move forward and face off against some of Pennsylvania's more pressing problems, like property taxes. Pennsylvania must have a property tax system that is fair for all.

And while we have taken significant steps together over the past year to begin mending our medical malpractice system, more must be done to preserve our Commonwealth's world-class health care, and, friends, let me suggest that that work must begin with considering caps on all noneconomic damages.

Now, to be sure – I expected that resounding response – now, to be sure, these are complex problems, but also be sure that these are ones that must be resolved, and I know you will do the right thing.

Now, I would admit, as I close here today and look back on 20 years of public service, that sometimes I have questioned whether being a leader was worth the personal price that is exacted.

Then you look directly into the face of a brave Pennsylvania woman who says thank you for helping her beat cancer, and you have your answer.

Or look directly into the eyes of nine grateful Pennsylvania mining families, and you have your answer, nine times over.

To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived, Emerson once said, that is to have succeeded.

And I know now fully what Emerson meant.

So as I leave office, I wish you and I certainly wish my successor the same sense of fulfillment as the construction of the New Pennsylvania continues in earnest.

I do depart filled with faith in that noble endeavor because you will lead the way.

In closing, may God strengthen and bless you for the task ahead, and God bless our mighty Commonwealth. My best to you all.

ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. This joint session of the General Assembly will please come to order.

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 of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor held on Tuesday, November 5, 2002, 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 Luzerne County, Senator Charles Lemmond, and the teller on the part of the House of Representatives is the Representative from Delaware County, Representative Steve Barrar. The tellers will please come to the desk assigned to them by the Chief Clerk of the House and 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 5, 2002, for the office of Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

- Mr. Ed Rendell, Democratic, received 1,913,235 votes,
- Mr. Mike Fisher, Republican, received 1,589,408 votes,
- Mr. Ken V. Krawchuk, Libertarian, received 40,923 votes,
- Mr. Michael Morrill, Green, received 38,423 votes,
- Write-in Votes 1,190 (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.

Witness my hand and the seal of my office this sixth day of January, 2003.

(SEAL)

C. Michael Weaver
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 5, 2002, for the office of Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

- Ms. Catherine Baker Knoll, Democratic, received 1,913,235 votes,
- Ms. Jane M. Earll, Republican, received 1,589,408 votes,
- Mr. Henry E. Haller, III, Libertarian, received 40,923 votes,
- Ms. Vicki J. Smedley, Green, received 38,423 votes,
- Write-in Votes, 1,190 (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.

Witness my hand and the seal of my office this sixth day of January, 2003.

(SEAL)

C. Michael Weaver
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 Ed Rendell, Governor, and Catherine Baker Knoll, 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."

Witness my hand and the seal of my office this nineteenth day of December, 2002.

(SEAL)

C. Michael Weaver
Secretary of the Commonwealth

TELLERS' REPORT

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair recognizes the teller on the part of the Senate, the Senator from Luzerne County, Senator Lemmond.

Mr. LEMMOND. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the General Assembly, the tellers agree in their count and submit their report of the votes cast for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor as follows:

- Ed Rendell and Catherine Baker Knoll, Democrats, received 1,913,235 votes;
- Mike Fisher and Jane M. Earll, Republicans, received 1,589,408 votes;
- Ken V. Krawchuk and Henry E. Haller III, Libertarians, received 40,923 votes;
- Michael Morrill and Vicki J. Smedley, Green, received 38,423 votes.

Thank you.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Ed Rendell and Catherine Baker Knoll, 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 2003.

The General Assembly will now be at ease for a few moments while we sign the certificates of election.

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION FILED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The certificates of election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, having been

signed by the officers and tellers on the part of the Senate and the 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 7, 2003

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 seventh day of January, A.D., two thousand and three, 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 Ed Rendell had the highest number of votes; whereupon The Honorable Ed Rendell 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) Robert C. Jubelirer
President of the Senate

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

Charles D. Lemmond, Jr.
Teller on the part of the Senate

Stephen E. Barrar
Teller on the part of the House of
Representatives

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

January 7, 2003

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 seventh day of January, A.D., two thousand and three, 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 Catherine Baker Knoll had the highest number of votes; whereupon The Honorable Catherine Baker Knoll was declared to have been duly elected Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth.

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

(SEAL) Robert C. Jubelirer
President of the Senate

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

Charles D. Lemmond, Jr.
Teller on the part of the Senate

Stephen E. Barrar
Teller on the part of the House of
Representatives

RESOLUTION

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Without objection, for the purpose of offering a resolution, the Chair recognizes the majority leader, Representative Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am pleased to place this resolution to recognize Carl Mease, who was recently just retired as the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Without objection, the clerk will read the resolution.

Mr. PERZEL offered the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION

Expressing deep appreciation to Carl L. Mease.

WHEREAS, Carl L. Mease, Esquire, is retiring as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau after more than 40 years of service to the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Carl L. Mease first became associated with the Legislative Reference Bureau in 1962 when he was employed as a drafting attorney; and

WHEREAS, Carl L. Mease's service with the Legislative Reference Bureau has been continuous other than for his tenure as an assistant Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, Carl L. Mease has provided leadership to the Legislative Reference Bureau for more than 20 years, serving in the positions of Assistant Director and Acting Director prior to his election to the first of three terms as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau in 1997; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, Carl L. Mease has advanced the capacity of the Legislative Reference Bureau to meet the needs of the General Assembly through innovative use of technology as well as the recruitment and retention of skilled professionals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly meeting in Joint Session express its deep appreciation to Carl L. Mease for his outstanding service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in particular to the General Assembly and extend to him its best wishes for a healthy, enjoyable and fulfilling retirement.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?
Resolution was adopted.

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of a Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Nominations are now in order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin County, Representative McNaughton.

Mr. McNAUGHTON. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am honored to nominate today Robert W. Zech, Jr., to serve as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Having worked for the past 30 years as a staff attorney for the Legislative Reference Bureau and the last 8 as Assistant Director, Robert has the experience and is uniquely qualified to occupy the position of Director.

Mr. President, I place the name of my constituent and friend, Robert W. Zech, Jr., in nomination for Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The gentleman from Dauphin County, Representative McNaughton, places in nomination for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau Robert W. Zech, Jr.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin County, Senator Piccola.

Mr. PICCOLA. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I am very pleased to join with my colleague from Dauphin County and my State Representative, Mr. McNaughton, and second the nomination of Robert W. Zech, Jr., to be the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Bob has worked in that bureau since 1973. He has done an outstanding job. Many of us have worked with him directly, and I know he will do an outstanding job as the new Director.

I second the nomination.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Are there any further nominations?

The Chair sees none and declares that the nomination is closed.

The nominee for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau is Robert W. Zech, Jr. Those in favor of Robert W. Zech, Jr., for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau will say "aye"; those opposed, "no." The "ayes" have it. Robert W. Zech, Jr., is declared unanimously elected Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

COMMITTEE TO ESCORT DIRECTOR-ELECT OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Representative from Dauphin County, Representative McNaughton, and the Senator from Dauphin County, Senator Piccola, will now escort Robert W. Zech, Jr., 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 would call upon one of our former colleagues, the distinguished jurist from Philadelphia, Judge Chris Wogan, of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia to administer the oath of office to Robert W. Zech, Jr.

JUDGE WOGAN. Thank you, Mr. President.

Please place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand and repeat after me: I, Robert W. Zech, 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. Zech asserted oath.)

JUDGE WOGAN. Congratulations.

Mr. ZECH. Thank you.

JOINT SESSION ADJOURNED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair asks the members of the House and visitors to please remain seated for just a moment while members of the Senate leave the hall of the House.

The members of the Senate will please reassemble immediately in the Senate chamber upon adjournment of this meeting.

The business for which the joint session has been assembled having been transacted, the 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 7th day of January 2003 be printed in full in this day's Legislative Journal.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as a committee to notify the Senate that the House is organized, the lady from Montgomery, Mrs. Dailey; the gentleman from Lancaster, Mr. Baldwin; the gentleman from Erie, Mr. Fabrizio.

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

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 7, 2003

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate adjourns this week, it reconvene on Tuesday, January 21, 2003, 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 21, 2003, unless sooner

recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the Senate and House of Representatives adjourn the week of January 21st, they reconvene on Monday, January 27, 2003.

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.

Sergeants at Arms, clear the area behind the rail or have the guests seated.

The Chair recognizes the majority leader, Mr. Perzel. The majority leader, Mr. Perzel, offers a resolution, which the clerk will now read.

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.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. On the question, the Chair recognizes Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman yield for a moment.

The lady, Ms. Manderino, desires recognition on what point?

Ms. MANDERINO. Mr. Speaker, when he is done, on the temporary HR 2.

The SPEAKER. I am sorry. Would you say that again.

Ms. MANDERINO. I wish to speak after the majority leader—

The SPEAKER. Very good.

Ms. MANDERINO. —on the resolution. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. All right.

On the resolution, the Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just for edification of the members, I have been referred to recently in the papers as a vulture, a werewolf, and a pirate, and today I guess, because of the minority leader, I can add rattlesnake right along with the rest of those.

Mr. Speaker, I am rising to make a motion providing for the adoption of a temporary rule relating to the consideration of a resolution providing for the rules of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, there are three minor changes to the rules that we propose to make for the 2003-2004 legislative session. The first is that we have changed the name of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee to simply

the Commerce Committee and then added one subcommittee. Under the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, we have added a subcommittee under the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. We have added two subcommittees under the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and replaced the Trusts and Estates Subcommittee under the Judiciary Committee with a Subcommittee on Family Law.

Additionally, we have amended House rule 27 to provide that the sponsor of an amendment need only explain the amendment if it is not filed in a timely manner pursuant to the provisions of House rule 21, and also amended House rule 24 to provide that a bill title must not be read unless the bill has not been caucused on by both caucuses or if a bill is not available on the Legislative Data Processing floor system.

A few other minor technical changes were made at the request of the Parliamentarian to conform our rules to present statutes and practices, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the lady, Ms. Manderino. Will the lady yield for a moment.

Please. The lady, Ms. Manderino, has been recognized.

Ms. MANDERINO. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. Will the lady yield.

Members, please take your seats. Members, please take your seats.

Ms. Manderino.

Ms. MANDERINO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to ask for a “no” vote on HR 2.

Specifically, two of the rules that are being changed I want to draw people’s attention to; that is House rule 24 and House rule 27. The essence of the language inserted in these rules would be to eliminate the recurrent requirement that there be a brief explanation of what it is we are going to vote on before we vote.

I know that many people have come since I got here in the past 10 years, but when I first got here, we were not computerized in this chamber; everything was by paper, and probably, like many of you, I had a habit, as soon as I got to the floor of the House, of organizing my paper, all of the bills in writing in the order that they were going to be presented according to the voting schedule, and at a glance and within 20 seconds, I could put my fingers on what we were voting for, see in writing what it said, have earmarked any concerns or language that I had questions about. And while there were many inefficiencies of the paper form of the House business, there were also some very good benefits just in terms of rank and file being aware at the moment that you were going to vote exactly what you were voting on.

With our computers, we have had a lot of advantages. We have gotten rid of that paper flow. But one of the disadvantages is, it is very easy, no matter how diligent you are being, for something to come and go and be off of the voting board before you have actually realized what it is that you are voting on, and I think that that is one of the reasons that the rules, 24 and 27, that require a brief explanation and announcement of the purpose of the bill and a brief explanation is so important in our chamber. Even more important than it was when we dealt with paper, it is extremely important as we deal with the computer, because you cannot flip through the pages, and what I find and I am sure many of you find is that even when it pops up on the

screen, by the time the vote is being called, you have not even had time on your computer to page down to page 3 let alone it be a 60-page bill.

It is a mistake for us to amend our rules in a way that further deletes the knowledge and information that every rank-and-file voter on the floor of this House has, the obligation that we have, the oath of office that we took today.

For that reason I not only will be opposing the first House resolution, but because of the necessity of this resolution, I ask you to oppose this resolution as well, because there will be an amendment offered to HR 1, if we allow it to be amendable, that will take the language out of the bill that is being inserted now and allow us to follow the rules of the House as they existed in the prior session.

I ask for a negative vote.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

Just a comment. I did not interrupt the lady. The matter before the House is the one resolution. The lady, Ms. Manderino, spent the bulk of her time talking about the second resolution.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. I am sorry?

Mr. VITALI. Parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VITALI. What I would like to do parliamentarily is to postpone this resolution, HR 1, and reinstate last year's rules until January 27, our first day back. Parliamentarily, can I do a motion right now—

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman yield for a moment.

The gentleman stated to postpone HR 1. What we have before us is HR 2.

Mr. VITALI. The question is, can I combine both the postponement of HRs 2 and 1 in the same motion and at the same time reinstate last year's, last term's rules until that date?

The SPEAKER. No.

Mr. VITALI. Okay.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. Mr. DeWeese.

Mr. DeWEESE. Could you elaborate, please?

The SPEAKER. He can move the matter that is presently before us, which is HR 2, but he cannot move out into the future and take something that may or may not ever be called up and go into debate and testing the merits of it when it is not before us.

Mr. DeWEESE. So he may indeed, Mr. Speaker, be able to do it but at a future moment.

The SPEAKER. At an appropriate time.

Mr. DeWEESE. Thank you.

MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At this point then I would like to make a motion.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, I would move to postpone HR 2 until January 27 at 1 p.m., and I would like to state my reasons.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER. On the question of postponement.

Mr. VITALI. Question of postponement, correct.

We are here today. There are children on the House floor; our friends and family are here. There are flowers over the podium; there are flowers over the desks. There are receptions waiting for us, and we are confronted with a situation where we have an 81-page resolution staring us in the face.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the time and the place to have a contentious debate.

Mr. Speaker, we will not prejudice ourselves in any way if we postpone the vote on this matter to our next session day back. There will be no intervening business we need to deal with, and if there is, we in fact can reinstate last term's rules.

Mr. Speaker, we are here to work, and the argument was made last term in similar circumstances, let us get to work, but do you know what work really is? Work is not blindly pressing the "yes" button not having read that 81-page bill. Work is not not considering the five amendments and the other amendments that have been filed to the rules issue. Work is spending the time between now and the next session studying the issue, considering the amendments, debating this, and then coming back and having a full, unhurried debate, not worrying about whether our wives or daughters or the food is getting cold. That is not work. Work is doing this in a deliberative fashion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate to postpone HR 2, because there are important issues to deal with with regard to the rules generally. There are amendments that deal with some of the intricacies of the 81 pages we are dealing with and perhaps the contentious issue and issues I have raised with regard to the appropriateness of House spending for certain matters.

So for those reasons I think it is appropriate just to pause the proceedings, postpone this, and come back in a deliberative fashion on January 27. So I so move to postpone.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question of postponement, Mr. Perzel, do you desire further recognition?

Mr. PERZEL. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

This is not contentious debate. We are simply trying to pass the rules.

I would ask the members to vote "no" on the motion to postpone.

The SPEAKER. On the question of postponement, the gentleman, Mr. DeWeese.

Mr. DeWEESE. I would agree with the honorable gentleman that it is not contentious, and I certainly am not going to allow it to be contentious from my point of view.

However, HR 2 should be postponed for a couple of salient reasons. One is, as I read this very short, in fact, it is only one sentence, the final words are that the resolution, being the next one, HR 1, "...be an unamendable resolution" — "...be an unamendable resolution." Therefore, what happens? As the honorable gentleman from Delaware County asserted, we will have the same rules that we have been working under during the last biennium for the next several weeks except for the changes

that the majority leader had enunciated, and although those changes are somewhat peripheral, they are important, but they are not going to shake this place in the next 2 1/2 weeks.

So we are, as has been noted during the day, a deliberative body, and the invocation of the words from Penn and Franklin, et al, I think are poignantly focused at this moment. We are to deliberate. We are to come up with our rules for the next session of the General Assembly, and I would admonish politely those men and women who are just arriving here, you do not know, unless you are a genius, you do not know what is on page 27 or page 38 or page 46. You have a couple of weeks to read it. All we will be doing is having the same rules that we have dealt with for the last 2 years. If we postpone, if we postpone, we just have the same rules, and the honorable majority leader has led successfully under those rules. I am only saying to support my gentleman's motion to postpone that we should allow a couple more weeks. This, if we pass what we are dealing with right now, we will say that it is absolutely impossible for us to amend our rules as we go forward into the session, at least doing it right now, and that just does not make sense, Mr. Speaker.

The atmosphere of comedy and warmth and conviviality that we have shared should not be sundered. The gentleman's arguments are focused and worthwhile. We do need to get on with family and receptions and so forth, and we should not give short shrift; this should not be a partisan vote. We should, as a collective body, allow for a couple more weeks of deliberation and reading and scrutiny for our rules so that when we come back and get to the business of our General Assembly in late January, the rules will be something that we all agree on, not just, not just that very successful coterie of Republican leaders that want to ram this thing past us.

I would ask for a vote to postpone.

Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER. If I may, in the nature of parliamentary statement, technically we have no rules now. There are no rules in existence that govern this body at this time. We have in the past had a ruling from the Chair, and I happened to be Speaker, that said in short, when we do not have actual rules before us that we have voted on favorably, that we are guided by usage, custom, and the like, which is best evidenced by our prior rules. So the gentleman is correct that probably the existing rules from last year would flow over, but technically, there are no rules, and I just say that so I can act smart.

Mr. Petrone.

Mr. PETRONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Congratulations, Mr. Speaker, for being named to that prestigious position. I am glad to be here with you for 22 years.

But I rise in support of postponing this because the word "unamendable" is the critical word that is used in this resolution. I do not think it is fair, and knowing the kind of man that you are, I do not think you think it is fair.

I think all the words that we heard here today about the future of our people and the pledge for cooperation and working together and fairness and honesty and decency go out with that one word, an unamendable resolution to adopt rules.

We all should have the opportunity to change whatever we think right or whatever we think wrong, and I hope you will grant us that opportunity.

Thank you very much.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. Mr. Pallone, on the question of postponement.

Mr. PALLONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My query is more in the line of a parliamentary inquiry as to making a resolution unamendable. Would that be taking away my right of office to be able to introduce or offer rules and amendments thereto?

The SPEAKER. No. It would be a rule of the House that would be part of your guidelines in office, and also, as we have seen over, I guess, centuries, there is always the opportunity to suspend the rules to offer amendments or anything else.

Mr. PALLONE. How often has that been successful?

The SPEAKER. I am not going to comment. I have not been here for centuries.

Mr. PALLONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the motion, I stand in support of Mr. Vitali's motion to postpone, because I believe that it takes our right as members of this deliberative body to be able to introduce amendments and other corrective or even improvements to the rules.

Again, I would encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of the motion.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question, those in favor of postponement will vote "aye"; those opposed to postponement, "no."

On the question recurring,

Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—87

Bebko-Jones	Eachus	Lescovitz	Shaner
Belardi	Evans, D.	Levdansky	Solobay
Belfanti	Fabrizio	Manderino	Staback
Bianucci	Frankel	Mann	Steil
Bishop	Freeman	Markosek	Stetler
Blaum	George	McCall	Sturla
Butkovitz	Gergely	Melio	Surra
Buxton	Goodman	Mundy	Tangretti
Caltagirone	Grucela	Myers	Thomas
Casorio	Gruitza	Pallone	Tigue
Cawley	Haluska	Petrarca	Travaglio
Cohen	Hanna	Petrone	Veon
Corrigan	Harhai	Pistella	Vitali
Costa	Horsey	Preston	Walko
Coy	James	Readshaw	Wansacz
Cruz	Keller	Roberts	Washington
Curry	Kirkland	Rooney	Wheatley
Daley	Kotik	Ruffing	Williams, J.
DeLuca	LaGrotta	Sainato	Wojnaroski
Dermody	Laughlin	Samuelson	Yewcic
DeWeese	Leach	Santoni	Yudichak
Diven	Lederer	Scrimenti	

NAYS—107

Adolph	Fairchild	Mackereth	Ross
Allen	Feese	Maher	Rubley
Argall	Fichter	Maitland	Sather
Armstrong	Fleagle	Major	Saylor
Baker	Flick	Marsico	Scavello
Baldwin	Forcier	McGill	Schroder
Bard	Gabig	McIlhattan	Semmel
Barrar	Gannon	McIlhinney	Smith, B.

Bastian	Geist	McNaughton	Smith, S. H.
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Stairs
Birmelin	Godshall	Micozzie	Stern
Boyd	Gordner	Miller, R.	Stevenson, R.
Boyes	Habay	Miller, S.	Stevenson, T.
Browne	Harhart	Nailor	Taylor, E. Z.
Bunt	Harper	Nickol	Taylor, J.
Cappelli	Harris	O'Brien	True
Causar	Hasay	O'Neill	Turzai
Civera	Hennessey	Payne	Vance
Clymer	Herman	Perzel	Watson
Coleman	Hershey	Petri	Weber
Cornell	Hess	Phillips	Wilt
Crahalla	Hickernell	Pickett	Wright
Creighton	Hutchinson	Pippy	Youngblood
Dailey	Kenney	Raymond	Zug
Dally	Leh	Reed	
DiGirolamo	Lewis	Reichley	Ryan,
Egolf	Lynch	Rohrer	Speaker
Evans, J.			

NOT VOTING—8

Donatucci	Josephs	Oliver	Roebuck
Gingrich	McGeehan	Rieger	Waters

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 the question of the adoption of HR 2, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

No matter what we do here today, I want the members to still fully understand that any member still has the right to ask for an explanation; every member has that right. Bills can still be debated; they still will be, Mr. Speaker. We did not take away that right. This just makes your caucus meetings that much more meaningful. We ask our members to go to caucus so that we can explain the bills—

The SPEAKER. Mr. Perzel, you are debating HR 1 now. The question is—

Mr. PERZEL. Oh. I apologize; I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. —HR 2.

Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. I rise to speak against the resolution?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order and may proceed.

Mr. VITALI. I just want to inform the House members that because this resolution would preclude any amendments to the rules, you would be precluding the opportunity to vote on the issue of using House funds for so-called public service announcements, telemarketing devices, bulk e-mails – many of the things that were used by you, you were criticized for in elections.

So in effect, when you are dealing with this issue, you are dealing with the controversial issue of, in my view, the inappropriateness of using taxpayer dollars for thinly veiled campaigning. So I would ask, so you can deal with that issue today, vote “no” on this resolution so we can consider the amendments I have to offer on this issue.

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

(Members proceeded to vote.)

VOTE STRICKEN

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman yield.

Mr. DeWeese, do you seek recognition?

Strike the board.

Mr. DeWeese, I apologize to you. The gentleman is recognized.

Mr. DeWEESE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Apology not necessary. I was late at the proverbial switch.

I only have one or two minutes additionally, and again they deal with the one word, “unamendable.”

I cannot fathom that some of my young Republican colleagues, especially the ones that are new, come up here and perfunctorily knee-jerk vote with their leadership on day one to allow something to go through that disallows us from making amendments on our rules, on our rules.

Now, I see the happy visages of incredulity and perplexity on some of your faces, but nevertheless, what you are doing is you are putting shackles and fetters upon us; you are offering a gag rule to us, the minority. You are saying that we cannot amend the next resolution. So when you get up and shave tomorrow morning, I hope you are not tremulous, because you are certainly being disingenuous.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Veon.

Mr. VEON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment briefly on one aspect of the comments made by the gentleman from Delaware County.

I strongly disagree with him for the record on his position regarding the subject that he mentioned in his remarks here today on public service announcements, but I strongly believe that he has a right to offer his amendment and have it debated here on the floor of the House. I think those public service announcements do in fact do a good job for a good purpose for the House of Representatives, but he ought to have a right to have his opinion heard here, to have his amendment offered here and have it debated here.

Therefore, I would join with the Democratic leader and the gentleman from Delaware County and ask for a “no” vote on this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman, Mr. Veon.

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—109

Adolph	Evans, J.	Lynch	Rooney
Allen	Fairchild	Mackereth	Ross
Argall	Feese	Maher	Rubley
Armstrong	Fichter	Maitland	Sather
Baker	Fleagle	Major	Saylor
Baldwin	Flick	Marsico	Scavello
Bard	Forcier	McGill	Schroder
Barrar	Gabig	McIlhattan	Semmel

Bastian	Gannon	McIlhinney	Smith, B.
Benninghoff	Geist	McNaughton	Smith, S. H.
Birmelin	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Stairs
Boyd	Gingrich	Micozzie	Stern
Boyes	Godshall	Miller, R.	Stevenson, R.
Browne	Gordner	Miller, S.	Stevenson, T.
Bunt	Habay	Nailor	Taylor, E. Z.
Cappelli	Harhart	Nickol	Taylor, J.
Casorio	Harper	O'Brien	True
Causar	Harris	O'Neill	Turzai
Civera	Hasay	Payne	Vance
Clymer	Hennessey	Perzel	Watson
Coleman	Herman	Petri	Weber
Cornell	Hershey	Phillips	Wilt
Crahalla	Hess	Pickett	Wright
Creighton	Hickernell	Pippy	Zug
Dailey	Hutchinson	Raymond	
Dally	Kenney	Reed	
DiGirolamo	Leh	Reichley	Ryan,
Egolf	Lewis	Rohrer	Speaker

NAYS—84

Belko-Jones	Eachus	Lederer	Shaner
Belardi	Evans, D.	Lescovitz	Solobay
Belfanti	Fabrizio	Levdansky	Staback
Biancucci	Frankel	Manderino	Steil
Bishop	Freeman	Mann	Stetler
Blaum	George	Markosek	Sturla
Butkovitz	Gergely	McCall	Surra
Buxton	Goodman	Melio	Tangretti
Caltagirone	Grucela	Mundy	Thomas
Cawley	Gruitza	Myers	Tigue
Cohen	Haluska	Pallone	Travaglio
Corrigan	Hanna	Petrone	Veon
Costa	Harhai	Pistella	Vitali
Coy	Horsey	Preston	Walko
Cruz	James	Readshaw	Wansacz
Curry	Keller	Roberts	Washington
Daley	Kirkland	Ruffing	Wheatley
DeLuca	Kotik	Sainato	Wojnaroski
Dermody	LaGrotta	Samuelson	Yewcic
DeWeese	Laughlin	Santoni	Youngblood
Diven	Leach	Scrimenti	Yudichak

NOT VOTING—9

Donatucci	Oliver	Rieger	Waters
Josephs	Petrarca	Roebuck	Williams, J.
McGeehan			

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 offers 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 amendments to Rules 18, 24, 27, 43 and 45 relating to introduction and printing of bills, third consideration and final passage of bills, amendments to bills, establishment of standing committees and subcommittees and powers and duties of standing committees and subcommittees.

On the question,

Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. On the question of the adoption of the resolution, the Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I mentioned before, any member of this General Assembly has the right to ask for an explanation of every bill and every amendment that we have on the floor of this House.

As I said before, Mr. Speaker, this will make the caucuses more meaningful. It will mean that the members have to go and hear what is said in the caucus rooms on both sides of the aisle.

As far as the public service announcements, e-mails, and phones, our side of the aisle voluntarily limited that and would not do any 60 days prior to the election, and we promise that that is exactly where we will be next time around. Sixty days prior to the election we will not be doing that, Mr. Speaker.

So I hope that answers the gentleman, Mr. Vitali's question about what will happen with them. So that is where we are, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. On the question of the adoption of the resolution, the gentleman, Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think one problem with HR 1 that we need to correct, and it is a reason for voting "no," is the loophole it leaves through the so-called public service announcements, telemarketing services, and bulk e-mails. We spent \$1.7 million on public service announcements alone, coincidentally just almost exclusively with legislators who were in contested elections and, coincidentally, right in the election years.

I think we all know really what they are about. What these are about is a way to use tax dollars to build name recognition. It is really not about promoting the program but promoting the politician, which is fine if you use donor dollars, if you use campaign dollars, but what we are really doing is taking from taxpayer dollars and using it in place of what we should be raising as far as fundraising goes. This just makes the election process less fair. This just gives challengers just one more, one more hurdle to have to climb in order to overcome all the many incumbency protection devices we have. It is just wrong to use that.

MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, it is fine if they sit in their offices after work and make phone calls to constituents telling them about themselves in their offices, but let us not kid each other. If we are hiring these telemarketing outfits like the House Republicans hired from California to make these to sweep the district, to sweep the district in a matter of days, the same firms who do the campaigning, that is just campaigning by other means, Mr. Speaker, and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I would

move at this point, Mr. Speaker, I would move at this point to suspend the rules for the immediate consideration of amendment 2.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Vitali, moves that the temporary rules of the House be suspended to permit him to offer an amendment.

Do you have a number on that?

Mr. VITALI. That would be amendment 2.

The SPEAKER. Amendment 2?

All right. Thank you.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

The SPEAKER. On the question, the gentleman, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, if I am correct, there are no rules. So how is he suspending a rule that does not exist?

The SPEAKER. The motion is to suspend the temporary rule.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the members for a “no” vote.

The SPEAKER. The question before the House now is on the Vitali motion to suspend the temporary rules. The only persons entitled to speak on this are the gentleman, Mr. DeWeese; the gentleman, Mr. Perzel, unless the gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, yields to Mr. Vitali or to Mr. Samuelson.

Now, Mr. DeWeese, you have to make that decision.

Mr. DEWEESE. Mr. Speaker, it comes to my attention that the gentleman, Mr. Samuelson, has a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. Oh. I am sorry. Forgive me, Mr. Samuelson.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. On the question.

Mr. SAMUELSON. My parliamentary inquiry is on the motion to suspend the temporary rule. Does that require a simple majority vote? The provision about a two-thirds vote is contained in the rules, which have yet to be adopted.

The SPEAKER. It requires a two-thirds vote, and the reason and what I am relying on is a prior ruling, which I explained a little while ago, that when we do not have rules, we rely on the usages and customs. Let me read this, and this is in response to a Vitali question:

“The SPEAKER. —if I may, in the absence of rules, as immediately upon convening and before rules are adopted,” which is our situation, “the Houses are governed by usages, custom, and precedent, and by general parliamentary law. The best evidence of what are the established usages and customs is the rules as last in effect. The method of adopting these rules is, I am told, is exactly what—”

(Fire alarm announcement.)

The SPEAKER. We are checking this announcement out now.

Mr. Vitali, did you do this?

RECESS

The SPEAKER. The House will please come to order.

I have no information on this fire alarm system other than that it is not a test. That being the case, I think out of an abundance of caution, the Chair declares the House in recess to the call of the Chair.

The members are requested to do whatever is appropriate under the circumstances.

AFTER RECESS

The time of recess having expired, the House was called to order.

CONSIDERATION OF HR 1 CONTINUED

The SPEAKER. Members, please report to the floor.

Mr. Vitali.

(Conference held at Speaker’s podium.)

The SPEAKER. The House will please come to order; the House will please come to order. Members will please take their seats.

Mr. Samuelson, I would like you to listen to what I am about to say.

It is the Speaker’s recollection that before the fire alarms went off, I was responding to a parliamentary inquiry by the gentleman, Mr. Samuelson, with respect to whether a constitutional majority was necessary or a simple, a two-thirds vote or what we call a constitutional majority was necessary to move these resolutions, and I forget exactly what the gentleman said, but it amounted to, how come? And with that, I responded in a sense that this question has come before us before. It was raised by Mr. Vitali 2 years ago when we were sworn in on really the exact same question, and I was then reading to you my response of 2 years ago as customs and usage were stare decisis, if you please, saying that these are the rules of the House. When we have nothing else, we have to go by custom, usage, and prior precedent.

I do not believe I finished repeating my remarks. I asked Mr. Vitali; he agrees with me that he does not think I finished either because of the bells and whistles and what have you, and one of your staff people also agrees. So at this time, at this time, I am going to simply go back to the Journal from 2001 and repeat my remarks, which were in response to really the same question. Is that your recollection of where we were before the fire alarms went off?

Mr. SAMUELSON. Yes.

The SPEAKER. All right. Thank you very much.

Now, I am reading from the Journal of January 2, 2001, page 19:

“The SPEAKER. —if I may, in the absence of rules, as immediately upon convening and before rules are adopted,” which is our case here today, “the Houses are governed by usages, custom, and precedent, and by general parliamentary law. The best evidence of what are the established usages and customs is the rules” of the House “as last in effect,” and I think

that part of my statement I neglected to say before the whistles and bells went off, and I am simply stating it at this time.

Mr. SAMUELSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The clerk is instructed to put back on the voting board the motion of the gentleman, Mr. Vitali, to suspend the rules.

Now, prior to my remarks to the gentleman, Mr. Samuelson, and to the House, I had asked Mr. DeWeese if he was yielding to either Mr. Samuelson or Vitali, and he told me that Mr. Samuelson simply wanted to make a point of parliamentary inquiry. I assume that is still the case, and, Mr. DeWeese, are you yielding to the gentleman, Mr. Vitali, or to some other member or yourself?

Mr. DeWEESE. May I have 30 seconds, please. I apologize. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. Is this— Oh, I am sorry. Go ahead.

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. Mr. DeWeese.

Mr. DeWEESE. I will yield to the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Vitali.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Vitali, is recognized for the purpose of debating the question of suspension of the rules, which was his motion.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What this amendment does is essentially three things: one, prohibits the use of legislative funds to purchase commercial television time; two, prohibits the use of legislative funds to contract with outside telemarketing firms with the exception of limited telemarketing for surveying purposes; and three, prohibits bulk e-mails within 60 days of the election.

I think we have argued the policy arguments, but just to sort of reiterate, the Inquirer on Monday called this practice “camouflaged campaigning.” I think they saw it for what it is.

Today I just got a letter from an unsuccessful candidate who e-mailed me, and I will not mention his district so as not to embarrass the incumbent: “Thank you for the bill related to legislative TV ads. My family, as well as my supporters thought the ads that my 2002 opponent ran around the clock on CNN, MS NBC, and Fox Newschannel were unethical and unfair,” and in fact they are. This is just campaigning on the taxpayers’ dime. We as insiders really know what this practice is all about, and it is a practice that just crosses the line. It crosses the line from the newsletters we send, from the cable shows we put on the free channels, and from the e-mails. We know it is wrong, and it is a practice that none of us should do.

So I would ask that the rules be suspended so that I may introduce this amendment so that we can stop this unethical practice. So I ask for a “yes” vote.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Does the gentleman, Mr. Perzel, care to respond on the question of suspension of the rules?

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just for the members, our side of the aisle did zero television 60 days prior to the election, our side of the aisle did zero telemarketing 60 days before the election, and our side of the aisle did zero e-mails 60 days before the election.

We cannot tell people on both sides of the aisle what to do, Mr. Speaker, but if we are here to prohibit those things, I am here to tell you that I believe that they are legitimate ways for us to communicate with our constituents. Sixty days before the

election I said we never did that, but I would never stop any of the members here from using any of those means to touch base with their constituents back home. I think they are proper, I think they are the right way to communicate, and I think that they should be allowed.

So I would respectfully ask for a “no” vote on the suspension of the rules.

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—80

Bebko-Jones	Evans, D.	Manderino	Shaner
Belardi	Fabrizio	Mann	Solobay
Belfanti	Frankel	Markosek	Staback
Biancucci	Freeman	McCall	Stetler
Bishop	George	McGeehan	Sturla
Blaum	Gergely	Melio	Surra
Buxton	Goodman	Mundy	Tangretti
Caltagirone	Grucela	Pallone	Thomas
Casorio	Gruitza	Petrarca	Tigue
Cawley	Haluska	Petrone	Travaglio
Cohen	Hanna	Pistella	Veon
Costa	Harhai	Preston	Vitali
Coy	Keller	Readshaw	Walko
Curry	Kirkland	Roberts	Wansacz
Daley	Kotik	Rooney	Washington
DeLuca	LaGrotta	Ruffing	Wheatley
Dermody	Laughlin	Sainato	Williams, J.
DeWeese	Leach	Samuelson	Wojnaroski
Diven	Lescovitz	Santoni	Yewcic
Eachus	Levdansky	Scrimenti	Yudichak

NAYS—109

Adolph	Fairchild	Mackereth	Rublej
Allen	Feese	Maher	Sather
Argall	Fichter	Maitland	Saylor
Armstrong	Fleagle	Major	Schavello
Baker	Flick	Marsico	Schroder
Baldwin	Forcier	McGill	Semmel
Bard	Gabig	McIlhattan	Smith, B.
Barrar	Gannon	McIlhinney	Smith, S. H.
Bastian	Geist	McNaughton	Stairs
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Steil
Birmelin	Gingrich	Micozzie	Stern
Boyd	Godshall	Miller, R.	Stevenson, R.
Boyes	Gordner	Miller, S.	Stevenson, T.
Browne	Habay	Nailor	Taylor, E. Z.
Bunt	Harhart	Nickol	Taylor, J.
Cappelli	Harper	O’Brien	True
Causer	Harris	O’Neill	Turzai
Civera	Hasay	Payne	Vance
Clymer	Hennessey	Perzel	Watson
Coleman	Herman	Petri	Weber
Cornell	Hershey	Phillips	Wilt
Crahalla	Hess	Pickett	Wright
Creighton	Hickernell	Pippy	Youngblood
Dailey	Hutchinson	Raymond	Zug
Dally	Kenney	Reed	
DiGirolamo	Leh	Reichley	
Egolf	Lewis	Rohrer	Ryan,
Evans, J.	Lynch	Ross	Speaker

NOT VOTING—13

Butkovitz	Horsey	Lederer	Rieger
Corrigan	James	Myers	Roebuck
Cruz	Josephs	Oliver	Waters
Donatucci			

EXCUSED—0

Less than a majority of the members required by the rules 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. On the question of adoption of the resolution— Mr. Vitali, are you seeking recognition? I cannot tell.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, I have filed five amendments to this resolution, and at least for one, perhaps two more, I want to attempt to suspend the rules to have them heard.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Vitali, moves the rules of the House be suspended to permit the consideration of an amendment he wishes to offer, being numbered what?

Mr. VITALI. This would be number 4.

The SPEAKER. Being number 4.

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

The SPEAKER. On that question, Mr. DeWeese, I assume you yield to the gentleman, Mr. Vitali. Mr. Vitali, on suspension.

Mr. VITALI. Essentially, this is very—

The SPEAKER. Remember, the question is suspension; it is not a debate of the merits of your amendment.

Mr. VITALI. Okay. Let me just briefly tell you what it is.

It essentially restores House rule 24 to the way it was last term, which means essentially, before a bill can be voted on, the title or brief analysis of the bill has to be read. It is very simple, very straightforward. I think the Representative from Philadelphia made very good policy arguments about this, but there are those times, as the legislation gets fast and furious, that it is tough to keep track of the relationship between what we have caused on and what is on the board.

So very simple. We all understand the issue. I simply ask for a “yes” on the suspension vote so we can have the title or brief analysis of a bill read under all circumstances, not just in those default circumstances, all circumstances.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am not going to go through the history of how a bill becomes a law, but of almost every idea that comes through the General Assembly, very few of them are brand-new ideas, Mr. Speaker. They are introduced. They are sent to committee where they are debated. If they get passed out of that particular committee that they are sent to, they go to Appropriations where

they can be debated. Then the bill comes to the floor where it goes to caucus, where each caucus has the opportunity of doing a debate on that particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it can be debated and debated and debated and debated, but once you have gone to caucus and once it is on your computer and once you should have a good understanding of what is in the piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, I think it is wrong to expect everyone here to read it for the fifth, sixth, seventh time, Mr. Speaker. Any member can still ask what is in this bill and we will tell them, both sides of the aisle, what is in the bill, but after five, six, seven times it gets a little out of control, Mr. Speaker.

That is all we are trying to stop, is the people that do not go to caucus and do not know what is in the bills coming up here and just asking for a full explanation of everything that we are doing. So I am asking for a “no” vote, 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—83

Bebko-Jones	Evans, D.	Levdansky	Solobay
Belardi	Fabrizio	Manderino	Staback
Belfanti	Frankel	Mann	Stetler
Biancucci	Freeman	Markosek	Sturla
Bishop	George	McCall	Surra
Blaum	Gergely	Melio	Tangretti
Buxton	Goodman	Mundy	Thomas
Caltagirone	Grucela	Pallone	Tigue
Casorio	Gruitza	Petrarca	Travaglio
Cawley	Haluska	Petrone	Veon
Cohen	Hanna	Pistella	Vitali
Corrigan	Harhai	Preston	Walko
Costa	Horsey	Readshaw	Wansacz
Coy	Josephs	Roberts	Washington
Curry	Keller	Rooney	Waters
Daley	Kirkland	Ruffing	Wheatley
DeLuca	Kotik	Sainato	Williams, J.
Dermody	LaGrotta	Samuelson	Yewcic
DeWeese	Laughlin	Santoni	Youngblood
Diven	Leach	Scrimenti	Yudichak
Eachus	Lescovitz	Shaner	

NAYS—108

Adolph	Fairchild	Mackereth	Ross
Allen	Feese	Maher	Rubley
Argall	Fichter	Maitland	Sather
Armstrong	Fleagle	Major	Saylor
Baker	Flick	Marsico	Scavello
Baldwin	Forcier	McGill	Schroder
Bard	Gabig	McIlhattan	Semmel
Barrar	Gannon	McIlhinney	Smith, B.
Bastian	Geist	McNaughton	Smith, S. H.
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Stairs
Birmelin	Gingrich	Micozzie	Steil
Boyd	Godshall	Miller, R.	Stern
Boyes	Gordner	Miller, S.	Stevenson, R.
Browne	Habay	Nailor	Stevenson, T.
Bunt	Harhart	Nickol	Taylor, E. Z.
Cappelli	Harper	O'Brien	Taylor, J.
Causar	Harris	O'Neill	True
Civera	Hasay	Payne	Turzai
Clymer	Hennessey	Perzel	Vance
Coleman	Herman	Petri	Watson
Cornell	Hershey	Phillips	Weber

Crahalla	Hess	Pickett	Wilt
Creighton	Hickernell	Pippy	Wright
Dailey	Hutchinson	Raymond	Zug
Dally	Kenney	Reed	
DiGirolo	Leh	Reichley	
Egolf	Lewis	Rohrer	Ryan,
Evans, J.	Lynch		Speaker

NOT VOTING—11

Butkovitz	James	Myers	Roebuck
Cruz	Lederer	Oliver	Wojnaroski
Donatucci	McGeehan	Rieger	

EXCUSED—0

Less than a majority of the members required by the rules 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 gentleman, Mr. Vitali, who moves the rules of the House be suspended to permit him to offer amendment No.—

Mr. VITALI. 5.

The SPEAKER. —5 to HR 1.

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

The SPEAKER. On the question of suspension of the rules, the Democratic leader yields to the gentleman, Mr. Vitali, who may now speak.

Mr. VITALI. Essentially, this just restores House rule 27 in part to the way it was last term, which basically means that before an amendment is considered, the maker of the amendment simply has to explain what is in it. And I go to caucus almost every time. I do not miss much, but still I see the need for this rule, because in caucus you understand the concepts behind an amendment, but the problem is, when you are doing 100 or 200 bills in a day like we do at the end of the session, you have to link up the concept you have learned in caucus in the numbers that keep flicking up on the board time after time after time. So having the member explain the amendment just gives you that pause to make sure you are on the right bill and just making sure you are linking up the number on the board with the concept in caucus. It has nothing to do with not being a conscientious legislator, and I think I just want to make that clear.

This is very basic stuff, I think. I am very disappointed about freshman members, especially on the other side of the aisle, caving in so early, so quickly, to basic stuff like this. It is a sad portent of things to come.

But I would ask for a “yes” vote on this motion to suspend.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Perzel, on the question.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, who is he talking to? What do you mean by that?

The SPEAKER. I do not know; I was not listening.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, all we have said with this rule change—

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker?

Mr. PERZEL. —rule 27 is meant to provide that a sponsor of an amendment need only explain the amendment if it is not filed timely. If it is filed timely, it is explained in caucus – your caucus and our caucus. Everybody gets an explanation of every amendment and every bill. We are not going to read them again for you because you did not go.

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—84

Bebko-Jones	Evans, D.	Levdansky	Scrimenti
Belardi	Fabrizio	Manderino	Shaner
Belfanti	Frankel	Mann	Solobay
Biancucci	Freeman	Markosek	Staback
Bishop	George	McCall	Stetler
Blaum	Gergely	Melio	Sturla
Buxton	Goodman	Mundy	Surra
Caltagirone	Grucela	Pallone	Tangretti
Casorio	Gruitza	Petrarca	Thomas
Cawley	Haluska	Petrone	Tigue
Cohen	Hanna	Pistella	Travaglio
Corrigan	Harhai	Preston	Veon
Costa	Horsey	Readshaw	Vitali
Coy	James	Rieger	Walko
Curry	Josephs	Roberts	Wansacz
Daley	Keller	Roebuck	Washington
DeLuca	Kirkland	Rooney	Wheatley
Dermody	Kotik	Ruffing	Williams, J.
DeWeese	LaGrotta	Sainato	Wojnaroski
Diven	Laughlin	Samuelson	Yewcic
Eachus	Leach	Santoni	Yudichak

NAYS—109

Adolph	Fairchild	Mackereth	Rublely
Allen	Feese	Maher	Sather
Argall	Fichter	Maitland	Saylor
Armstrong	Fleagle	Major	Scavello
Baker	Flick	Marsico	Schroder
Baldwin	Forcier	McGill	Semmel
Bard	Gabig	McIlhattan	Smith, B.
Barrar	Gannon	McIlhinney	Smith, S. H.
Bastian	Geist	McNaughton	Stairs
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Steil
Birmelin	Gingrich	Micozzie	Stern
Boyd	Godshall	Miller, R.	Stevenson, R.
Boyes	Gordner	Miller, S.	Stevenson, T.
Browne	Habay	Nailor	Taylor, E. Z.
Bunt	Harhart	Nickol	Taylor, J.
Cappelli	Harper	O'Brien	True
Causar	Harris	O'Neill	Turzai
Civera	Hasay	Payne	Vance
Clymer	Hennessey	Perzel	Watson
Coleman	Herman	Petri	Weber
Cornell	Hershey	Phillips	Wilt
Crahalla	Hess	Pickett	Wright
Creighton	Hickernell	Pippy	Youngblood
Dailey	Hutchinson	Raymond	Zug
Dally	Kenney	Reed	
DiGirolo	Leh	Reichley	
Egolf	Lewis	Rohrer	Ryan,
Evans, J.	Lynch	Ross	Speaker

NOT VOTING—9

Butkovitz	Lederer	McGeehan	Oliver
Cruz	Lescovitz	Myers	Waters
Donatucci			

EXCUSED—0

Less than a majority of the members required by the rules 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 the question of adoption of resolution No. 1, those in favor of the resolution— Ms. Manderino, I am sorry. Pardon me.

Ms. Manderino, you are recognized on the question of final passage.

Ms. MANDERINO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Since we came back, I want to reiterate again why I am a “no” on this vote, and as one of the members, and I am sure I speak for many members on the floor, who go to caucus and come to the floor prepared, I personally do not agree with how this bill and the proposed language is being characterized by the majority leader. The simple fact is that when things are moving so fast that HB 2513 pops up on the board, before you have time to think, is this the taxicab amendment that I am for or is this the convention center bill that I am against, the vote has been called. And what we have done, and it is not done regularly; it is done when things are moving way too fast, somebody politely stands up – sometimes it is Representative Vitali, sometimes it is Representative Samuelson; it is going to be me more often now because of what we are doing here – but all somebody stands up and says, can you give me a 20-second explanation of which bill this number is, because half the time it has not popped up on the screen with enough language showing that you can scroll down and make sure you know what you are voting on. That is all that we were asking for; that is all that the rule provided. It did not provide for a 10-minute dissertation on what was going on in it. Most people accepted the 20-second explanation, and I just think that it is a shame that what we are now allowing to happen is for rank-and-file members to be steamrolled over so that you cannot even slow the board and the voting roll call down before the Speaker says “nothing is in order but the taking of the roll” so that you know what it is you are voting on.

This is a mistake. It is a mistake for all of us no matter which side of the aisle we sit on. Everyone should be voting “no.”

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Samuelson.

Mr. SAMUELSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to start with just defending the honor of the Representative from the 166th District, who goes to almost every caucus meeting. In the 4 years I have been in office, I have seen Representative Vitali at every caucus meeting. He is a stickler for the procedure of this House. I did not appreciate the comments that suggested he was not going to caucus.

At the risk of facing similar comments myself from the majority leader, I would say that I appreciate the majority leader saying today that any member has a right to ask for an

explanation. I believe I quoted him accurately. I hope that going forward, that is still the procedure and the process of this House. What gives me concern about these rules is when I look at what the majority leader has written.

On page 29 of this resolution that we will be voting on in just a matter of moments, line 14, when an amendment has to be explained before the House of Representatives, the current rule says, “The sponsor of the amendment shall explain the amendment prior to consideration by the House.” That is what we had in the last 2-year session. The change that is being proposed today, that would still be in effect only if the amendment is not filed in a timely manner pursuant to the provisions of rule 21. So if it is not filed timely, you would still get an explanation. If it is filed timely – and you know and I know there are some bills, the budget bill, for example, where there are more than 400 amendments filed timely – if it is filed timely, what we are voting on today, there would no longer be a requirement that the amendment would have to be explained before the House of Representatives. Sure, a member could ask, but in writing in our rules there would no longer be a requirement that an explanation be given. That is in rule 27.

And there is also a concern about rule 24, where if something has been explained in caucus, if something is on the computer system, either/or, if it is either explained in caucus or on the computer system, there would no longer be an analysis required, spoken before this House. A bill could be on the computer system, 200, 250 pages long, and in an instant, when it is on the computer screen, that would fulfill the requirement that it is on the system. None of us can read a 250-page bill in a matter of 15, 20, 30 seconds. The rule would be complied with if no explanation would be given.

I believe our past practice of giving explanations of amendments, giving an analysis of bills that come before this House, makes for a more deliberative legislative process, makes for a more open legislative process, and those are my concerns about resolution No. 1 that is coming before us today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Mr. Cohen.

Mr. COHEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of this month I will have completed 11 years as Democratic caucus chairman, and I would like to say for the record that in those 11 years, no member of this caucus has attended more caucus meetings or participated more actively than Mr. Vitali.

The reason Mr. Vitali raises this amendment is because his active level of participation in Democratic caucuses and in preparation for Democratic caucuses gives him a knowledge of a very high percentage of the bills calendar, and he needs, like all of us need, to know what number is attached to what bill, and people, when given new numbers of new bills, do not always put it together.

Now, the majority leader spoke about how bills go through the legislative calendar, and, you know, we can consider them one, two, three, four, or five times, so why do we consider on the floor? Well, the problem is the bills go from introduction to passage by a committee, to passage by the Appropriations Committee, sometimes to passage of the Rules Committee, sometimes on the House floor. They change. HB 1, 2, 3, 4 is not the same each time. The number of printer’s numbers that we have far exceeds the number of bills, and it is the keeping track

of how the bills change over time that creates the urgent need for the protections of the current rules.

I join Mr. Vitali and others in strongly urging a “no” vote on this HR 1.

The SPEAKER. On the question of adoption of HR 1, the gentleman, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. I am sorry to belabor this, Mr. Speaker, but I would just like the members to know that the way we are changing the rules is the way we ran the General Assembly for roughly 310, 315 years. You will still have the right to ask what is in a bill or an amendment. You will still have the right to interrogation on the floor of this House. We are not diminishing those rights, Mr. Speaker.

I would ask for a “yes” vote on the House resolution.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. DeWeese.

Mr. DeWEESE. I would concur with those amongst us who would feel that this is not necessarily a cataclysmic moment in our process, but nevertheless, we are speeding things up, and that countervails the essential impulses of a deliberative assembly. We are here to deliberate, and why do we have to go pell-mell? Why can we not slow down? Why can we not be more methodical and acute in our perspective? It makes for a more informed decision if our pace is more leisurely, more moderated.

Again, as the gentleman from Philadelphia has declared, someone – and I have a suspicion that it will be possibly the gentleman from the Lehigh Valley or the gentleman from Delaware County on our side of the aisle – will approach the microphone on a very regular basis and ask that there be some explanation of the bills.

We got along with this in our rules last year and the year before and the year before and the year before, and again, I am very, very disappointed preeminently in the gentleman from the 97th District from Lancaster County, the gentleman from the 43d District from Lancaster County, the gentleman from the 67th District of McKean County, the gentledady from the 150th District from Montgomery County, the gentleman from the 47th District of York County, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, all you new Republicans—

Mr. PERZEL. It is a pretty impressive list, is it not, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. DeWEESE. Not according to this vote, it is not.

I do like, Mr. Speaker, if I might diverge momentarily, the fact that you did not admonish the majority leader for that quick repartee is, I think, good, and I would love to have our debates more enlivened, more along the British parliamentary system, when we can really go at it. But nevertheless, I will relinquish the microphone, and I will again repeat the words of the gentledady from Philadelphia and the previous speakers. I just do not see any need for us to change the rules along this line. It just gives us a faster pace, and as I said, it contravenes the essential nature of a deliberative body.

So I would ask for a negative vote. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,

Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—107

Adolph	Fairchild	Maher	Rublely
Allen	Feese	Maitland	Sather
Argall	Fichter	Major	Saylor
Armstrong	Fleagle	Marsico	Scavello
Baker	Flick	McGill	Schroder
Baldwin	Forcier	McIlhattan	Semmel
Bard	Gabig	McIlhinney	Smith, B.
Barrar	Gannon	McNaughton	Smith, S. H.
Bastian	Geist	Metcalfe	Stairs
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Micozzie	Steil
Birmelin	Gingrich	Miller, R.	Stern
Boyd	Godshall	Miller, S.	Stevenson, R.
Boyes	Gordner	Nailor	Stevenson, T.
Browne	Habay	Nickol	Taylor, E. Z.
Bunt	Harhart	O’Brien	Taylor, J.
Cappelli	Harper	O’Neill	True
Causar	Hasay	Payne	Turzai
Civera	Hennessey	Perzel	Vance
Clymer	Herman	Petri	Watson
Coleman	Hershey	Phillips	Weber
Cornell	Hess	Pickett	Wilt
Crahalla	Hickernell	Pippy	Wright
Creighton	Hutchinson	Raymond	Youngblood
Daily	Kenney	Reed	Zug
Dally	Leh	Reichley	
DiGirolamo	Lynch	Rohrer	Ryan,
Egolf	Mackereth	Ross	Speaker
Evans, J.			

NAYS—83

Bebko-Jones	Eachus	Lescovitz	Scrimenti
Belardi	Evans, D.	Levdansky	Shaner
Belfanti	Fabrizio	Manderino	Solobay
Bianucci	Frankel	Mann	Staback
Bishop	Freeman	Markosek	Stetler
Blaum	George	McCall	Sturla
Butkovitz	Gergely	Melio	Surra
Buxton	Goodman	Mundy	Tangretti
Caltagirone	Grucela	Myers	Thomas
Cawley	Gruitza	Pallone	Tigue
Cohen	Haluska	Petrarca	Travaglio
Corrigan	Hanna	Petrone	Veon
Costa	Harhai	Pistella	Vitali
Coy	Horsey	Preston	Walko
Cruz	Josephs	Readshaw	Wansacz
Curry	Keller	Roberts	Washington
Daley	Kirkland	Rooney	Wheatley
DeLuca	Kotik	Ruffing	Williams, J.
Dermody	LaGrotta	Sainato	Wojnaroski
DeWeese	Laughlin	Samuelson	Yewcic
Diven	Leach	Santoni	

NOT VOTING—12

Casorio	James	McGeehan	Roebuck
Donatucci	Lederer	Oliver	Waters
Harris	Lewis	Rieger	Yudichak

EXCUSED—0

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Now, I do not think this is important to many people, but some it might be important to. If you want to get paid, remember, it is necessary for you to go to the Chief Clerk's Office and sign the register of the House. So any of you who have not done that—

VOTE CORRECTIONS

The SPEAKER. Mr. Lewis.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, my machine was malfunctioning. Could you record me in the affirmative on that last vote.

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

Mr. Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, my switch malfunctioned on HR 1. Please record me in the affirmative.

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

RULES SUSPENDED

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

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the rules of the House be suspended to permit the House to convene on Tuesday, January 21, 2003, at 11 a.m. Our rules presently provide for 1 o'clock.

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

VOTE CORRECTION

The SPEAKER. Mrs. Gingrich, do you desire recognition?

Mrs. GINGRICH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to correct the record.

I had a malfunction on the vote to postpone HR 2, please. I would like to vote in the negative for that, please.

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

REMARKS SUBMITTED 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 Gabriel Batdorf, Derek Behney, Eric Bohnenblust, Andrew Bright, Matthew Bryant, Cole Dietrich, Andrew Gerhard, Richard Hartlieb Jr., Gregory Hill, Mark Lukawsky, Matthew Mierzejewski, Kevin Orzechowski, John Richards, Jonathan Rowe, David Schwenk, Christopher Shaak, Nathan Stoudt, Edwin Sweeney III, Wayne Sweigart, Richard Weinhoffer Jr., Joshua Wentzel, and Kyle Young, who were awarded Scouting's highest honor in 2002, the Eagle Scout. Mandy Dieffenbach, Kirsten Elzer, Julia Kuhn, Emilie Miller, and Jennifer Weaver, who were awarded Girl Scouting's highest award in 2002, the Gold Award.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read to the members of the House of Representatives the following citation of merit honoring Christopher Shaak member of Troop 120, John Richards member of Troop 140, Derek Behney and Nathan Stoudt members of Troop 144, Gabriel Batdorf, Eric Bohnenblust and Jonathan Rowe members of Troop 160, Cole Dietrich member of Troop 184, Wayne Sweigart member of Troop 207, Matthew Mierzejewski member of Troop 423, Andrew Gerhard member of Troop 430, Kevin Orzechowski, Edwin Sweeney III, Joshua Wentzel and Kyle Young members of Troop 431, Richard Weinhoffer Jr. member of Troop 437, Richard Hartlieb Jr. and David Schwenk members of Troop 459, Gregory Hill member of Troop 473, Andrew Bright, Matthew Bryant and Mark Lukawsky members of Troop 479. Emilie Miller member of Troop 625, Mandy Dieffenbach member of Troop 754, Kirsten Elzer and Julia Kuhn members of Troop 890, Jennifer Weaver member of Independent Troop.

Whereas, these fine young men and women 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.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. On the question of adjournment, the Chair recognizes the lady, Mrs. True.

Mrs. TRUE. Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, January 21, 2003, at 11 a.m., e.s.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations to each and every one of you.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to, and at 4:53 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.