

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007

SESSION OF 2007

191ST OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 1

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

THE CHIEF CLERK (ROGER NICK) 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 this House.

The prayer will be offered by Rev. Donald Wilson, First Baptist Church, Waynesburg, PA. Immediately after the prayer, we will recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members and all guests will please rise to the extent they are able.

PRAYER

REV. DR. DONALD WILSON, Guest Chaplain of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

The psalmist gives us these words: I am still confident of this; I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart; wait for the Lord.

Let us wait upon him in prayer:

O glorious Lord God, as this Commonwealth begins another legislative session, call us to pause, to hear, and to heed Your voice. Before us there are great challenges, there are times of uncertainty, and there may be times of stress and tension. May our eyes and ears of faith be focused upon You, O Lord.

Humbly we ask Your guidance, for we know we need Your strength and Your wisdom. Remind us, Father, that You have told us through Your prophet, Micah, that we are called to love mercy, to do justice, and to walk with You in humbleness. By Your leading, Father, prod us to be more loving, more caring, and more compassionate. Stir us to the depths of our being that we would seek authentic justice for all of Your people all of the time.

By Your Holy Spirit convict us that we would seek to be modest, sensitive, thoughtful, and humble in all our conduct. May our gestures, our words, and even our facial expressions be gentle, thoughtful, sensitive, and considerate. Indeed may we live a life seasoned by the grace of Your Holy Spirit.

Speak to us, Lord, that we may know and express Your love, Your grace, and Your sustaining power. Lead us that we be obedient servants, public servants, and Your servants. We

thank You, Father, for this great privilege of being able to call to You. We now await Your leading. Respond to us, Lord, in accordance with our faith.

All this we pray after Your will. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

The CHIEF CLERK. The Sergeants at Arms will open the doors of the House. Members and guests may 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, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, Andrew Sislo.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes Mr. Sislo.

Mr. SISLO. Mr. Chief Clerk, as Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, it is my honor to present on behalf of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Pedro A. Cortés, the returns of the election held on November 7, 2006, for the office of Representative in the General Assembly, and to also present the certification of the Secretary of the Commonwealth issued under the authority of section 1632 of the Pennsylvania Election Code, stating that all duly elected Representatives in the General Assembly, as evidenced on the aforesaid returns, have complied with the requirements of the law for the filing of campaign finance reports and statements of contributions and expenditures.

Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair extends the thanks of the House to Mr. Sislo.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DeWEESE. A point of parliamentary procedure, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. Please state it.

Mr. DeWEESE. When would be the appropriate time for the House Democrats to ask for a one-half-hour, 30-minute caucus?

The CHIEF CLERK. One second.

Would the gentlemen, Mr. DeWeese and Mr. Smith, please come to the rostrum for a second.

(Conference held at podium.)

The CHIEF CLERK. 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 7, 2006. 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
Patrick J. Harkins	First
Flo Fabrizio	Second
John Hornaman	Third
Curt Sonney	Fourth
John R. Evans	Fifth
Brad Roae	Sixth
Mark Longietti	Seventh
Dick Stevenson	Eighth
Chris Sainato	Ninth
Jaret Gibbons	Tenth
Brian L. Ellis	Eleventh
Daryl Metcalfe	Twelfth
Arthur D. Hershey	Thirteenth
Jim Marshall	Fourteenth
Vince Biancucci	Fifteenth
Sean M. Ramaley	Sixteenth
Michele Brooks	Seventeenth
Gene DiGirolamo	Eighteenth
Jake Wheatley	Nineteenth
Don Walko	Twentieth
Lisa Bennington	Twenty-first
Chelsa Wagner	Twenty-second
Dan B. Frankel	Twenty-third
Joseph Preston, Jr.	Twenty-fourth
Joseph F. Markosek	Twenty-fifth
Tim Hennessey	Twenty-sixth
Thomas C. Petrone	Twenty-seventh
Mike Turzai	Twenty-eighth
Bernie O'Neill	Twenty-ninth
Randy Vulakovich	Thirtieth
David J. Steil	Thirty-first
Anthony M. DeLuca	Thirty-second
Frank Dermody	Thirty-third
Paul Costa	Thirty-fourth
Marc J. Gergely	Thirty-fifth
Harry Readshaw	Thirty-sixth
Thomas C. Creighton	Thirty-seventh
Bill Kortz	Thirty-eighth
David Levdansky	Thirty-ninth
John A. Maher	Fortieth
Katie True	Forty-first
Matthew Smith	Forty-second
Scott W. Boyd	Forty-third
Mark Mustio	Forty-fourth
Nick Kotik	Forty-fifth
Jesse White	Forty-sixth
Keith Gillespie	Forty-seventh
Timothy Joseph Solobay	Forty-eighth
Peter J. Daley	Forty-ninth

Bill DeWeese	Fiftieth
Tim Mahoney	Fifty-first
Deberah Kula	Fifty-second
Robert W. Godshall	Fifty-third
John E. Pallone	Fifty-fourth
Joseph A. Petrarca	Fifty-fifth
James E. Casorio, Jr.	Fifty-sixth
Thomas A. Tangretti	Fifty-seventh
R. Ted Harhai	Fifty-eighth
Jess Stairs	Fifty-ninth
Jeff Pyle	Sixtieth
Kate Harper	Sixty-first
Dave Reed	Sixty-second
Fred McIlhattan	Sixty-third
Scott E. Hutchinson	Sixty-fourth
Kathy L. Rapp	Sixty-fifth
Sam Smith	Sixty-sixth
Martin T. Causer	Sixty-seventh
Matthew E. Baker	Sixty-eighth
Bob Bastian	Sixty-ninth
Jay R. Moyer	Seventieth
Edward P. Wojnarowski, Sr.	Seventy-first
Tom Yewcic	Seventy-second
Gary Haluska	Seventy-third
Camille George	Seventy-fourth
Dan A. Surra	Seventy-fifth
Mike Hanna	Seventy-sixth
H. Scott Conklin	Seventy-seventh
Dick L. Hess	Seventy-eighth
Richard A. Geist	Seventy-ninth
Jerry A. Stern	Eightieth
Mike Fleck	Eighty-first
C. Adam Harris	Eighty-second
Steven W. Cappelli	Eighty-third
Garth D. Everett	Eighty-fourth
Russ Fairchild	Eighty-fifth
Mark K. Keller	Eighty-sixth
Glen R. Grell	Eighty-seventh
Jerry L. Nailor	Eighty-eighth
Rob Kauffman	Eighty-ninth
Todd Rock	Ninetieth
Dan Moul	Ninety-first
Scott Perry	Ninety-second
Ron Miller	Ninety-third
Stanley E. Saylor	Ninety-fourth
Eugene A. DePasquale	Ninety-fifth
Mike Sturla	Ninety-sixth
John C. Bear	Ninety-seventh
David S. Hickernell	Ninety-eighth
Gordon Denlinger	Ninety-ninth
Bryan Cutler	One hundredth
Mauree Gingrich	One hundred first
RoseMarie Swanger	One hundred second
Ron Buxton	One hundred third
Susan C. Sue Helm	One hundred fourth
Ron Marsico	One hundred fifth
John D. Payne	One hundred sixth
Robert E. Belfanti, Jr.	One hundred seventh
Merle H. Phillips	One hundred eighth
David R. Millard	One hundred ninth
Tina Pickett	One hundred tenth
Sandra Major	One hundred eleventh
Ken Smith	One hundred twelfth
Frank Andrews Shimkus	One hundred thirteenth
Jim Wansacz	One hundred fourteenth
Edward G. Staback	One hundred fifteenth
Todd A. Eachus	One hundred sixteenth
Karen Boback	One hundred seventeenth

Mike Carroll One hundred eighteenth
 John T. Yudichak One hundred nineteenth
 Phyllis Mundy One hundred twentieth
 Eddie Day Pashinski One hundred twenty-first
 Keith R. McCall One hundred twenty-second
 Neal P. Goodman One hundred twenty-third
 David G. Argall One hundred twenty-fourth
 Tim Seip One hundred twenty-fifth
 Dante Santoni, Jr. One hundred twenty-sixth
 Thomas R. Caltagirone One hundred twenty-seventh
 Samuel E. Rohrer One hundred twenty-eighth
 Jim Cox One hundred twenty-ninth
 David R. Kessler One hundred thirtieth
 Karen D. Beyer One hundred thirty-first
 Jennifer L. Mann One hundred thirty-second
 Joseph F. Brennan One hundred thirty-third
 Douglas G. Reichley One hundred thirty-fourth
 Steve Samuelson One hundred thirty-fifth
 Robert Freeman One hundred thirty-sixth
 Richard T. Grucela One hundred thirty-seventh
 Craig A. Dally One hundred thirty-eighth
 Michael Peifer One hundred thirty-ninth
 John T. Galloway One hundred fortieth
 Anthony J. Melio One hundred forty-first
 Chris King One hundred forty-second
 Marguerite Quinn One hundred forty-third
 Katharine M. Watson One hundred forty-fourth
 Paul I. Clymer One hundred forty-fifth
 Thomas J. Quigley One hundred forty-sixth
 Bob Mensch One hundred forty-seventh
 Mike Gerber One hundred forty-eighth
 Daylin Leach One hundred forty-ninth
 Mike Vereb One hundred fiftieth
 Rick Taylor One hundred fifty-first
 Thomas P. Murt One hundred fifty-second
 Josh Shapiro One hundred fifty-third
 Lawrence H. Curry One hundred fifty-fourth
 Curt Schroder One hundred fifty-fifth
 Barbara McIlvaine Smith One hundred fifty-sixth
 Carole A. Rubley One hundred fifty-seventh
 Chris Ross One hundred fifty-eighth
 Thaddeus Kirkland One hundred fifty-ninth
 Stephen E. Barrar One hundred sixtieth
 Bryan R. Lentz 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
 Duane Milne One hundred sixty-seventh
 Thomas H. Killion 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 Patrick McGeehan One hundred seventy-third
 John P. Sabatina, Jr. One hundred seventy-fourth
 Michael H. O'Brien One hundred seventy-fifth
 Mario M. Scavello One hundred seventy-sixth
 John J. Taylor One hundred seventy-seventh
 Scott Petri One hundred seventy-eighth
 Tony J. Payton, Jr. 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 F. Keller One hundred eighty-fourth
 Robert C. Donatucci One hundred eighty-fifth

Harold James One hundred eighty-sixth
 Carl W. Mantz One hundred eighty-seventh
 James R. Roebuck One hundred eighty-eighth
 John J. Siproth One hundred eighty-ninth
 Thomas W. Blackwell One hundred ninetieth
 Ronald G. Waters One hundred ninety-first
 Louise Bishop One hundred ninety-second
 Steven R. Nickol One hundred ninety-third
 Kathy Manderino One hundred ninety-fourth
 Frank L. Oliver One hundred ninety-fifth
 Beverly Mackereth One hundred ninety-sixth
 Jewell Williams One hundred ninety-seventh
 Rosita C. Youngblood One hundred ninety-eighth
 Will Gabig One hundred ninety-ninth
 Cherelle L. Parker 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 second day of January, 2007.

(SEAL)

Pedro A. Cortés
 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 second day of January, 2007.

(SEAL)

Pedro A. Cortés
 Secretary of the Commonwealth

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

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

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

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk, there are no requests for leave of absence.

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. The members will proceed to vote.

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

PRESENT—203

Adolph	Freeman	Mantz	Rock
Argall	Gabig	Markosek	Roebuck
Baker	Galloway	Marshall	Rohrer
Barrar	Geist	Marsico	Ross
Bastian	George	McCall	Rubley
Bear	Gerber	McGeehan	Sabatina
Belfanti	Gergely	McI. Smith	Sainato
Benninghoff	Gibbons	McLhattan	Samuelson
Bennington	Gillespie	Melio	Santoni
Beyer	Gingrich	Mensch	Saylor
Biancucci	Godshall	Metcalfe	Scavello
Bishop	Goodman	Micozzie	Schroder
Blackwell	Grell	Millard	Seip
Boback	Grucela	Miller	Shapiro
Boyd	Haluska	Milne	Shimkus
Brennan	Hanna	Moul	Siptroth
Brooks	Harhai	Moyer	Smith, K.
Buxton	Harhart	Mundy	Smith, M.
Caltagirone	Harkins	Murt	Smith, S.
Cappelli	Harper	Mustio	Solobay
Carroll	Harris	Myers	Sonney
Casorio	Helm	Nailor	Staback
Causser	Hennessey	Nickol	Stairs
Civera	Hershey	O'Brien, D.	Steil
Clymer	Hess	O'Brien, M.	Stern
Cohen	Hickernell	O'Neill	Stevenson
Conklin	Hornaman	Oliver	Sturla
Costa	Hutchinson	Pallone	Surra
Cox	James	Parker	Swanger
Creighton	Josephs	Pashinski	Tangretti
Cruz	Kauffman	Payne	Taylor, J.
Curry	Keller, M.	Payton	Taylor, R.
Cutler	Keller, W.	Peifer	Thomas
Daley	Kenney	Perry	True
Dally	Kessler	Perzel	Turzai
DeLuca	Killion	Petrarca	Verb
Denlinger	King	Petri	Vitali
DePasquale	Kirkland	Petrone	Vulakovich
Dermody	Kortz	Phillips	Wagner
DeWeese	Kotik	Pickett	Walko
DiGirolamo	Kula	Preston	Wansacz
Donatucci	Leach	Pyle	Waters
Eachus	Lentz	Quigley	Watson
Ellis	Levdansky	Quinn	Wheatley
Evans, D.	Longietti	Ramaley	White
Evans, J.	Mackereth	Rapp	Williams
Everett	Maher	Raymond	Wojnaroski
Fabrizio	Mahoney	Readshaw	Yewcic
Fairchild	Major	Reed	Youngblood
Fleck	Manderino	Reichley	Yudichak
Frankel	Mann	Roae	

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

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

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED
TO MEMBERS-ELECT

The CHIEF CLERK. We will now proceed to the oath of office.

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 desks during the administration of the oath to which each member will swear or affirm.

The oath of office will be administered by the Honorable William R. Nalitz, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Greene County.

(Members-elect stood.)

JUDGE NALITZ. 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, please answer "I do."

(Members asserted oath.)

The CHIEF CLERK. The members may be seated.

The members will please take their seats.

The Chair at this time recognizes the gentleman from [Greene County, Mr. DeWeese, for the purpose of making a motion.

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk, I put in nomination the name for Speaker of the House—

Mr. S. SMITH. Excuse me. Excuse me, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Mr. DeWEESE. —of Dennis O'Brien from Philadelphia. Dennis O'Brien for Speaker of the House, Mr. Chief Clerk.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. S. SMITH. Excuse me, Mr. Chief Clerk. A point of parliamentary inquiry.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman will state.

Mr. S. SMITH. Is a nomination in order at this moment?

The CHIEF CLERK. No. The gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, was recognized for the purpose of making a motion for a recess of the House. We have not yet progressed to the point of nominations for Speaker.

Mr. DeWEESE. Would the record be read back to the membership, please, Mr. Chief Clerk. The words I heard were solely for the purpose of making a motion for Speaker of the House.

The CHIEF CLERK. No. I recognized the gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, for the purpose of making a motion with no reference to the Speaker of the House.

Mr. DeWEESE. So the motion is still in order.

The CHIEF CLERK. We do not move to the election of a Speaker by motion. That is by a resolution, which is to be offered by a member, and we ask for nominations, of course, at that point. But it was the understanding of the Chair that we were recognizing the gentleman for the purpose of making a motion to recess.

Mr. DeWEESE. That is not what the honorable gentleman asserted. But nonetheless, I would like just one extra moment with the Honorable Chief Clerk and his Parliamentarians.

The CHIEF CLERK. The House will be at ease for several seconds.

The Chair at this time would like to take the opportunity to welcome our guests to this magnificent chamber on this momentous occasion.

The Chair also asks the indulgence of our guests as we move through today's ceremony. We hope to move as expeditiously as possible. However, under the somewhat unusual circumstances, we do expect some delays. We need to proceed fairly, in compliance with practices and procedures of the House, and to make certain that all members' interests are protected. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation and will be momentarily at ease.

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. For what purpose does the gentleman—

Mr. DeWEESE. What is the reason for the delay? We wanted to have a caucus, Sam Smith said we do not want to let you have a caucus, and it seems like we are having an informal caucus. Let us get on with the ceremony, Mr. Chief Clerk, with all due respect.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Chief Clerk? Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Smith.

Mr. S. SMITH. With all due respect, let the record be accurate that when we first approached the Chair, the gentleman from Greene County asked about having a caucus. We agreed that we would first proceed with the roll call and the swearing-in and that he indicated he was going to make a motion to go to caucus, at which point in time when he was recognized he tried to jump to the nomination of Speaker before the resolution was passed. At this juncture I would just – so the record is clear – I just wanted to make sure that we are up to date on just where we are in these proceedings.

The CHIEF CLERK. In response to the gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, I believe we are moving forward, and I believe it was the joint understanding that we were going to move forward with the procedure as described, and we would now recognize the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Dermody.

Mr. DeWEESE. Thank you very much, sir.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Dermody, for the purpose of offering a resolution.

Mr. DERMODY. Mr. Chief Clerk, I would like to offer the following resolution to elect a Speaker.

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

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

In the House of Representatives
January 2, 2007

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 Greene County, Mr. DeWeese.

Mr. DeWEESE. With the Chair's indulgence, I would like to ask for a moment.

The CHIEF CLERK. The House will be temporarily at ease.

Mr. DeWEESE. Now, Mr. Chief Clerk, we live in interesting times, and as the wonderful opportunity for our democracy manifests itself, as the afternoon rolls forward, a few of us will have some other comments about this exciting and dynamic and responsive system, a system that has brought us over 50 new men and women to revitalize us.

The essence of our dilemma today is well known to the body politic. Due to some challenges amongst some of our groups, the vote counts are not quite as steely and unremitting as we had hoped. So we have an option today: We can embrace Gov. Edward G. Rendell's wonderfully exciting and farsighted initiatives for reform, or we can stay mired in the marmy status quo. Let me say smarmy status quo; I got a little animated.

We have a chance for reform and we have a chance to put a new name on reform. We have a chance for bipartisanship. And guess what? I am going to be candid as can be. I would not be quite so enthusiastic if we could gather 102 votes for one of my brothers and sisters. But we certainly do not want 12 more years of the status quo. We want, we want that aisle, we want that aisle to not be a dividing line; we want it to be a place where we walk over and greet each other.

I do not know the books of the Bible like my good friend, Sam Rohrer, but somewhere St. Peter talks about fighting the good fight, finishing the race, and being true to yourself. Well, we fought the good fight. Approximately 200,000 Pennsylvanians voted for people with names like Mahoney and Wagner. We have a majority of people in the Commonwealth who have embraced the Democrats, but we have a dynamic in our midst that is vexing and troubling. But nevertheless, this is a happy day, and thanks to Vic and Dottie DeWeese in that faraway Masonic Village, they have raised a happy boy. Now, I could be a little bit happier, but— In fact, when I woke up this morning, I heard NPR (National Public Radio), and some mellifluous and honey-tongued lady was saying it is going to be sunny today. She said it is going to be sunny on Wednesday, sunny on Thursday, and I thought of that inimitable Democrat, Bill Clinton, and I said to myself, it depends on what her definition of "sunny" is.

But we know, as our deliberations went to the eleventh hour and fifty-ninth minute, that our options are only two. We take a clean slate – a tabula rasa – we take a clean slate and start over. We reach out and supplicate for 5, 10, 15 Republican reformers, people who would not go to an elementary school and fib to a little girl. We want it realized when a handshake is a handshake.

We want to realize when a handshake is a handshake. One more time: a handshake is a handshake.

So I am asking my Democratic colleagues and 5, 10, 15 Republican reformers to put in nomination and send to this dais a new name and a new day in Pennsylvania. I nominate Dennis O'Brien, a fine-hearted, idealistic Republican from Philadelphia.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Greene County, Mr. DeWeese, places in nomination for office of Speaker the gentleman from Philadelphia County, the Honorable Dennis O'Brien.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. Evans.

Mr. D. EVANS. Mr. Chief Clerk, I rise to support the leader of the Democratic Party in the recommendation.

We have some difficult times here. This is rather unusual, but we do need to change. We need to have a different environment. We need to function differently. We all recognize the mistakes that we all collectively have made, Democrats and Republicans. We have an awful lot of people here, and what this should always be about is the people first and foremost; it should not be about any of us. We should all rise to a point at some point in our political career and recognize that we were sent here for a purpose, and we have been sent here to represent the people first and foremost.

This is rather difficult even for me personally, because I stand here and say to you today, Mr. Chief Clerk, that I am not personally against anyone, but there needs to be a change in the process. I recognize that the change needs to be made, and I stand here and encourage Democrats and Republicans alike to support the Democratic leader. It was very difficult for the Democratic leader to stand up and say the things that he has expressed, because in my 25 years, in my 25 years, this has never been done before. There are a lot of people who say we need to change. There are a lot of things that have happened since the November election. So the question is, either we listen to the people or we do not listen to the people.

I recognize that change needs to happen, so I stand here today saying to all of you, change needs to happen. We all came here with a particular purpose in mind. We got over 50 new members, Democrats and Republicans alike, and we have to function differently. We cannot function as we have functioned in the past, and I am very clear about that statement.

So I would hope all members think deeply, think real deeply about what is taking place here. Look, it is not the most pretty way to happen but it is a democracy, and the way a democracy works is the people speak. The people spoke on election day, and it did not happen the way we wanted it to happen; it did not happen the way we wanted it to happen. So as a result of that, this unusual move that the floor leader is making – it is highly unusual – he is making it on the basis that he thinks that there needs to be a different direction. So I would hope the members think about this carefully as you make this vote.

So I support the gentleman, and I second that motion. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. Evans, seconds the nomination of Mr. O'Brien for the office of Speaker.

Are there any other nominations? The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr.—

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. S. SMITH. Excuse me, Mr. Chief Clerk. A point of parliamentary inquiry.

The CHIEF CLERK. Yes.

Mr. S. SMITH. Once when a member is nominated, is it customary for them to acknowledge acceptance of the nomination for that office?

The CHIEF CLERK. It is not customary here in the House for members nominated to accept the nomination. Obviously any member can decline, but it is not customary for them to accept the nomination.

Are there any other nominations? The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blair County, Mr. Geist.

Mr. GEIST. Thank you very much, Mr. Chief Clerk, and boy, it is a pleasure to see you up there, Roger, after all these years. I do not think there is a finer guy in Harrisburg than you.

I stand here today to place in nomination the name of John Perzel for Speaker of the House. In 1978 when I came into this body with John and a few of us who are left, we were a bare minority, and I got to know John very, very well as an individual. I think he is a brilliant politician, a great guy, a guy who has done a fabulous job over all the years, and a guy who has been able to reach consensus, which is what this body is about. It takes 102 in the House and 26 in the Senate and a Governor to agree, and this is a guy who has been able to put it all together.

We have not always agreed on everything and we will not – he is from Philadelphia; I am from Blair County – but there is one thing that I do know: He knows how to do this job, he knows how to manage this House, and he understands the business of politics that we are all in. There is nobody who can do a finer job than John Perzel, and I place his name in nomination.

Thank you.

The CHIEF CLERK. Mr. Geist places in nomination for the office of Speaker the gentleman from Philadelphia, the Honorable John M. Perzel.

The Chair at this time recognizes the lady from Lancaster County, Mrs. True.

Mrs. TRUE. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Good to see you up there, Roger. The day is full of surprises, obviously.

When I took the oath of office for the first time in 1993, the word "reform" was not used as frequently as it is today. I recall my own small reform ideas were not very popular, but as I stand before you today, it pleases me to say that the current leadership has heard the reform message loud and clear. Representative John Perzel has committed his support to a major overhaul of our rules and to how we conduct ourselves here in the hall of the House. Everyone can be assured that there are many of us who will assist him in keeping that commitment.

Having said that, I believe that it is time to put destructive negativity aside and move forward. We must join together with positive resolution and get back to doing the people's business. I truly believe that without Representative Perzel's promised commitment to change, we will be back to where I was in 1993.

And so it is in the spirit of new beginnings, faith that agreements will be kept, and the understanding that we are all here to serve and keep the public's trust that I confidently

second the nomination of Representative John Perzel for Speaker of the House.

The CHIEF CLERK. Mrs. True seconds the nomination of Mr. Perzel.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The CHIEF CLERK. Does the gentleman, Mr. Wheatley, seek recognition? For what purpose does the gentleman seek recognition?

Mr. WHEATLEY. A point of inquiry, Mr. Chief Clerk.

What happens if or can you explain to me the process as it relates to total votes for Speaker of the House? Is it you have to get to 102, or is it the majority of the members present?

The CHIEF CLERK. It is a majority of the members present and voting. The master roll call shows 203 members present. If all members are in their seat and voting, as required by the House rules, the vote requires 102 votes.

Mr. WHEATLEY. A moment please, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Mr. Chief Clerk? Mr. Chief Clerk, I want to, if I am in order, can I make a comment on this process, Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. Comments would not actually be in order at this point. However, under unanimous consent, you may be recognized. Does the gentleman request unanimous consent?

Mr. WHEATLEY. After the process, Mr. Chief Clerk, if I can speak to the nomination. I am going to waive off on this part, but I would like to speak after this process is over.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman is in order.

Mr. WHEATLEY. Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The CHIEF CLERK. For what purpose does the gentleman, Mr. Mustio, rise?

Mr. MUSTIO. A question.

The CHIEF CLERK. A parliamentary inquiry?

Mr. MUSTIO. Yes. Will there be an opportunity, I guess, to hear from the candidates on what reform there is? I guess my concern is, I hear someone nominating someone and talking about reform, but with all the correspondence and e-mails I have seen from that person nominating over the last couple of weeks, particularly in the downsizing bills, there seems to be very, very little effort for reform. So I am just concerned that maybe the amount of reform that he speaks of is not there. I know that we spent a good hour or so listening to what the reform initiatives are from Speaker Perzel, but I am not inclined to change my vote based on what Mr. DeWeese is calling reform. So I am just questioning whether or not that opportunity will be there to hear what the true message is.

The CHIEF CLERK. The practice and precedent of the House is that candidates for Speaker are not recognized to make speeches on behalf of their candidacy. However, obviously, the member could ask to be recognized under unanimous consent.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk? Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. Yes. The gentleman, Mr. DeWeese.

Mr. DeWEESE. Is it in order that I make a motion that nominations be closed?

The CHIEF CLERK. Not at this moment. The Chair is going to recognize Miss Mann momentarily. We are just making sure that there are no more nominations from the floor before we do that, and—

Mr. DeWEESE. Well, I would like to make a motion that nominations be closed. If there is a vote in the contrary, then naturally we will have more nominations. I formally move that we close the nominations. Notwithstanding my respect for the gentlelady from Lehigh, I would like to do it at this juncture.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair understands the gentleman's motion, but under Mason's Manual, a nomination to close the nominations is not in order as long as any member may yet wish to make a nomination. That is section 549 of Mason's Manual.

The Chair at this time recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Perzel, under unanimous consent.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Chief Clerk, in the caucus we had earlier today at 10 o'clock, we talked about the reforms before the House of Representatives, and we have a resolution here before the House—

The CHIEF CLERK. Will the gentleman, Mr. Perzel, yield, please.

Unanimous consent has been objected to. The Chair is not able to recognize him at this time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

The CHIEF CLERK. Are there further nominations from the floor? The gentleman, Mr. Smith, is recognized.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Chief Clerk, a point of just, I guess a point of parliamentary inquiry as a way of clarifying what has transpired or where we are at this second.

There have been two people nominated and seconded, although the second is not necessary, for the office of Speaker of the House. A member under parliamentary inquiry asked if those two candidates would be allowed to speak, and your ruling was, your ruling was, Mr. Chief Clerk, that under the rules of the House they would only be allowed – well, under Mason's Manual since we do not have rules that we are operating under at the moment – under Mason's Manual that those two individuals would only be allowed to speak under the authority of unanimous consent. Is that correct? Is that what your ruling was, Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. That is correct.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Chief Clerk, then a further parliamentary inquiry.

Is there another process under which we could allow, since we are in this age of reform, and I see that several members from the other side—

Mr. DeWEESE. I object to the honorable gentleman's, my good friend and honorable gentleman's commentary.

Mr. S. SMITH. I am making a parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. I am sorry. The gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, will please yield. The gentleman, Mr. Smith, was recognized and had the microphone.

Mr. DeWEESE. I will, but it seems, like I sometimes do it, full freighted with verbiage.

Mr. S. SMITH. Then I would think you would understand what I am getting at.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman, Mr. Smith, is recognized to proceed.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Chief Clerk, then perhaps it would be more to the Democrat leaders if we could just adjourn, or just go at ease for a minute—

Mr. DeWEESE. At ease?

Mr. S. SMITH. —and come up here and talk—

Mr. DeWEESE. At ease?

Mr. S. SMITH. At ease.

Mr. DeWEESE. At ease?

Mr. S. SMITH. At ease, to the dais.

The CHIEF CLERK. The House will momentarily be at ease.

(Conference held at podium.)

The CHIEF CLERK. Will the members please take their seats. Will the members please take their seats.

At this point does any member seek recognition in order to make a nomination for Speaker of the House?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The CHIEF CLERK. For what purpose does the gentleman, Mr. Daley, rise?

Mr. DALEY. Mr. Chief Clerk, a point of parliamentary inquiry.

My understanding of Mason's Manual says that once the Speaker or the president of the body, the nominations are made, nothing else is in order but to move immediately to the vote. I ask you, Mr. Chief Clerk, to move this chamber now immediately to the vote.

The CHIEF CLERK. That is very much where we would like to go.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The CHIEF CLERK. For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. METCALFE. For a parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chief Clerk.

There is some speculation that with the Democratic leader nominating a second Republican, that some of us Republicans are wondering if the second Republican nominated is going to stay Republican if elected to the Speaker post.

Mr. DeWEESE. I object, Mr. Chief Clerk. Out of order.

The CHIEF CLERK. That is not a question properly before the House at this time.

Mr. METCALFE. Mr. Chief Clerk, is it a proper inquiry to ask if a voter registration form has been sent in recently to change party registration?

Mr. DeWEESE. No. Ask Dave Coder, ask Dave Coder; he is here.

The CHIEF CLERK. That is not a proper inquiry for the Chair to address.

Mr. METCALFE. Mr. Chief Clerk, would it be proper to interrogate the nominee to ask?

The CHIEF CLERK. Not at this time. It would not—

Mr. METCALFE. I tried. Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Chief Clerk? A point of parliamentary inquiry.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman will please state it.

Mr. PERZEL. Can a nominee for Speaker second his nomination?

The CHIEF CLERK. That is what we are checking right now, to make sure.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you.

Does Mason's not say that any member can second the nomination of a member running for Speaker?

The CHIEF CLERK. We are checking on that question.

STATEMENT BY MR. GEORGE

The CHIEF CLERK. For what purpose does the gentleman, Mr. George, rise?

Mr. GEORGE. Mr. Chief Clerk, if I wave my arm one more time, I will be able to claim compensation.

Now, I came down here to become a legislator again for the 17th term, and I imagine that there are freshmen or freshwomen that are here with the same thoughts that I have had for 33 years, which is to do the people's business. Now, I ask you—I will give you time to applaud; wait until I am done. Now, I have been here and I came in in '74 when there was a fight on the floor of the House between the gentleman from Philadelphia, in fact two gentlemen from Philadelphia, the Speaker and one who desired to be so. Now let me say this, and even if I have to read it, we are here to do the people's business. Throughout our careers, whether it be 1 term or 17 terms, all of us from time to time have tried to find the common good, the common ground. Amid discord we will seek harmony, among uncertainty we will seek unity, and I believe that both the individuals that have been nominated today are upright individuals, upstanding individuals, and let us vote and let us start doing the people's business.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

NOMINATIONS FOR SPEAKER CONTINUED

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Stairs, for the purpose of making a nomination.

Mr. STAIRS. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Certainly the people's business is what we are here to do today and reform is in the air, and as different people have been nominated, I would like to make another nomination of a colleague of mine from Westmoreland County—

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk? Mr. Chief Clerk, point of parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. STAIRS. —Representative Tom Tangretti.

Mr. DeWEESE. Point of parliamentary inquiry.

The CHIEF CLERK. Will the gentleman please yield until he finishes his nomination, and then we will recognize you.

Mr. DeWEESE. Yes, sir; I shall. I shall.

Mr. STAIRS. I appreciate the opportunity to speak, Mr. Majority Leader, and I nominate Tom Tangretti, a personal close friend of mine. I realize in the last year or two there are a lot of things that we would like to see changed around here. We made a few small steps but we need some quantum leaps,

and I would hope that we can join behind a true reformer and a true friend of mine, Tom Tangretti of Westmoreland County.

Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman, Mr. Stairs, places in nomination for the office of Speaker the Honorable Thomas Tangretti from the county of Westmoreland.

Mr. Tangretti is recognized.

Mr. TANGRETTI. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Although I am flattered and honored by the gentleman, my colleague from Westmoreland County, I decline the nomination.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman declines.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk, is this the appropriate time?

The CHIEF CLERK. Yes.

Mr. DeWEESE. What happened to my motion to terminate the nominating process, the motion to close it about a half-hour ago? Where is that? Is that in the ether? I do not remember where that is.

The CHIEF CLERK. No. We ruled under Mason's Manual that that motion is not in order when any member in the House is yet entitled to make a nomination for Speaker.

Mr. DeWEESE. That is very enlightening and helpful, and I thank the Honorable Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The CHIEF CLERK. Are there any other nominations? For what purpose does the gentleman, Mr. Pallone, rise?

Mr. PALLONE. A parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. Please state it.

Mr. PALLONE. Yes, sir. My parliamentary inquiry comes based on the gentleman from Philadelphia's inquiry as to making a second for any kind of a nominee. Is that individual limited or restricted in any way as to what they offer as remarks by way of that second, in the form of the possibility that an individual may second his own or her own nomination and, therefore, offer a platform to the body. I am relatively concerned about that. Is there a ruling on that?

The CHIEF CLERK. We are still trying to determine that. One second. We will be back on that.

Mr. PALLONE. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY MR. DeWEESE

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. Yes.

Mr. DeWEESE. If I might ask the dais, with the Parliamentarians at your side, since there has been intervening business, I would have to speculate that someone who has already been nominated and seconded and now there has been intervening business, that would be a very, very unusual parliamentary construction to have someone get up and nominate or second their own nomination after a very substantial time has intervened. I just wanted to add that to the thought processes of the able counselors at your side.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. Yes.

Mr. PERZEL. I asked that question prior to the last nomination and while I was nominated on the floor.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman is correct. He did.

Mr. PERZEL. Did we get a ruling on that, Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair obviously is in a bit of dilemma but has advice from several different Parliamentarians, and unfortunately, the ruling has to be made by the Chair. There is no indication that we can find in Mason's or Jefferson's that precludes a member from speaking to second his own nomination. Therefore, the gentleman is in order and may proceed.

Mr. PERZEL. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

I heard a lot a little bit earlier about the fact that we wanted to do reform of the General Assembly. Over the last several weeks since the election, we have been looking at, what can we do to make this a more open, less partisan operation in the House of Representatives here in Pennsylvania? Later on today we were going to offer a set of rules, and in those rules it would have allowed 11 Republican chairmen and 11 Democrat chairmen. It would have allowed for each committee to have 12 Republicans and 12 Democrats so that everybody's idea—

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk?

Mr. PERZEL. —no matter how good or how bad—

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk, Mr. Chief Clerk, a point of parliamentary inquiry.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. DeWEESE. We are asking for a seconding speech only, and I think if it goes on another minute or two, we are going to ask for an appeal to the ruling of the Chair.

The CHIEF CLERK. That would be a proper motion.

MOTION TO APPEAL RULING OF CHAIR

Mr. DeWEESE. I make the motion right now.

Mr. PERZEL. You cannot stop reform, Mr. DeWeese. We are about to do rules that will give this House reform.

The CHIEF CLERK. The House will come to order.

Mr. PERZEL. We realized that the people of Pennsylvania wanted change. In those rules, Mr. Chief Clerk—

Mr. DeWEESE. We want to appeal the ruling of the Chair. We want to appeal the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. PERZEL. —we would be leading this floor of this House—

The CHIEF CLERK. Will the gentlemen please yield.

Mr. DeWEESE. We appeal the ruling of the Chair, with all due respect.

The CHIEF CLERK. We are trying to determine if it was proper for me to recognize you while a member was speaking, but we are just trying to sort through it.

Mr. DeWEESE. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Mr. PERZEL. We have recommended the formation of two new committees, Mr. Chief Clerk—

MOTION RULED OUT OF ORDER

The CHIEF CLERK. The House will come to order.

The gentleman, Mr. Perzel, was recognized for a seconding speech. The gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, at that point asked to appeal the earlier ruling of the Chair that the gentleman could give seconding remarks.

Mason's Manual, section 230, provides that "An appeal from a decision of the presiding officer must be made promptly. It is too late to appeal after debate or other business has intervened." Therefore, the motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair is out of order.

The gentleman, Mr. Perzel, is recognized to proceed at this time.

Mr. PERZEL. I would like to thank the Chief Clerk.

RULING OF CHAIR APPEALED

Mr. DeWEESE. May we appeal that ruling? May we appeal that ruling?

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman can appeal that ruling.

Mr. DeWEESE. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, has appealed the ruling of the Chair, that ruling being that his prior appeal was not in order at that time because of intervening business. So the question before the House is, shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

Those in favor of sustaining the Chair's decision will vote "aye"; those opposed, "no."

On the question,

Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS-98

Adolph	Fleck	Marsico	Quinn
Argall	Gabig	McIlhattan	Rapp
Baker	Geist	Mensch	Raymond
Barrar	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Reed
Bastian	Gingrich	Micozzie	Reichley
Bear	Godshall	Millard	Roae
Beyer	Grell	Miller	Rock
Boback	Harhart	Milne	Rohrer
Boyd	Harper	Moul	Ross
Brooks	Harris	Moyer	Rubley
Caltagirone	Helm	Murt	Saylor
Cappelli	Hennessey	Mustio	Scavello
Causar	Hershey	Nailor	Smith, S.
Civera	Hess	Nickol	Sonney
Clymer	Hickernell	O'Neill	Stairs
Cox	Hutchinson	Payne	Stern
Creighton	Kauffman	Peifer	Stevenson
Cutler	Keller, M.	Perry	Swanger
Dally	Kennedy	Perzel	Taylor, J.
Denlinger	Killion	Petri	True
DiGirolamo	Mackereth	Phillips	Turzai
Ellis	Maher	Pickett	Verab
Evans, J.	Major	Pyle	Vulakovich
Everett	Mantz	Quigley	Watson
Fairchild	Marshall		

NAYS-105

Belfanti	George	Mann	Seip
Benninghoff	Gerber	Markosek	Shapiro
Bennington	Gergely	McCall	Shimkus
Biancucci	Gibbons	McGeehan	Siptroth
Bishop	Goodman	McI. Smith	Smith, K.
Blackwell	Grucela	Melio	Smith, M.
Brennan	Haluska	Mundy	Solobay
Buxton	Hanna	Myers	Staback
Carroll	Harhai	O'Brien, D.	Steil
Casorio	Harkins	O'Brien, M.	Sturla
Cohen	Hornaman	Oliver	Surra
Conklin	James	Pallone	Tangretti
Costa	Josephs	Parker	Taylor, R.
Cruz	Keller, W.	Pashinski	Thomas
Curry	Kessler	Payton	Vitali
Daley	King	Petrarca	Wagner
DeLuca	Kirkland	Petrone	Walko
DePasquale	Kortz	Preston	Wansacz
Dermody	Kotik	Ramaley	Waters
DeWeese	Kula	Readshaw	Wheatley
Donatucci	Leach	Roebuck	White
Eachus	Lentz	Sabatina	Williams
Evans, D.	Levdansky	Sainato	Wojnaroski
Frankizio	Longiotti	Samuelson	Yewcic
Frankel	Mahoney	Santoni	Youngblood
Freeman	Manderino	Schroder	Yudichak
Galloway			

NOT VOTING-0

EXCUSED-0

Less than the majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the decision of the Chair did not stand as the judgment of the House.

RULING OF CHAIR APPEALED

The CHIEF CLERK. At this point the appeal of the gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, to appeal the prior ruling of the Chair that the gentleman, Mr. Perzel, can second his own nomination is in order.

The decision of the Chair was that absent any parliamentary ruling prohibiting a member from seconding his own nomination, the gentleman was in order.

Those wishing to sustain the ruling of the—

Mr. DeWEESE. The Chair would indulge an observation?

The CHIEF CLERK. Yes.

Mr. DeWEESE. The reason I am appealing the ruling of the Chair is because, in my view, he would be giving it a third time. He was nominated, and there was a second. So you would be doing a second for a second, which, to me, is not a second. It is a third.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Chief Clerk?

Mr. DeWEESE. That is why I am appealing the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. S. SMITH. Is the gentleman debating the matter before the House, and am I entitled to equal debate?

Mr. DeWEESE. I did it in 30 seconds; go.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman, Mr. Smith, is recognized.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. S. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

So that I am clear, first a parliamentary inquiry. The exact question is, that they are appealing your ruling that a member is allowed to give an additional second to their own nomination? Is that what we are—

The CHIEF CLERK. That is correct. That was the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. S. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The Mason's Manual that I am looking at references this: that "Nominations need not be seconded...." In other words, only one nomination need be made. However, it goes on to say, "...although seconds" – s-e-c-o-n-d-s, with it plural – "to nominations may be permitted." So just so that we are clear, I think that the ruling that has been brought forth by the Chief Clerk as he presides over this in conjunction with the manual of, Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure is absolutely and unequivocally clear.

Furthermore, Mr. Chief Clerk, I would also suggest that I find it interesting that in the initial moment when this House convenes and that we proceed with the election of the office of Speaker, one of the most important offices, I find it— I do not know. There are a lot of different adjectives that come to my head, but none of them probably cover all the variances; surprising in some respects, but yet not.

I know how we in this body tend to overemphasize the internal workings and machinations. That in and of itself, Mr. Chief Clerk, is what I think is part of what the concerns are, was part of the message of this past election cycle, and to suggest that a member would not be allowed to second their own nomination and, respectfully taking that a bit further, to state what they would do or what they have done in that type of office, I do not think is out of order, Mr. Chief Clerk. The simple fact is that Mason's Manual is very clear, and if our first step of reform is to cut off debate, to cut off members voicing their opinions, then I think that we are off to a rather shaky start at best.

Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The question before the House is, shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House. Those in favor of sustaining the Chair's decision will vote "aye"; those opposed, "no."

On the question,

Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—100

Adolph	Fleck	Marsico	Rapp
Argall	Gabig	McIlhattan	Raymond
Baker	Geist	Mensch	Reed
Barrar	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Reichley
Bastian	Gingrich	Micozzie	Roae
Bear	Godshall	Millard	Rock
Beyer	Grell	Miller	Rohrer
Boback	Harhart	Milne	Ross
Boyd	Harper	Moul	Rubley
Brooks	Harris	Moyer	Saylor
Caltagirone	Helm	Murt	Scavello
Cappelli	Hennessey	Mustio	Schroder

Causer	Hershey	Nailor	Smith, S.
Civera	Hess	Nickol	Sonney
Clymer	Hickernell	O'Neill	Stairs
Cox	Hutchinson	Payne	Steil
Creighton	Kauffman	Peifer	Stern
Cutler	Keller, M.	Perry	Stevenson
Dally	Kenney	Perzel	Swanger
Denlinger	Killion	Petri	Taylor, J.
DiGirolamo	Mackereth	Phillips	True
Ellis	Maher	Pickett	Turzai
Evans, J.	Major	Pyle	Vereb
Everett	Mantz	Quigley	Vulakovich
Fairchild	Marshall	Quinn	Watson

NAYS—103

Belfanti	Galloway	Manderino	Seip
Benninghoff	George	Mann	Shapiro
Bennington	Gerber	Markosek	Shimkus
Biancucci	Gergely	McCall	Siproth
Bishop	Gibbons	McGeehan	Smith, K.
Blackwell	Goodman	McI. Smith	Smith, M.
Brennan	Grucela	Melio	Solobay
Buxton	Haluska	Mundy	Staback
Carroll	Hanna	Myers	Sturla
Casorio	Harhai	O'Brien, D.	Surra
Cohen	Harkins	O'Brien, M.	Tangretti
Conklin	Hornaman	Oliver	Taylor, R.
Costa	James	Pallone	Thomas
Cruz	Josephs	Parker	Vitali
Curry	Keller, W.	Pashinski	Wagner
Daley	Kessler	Payton	Walko
DeLuca	King	Petrarca	Wansacz
DePasquale	Kirkland	Petrone	Waters
Dermody	Kortz	Preston	Wheatley
DeWeese	Kotik	Ramaley	White
Donatucci	Kula	Readshaw	Williams
Eachus	Leach	Roebuck	Wojnaroski
Evans, D.	Lentz	Sabatina	Yewcic
Fabrizio	Levdansky	Sainato	Youngblood
Frankel	Longiotti	Samuelson	Yudichak
Freeman	Mahoney	Santoni	

NOT VOTING—0**EXCUSED—0**

Less than the majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the decision of the Chair did not stand as the judgment of the House.

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, is recognized for what purpose?

Mr. DeWEESE. A polite request that the honorable gentlelady from Lehigh Valley, Jennifer Mann, be allowed to make the more formalized request that nominations be closed.

Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

**NOMINATIONS FOR SPEAKER
CONTINUED**

The CHIEF CLERK. I understand that there is one member seeking recognition for the purpose of making a nomination. Does the gentleman, Mr. Boyd, seek recognition?

The gentleman, Mr. Marsico.

Mr. MARSICO. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

I would like to place in nomination a good friend of mine who has done a great job in the House, especially for

central Pennsylvania. I think that we, as two nominations are from the Philadelphia County, the eastern part of the State, I think that the midstate here in central Pennsylvania needs representation. It would be good to have a leader, a Speaker of the House. I would like to nominate Mike Sturla from Lancaster County.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman, Mr. Marsico, places in nomination for the office of Speaker of the House the Honorable Mike Sturla from Lancaster County.

The gentleman, Mr. Sturla, is recognized.

Mr. STURLA. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Mr. Chief Clerk, I am honored by the nomination but respectfully decline given the fact that I know Mr. O'Brien and the work that he plans to do with autism, and I wholeheartedly support his nomination and would withdraw my name at this time, or decline.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman, who declines the nomination.

Does any other member seek recognition before Miss Mann closes the nominations?

Seeing none, the Chair recognizes the lady from Lehigh County, Miss Mann.

Miss MANN. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

I move that the nominations now be closed.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

TELLERS APPOINTED

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair names as tellers for the purpose of tallying the votes for the office of Speaker, the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Civera, and the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Evans. Would Mr. Civera and Mr. Evans please come to the podium at this time.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CHIEF CLERK. The House will now proceed to elect the Speaker. Those voting for Mr. Perzel will vote in the affirmative using the green buttons; those voting for Mr. O'Brien will use the red button. The votes will be tallied as follows: Every green vote will be tallied as a vote for Mr. Perzel; every red vote will be tallied as a vote for Mr. O'Brien. Only those members in their seats will be permitted to vote.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS-97

Adolph	Fleck	Marshall	Quigley
Argall	Gabig	Marsico	Quinn
Baker	Geist	McIlhattan	Rapp
Barrar	Gillespie	Mensch	Raymond
Bastian	Gingrich	Metcalfe	Reed
Bear	Godshall	Micozzie	Reichley
Beyer	Grell	Millard	Rock
Boback	Harhart	Miller	Ross
Boyd	Harper	Milne	Rubley
Brooks	Harris	Moul	Saylor
Caltagirone	Helm	Moyer	Scavello

Cappelli	Hennessey	Murt	Smith, S.
Causer	Hershey	Mustio	Sonney
Civera	Hess	Nailor	Stairs
Clymer	Hickernell	Nickol	Stern
Creighton	Hutchinson	O'Neill	Stevenson
Cruz	Kauffman	Payne	Swanger
Cutler	Keller, M.	Peifer	Taylor, J.
Dally	Kenney	Perry	True
Denlinger	Killion	Perzel	Turzai
DiGirolamo	Mackereth	Petri	Vereb
Ellis	Maher	Phillips	Vulakovich
Evans, J.	Major	Pickett	Watson
Everett	Mantz	Pyle	Youngblood
Fairchild			

NAYS-105

Belfanti	George	Mann	Schroder
Benninghoff	Gerber	Markosek	Seip
Bennington	Gergely	McCall	Shapiro
Biancucci	Gibbons	McGeehan	Shimkus
Bishop	Goodman	McI. Smith	Siptroth
Blackwell	Grucela	Melio	Smith, K.
Brennan	Haluska	Mundy	Smith, M.
Buxton	Hanna	Myers	Solobay
Carroll	Harhai	O'Brien, M.	Staback
Casorio	Harkins	Oliver	Steil
Cohen	Hornaman	Pallone	Sturla
Conklin	James	Parker	Surra
Costa	Josephs	Pashinski	Tangretti
Cox	Keller, W.	Payton	Taylor, R.
Curry	Kessler	Petrarca	Thomas
Daley	King	Petrone	Vitali
DeLuca	Kirkland	Preston	Wagner
DePasquale	Kortz	Ramaley	Walko
Dermody	Kotik	Readshaw	Wansacz
DeWeese	Kula	Roae	Waters
Donatucci	Leach	Roebuck	Wheatley
Eachus	Lentz	Rohrer	White
Evans, D.	Levdansky	Sabatina	Williams
Fabrizio	Longiotti	Sainato	Wojnaroski
Frankel	Mahoney	Samuelson	Yewcic
Freeman	Manderino	Santoni	Yudichak
Galloway			

NOT VOTING-1

O'Brien, D.

EXCUSED-0

The CHIEF CLERK. The vote was as follows: The Honorable Dennis O'Brien received 105 votes; the Honorable John M. Perzel received 97 votes.

The Honorable Dennis O'Brien having received the majority of all the votes cast is hereby declared elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Congratulations, Mr. O'Brien.

Will the gentleman, Mr. O'Brien, yield for one second.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman, Mr. Perzel, is recognized.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Chief Clerk, I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. O'Brien. I would like to wish him luck in the next 2 years, and if I can help him in any way, my office is open and my telephone numbers are listed.

Thank you.

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Chief Clerk? Mr. Chief Clerk? Mr. Chief Clerk? Mr. Chief Clerk?

The CHIEF CLERK. Yes. The gentleman is recognized.

Mr. DeWEESE. This is a bruising series of concussions that we experience week in, week out; month in, month out; year in, year out. I take my hat off to John Perzel. He is a worthy foe. Speaker Perzel, my congratulations on your tenure.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT SPEAKER-ELECT TO ROSTRUM

The CHIEF CLERK. Representatives Josh Shapiro and Barbara McIlvaine Smith will escort the Speaker-elect to the rostrum.

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

Mr. SHAPIRO. Ladies and gentlemen, honorable colleagues, it is my honor to present to you the next Speaker of the House, Dennis O'Brien.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO SPEAKER-ELECT O'BRIEN

The CHIEF CLERK. The oath of office to the Speaker-elect will now be administered by the Honorable Correale Stevens, Judge, Superior Court, Pennsylvania. Please stand as the oath is administered.

JUDGE STEVENS. I, Dennis O'Brien, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of Pennsylvania and I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

(Speaker-elect O'Brien asserted oath.)

JUDGE STEVENS. Congratulations.

The CHIEF CLERK. Members, of course, may be seated.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the Honorable Robert W. O'Donnell, a former Speaker of this House, to take the Chair for the purpose of presenting the gavel to Speaker O'Brien.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

I am very honored to be here with you today, and I was especially pleased to be invited by both Bill DeWeese and John Perzel. It did not occur to me, Dennis.

I have spent many years in this place, some of them at this podium, and some things change and some things do not. You are operating in a much different world, and maybe that is for the better, but this has been a tumultuous beginning, and when the smoke clears, this will still be the place where the great moral issues of the day get debated and the problems of the State get resolved.

When Jim Manderino sat at that podium, former Speaker Manderino, his advice to the new members was, start with what you believe. Now, people that believe things will wind up debating the great issues like abortion, capital punishment, all the terrible and divisive issues, but those debates were always under the guidance of Speaker Matt Ryan. Those debates were always civil. There was always a respect for

the opposing point of view, because there was an understanding that it was passionately but honestly held. And I expect that you will deal with issues of similar gravity, and I expect that you will deal with them according to the dictates of your conscience, and above all, in the context of that debate, it is critically important that you observe that measure of civility, particularly as you enter unto what are apparently going to be fairly tumultuous times.

One short story. As I look down the aisle, I remember a member getting to his feet to give the only speech he ever gave in this House. It was on the subject of the Clean Air Act, and he brought with him the experience of a lifetime working in a chemical factory. That impassioned plea captured this House and made all the difference, turned the outcome of the law of Pennsylvania, which reminds me of Speaker Irvis's admonition, which is that the people speak through us; now you.

Your leadership – John Perzel, Sam Smith, Bill DeWeese, Dennis O'Brien – have obligations to you as members, they have obligations to their constituents, and they have obligations to the Commonwealth at large. I urge you to join them and support them in carrying out those obligations.

I am mindful of the honor but also the burdens and obligations of leadership, and I just want to say that although we did not have a ceremonial gavel prepared for you, Dennis, Mr. Speaker, this gavel symbolizes the heavy responsibility and authority of the Speaker of the House. So it is with great pride that I present it to the next Speaker of the House, the honorable gentleman from Philadelphia County, Dennis O'Brien.

THE SPEAKER (DENNIS M. O'BRIEN) PRESIDING

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. I stand here; I am truly overwhelmed. This was not something that I had thought about as far back as 24 hours ago. Many of you— This is probably going to be one of the shortest speeches in Speaker history. Bob O'Donnell offered to give me remarks from an old speech that he gave. But simply stated, this is unexpected. I am truly honored by your support.

My wife, unfortunately, is not here; my children are not here. My mom is at home. My father has passed away. My brother and my son, Dennis, are here.

Many of you know that over the years I have brought my passion to this floor on many issues. I am hoping that this opportunity will allow me to move those issues significantly forward. We have heard about reform. You have my pledge. I will move reform issues forward, and I will try to be as fair as I possibly can in this General Assembly.

Thank you very much.

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 the House. When the mace is at the Speaker's right, the House is in session.

(Mace was placed on rostrum.)

PARLIAMENTARIAN APPOINTED

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

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the lady from Luzerne County, Ms. Mundy, to introduce the freshman members of the Democratic Caucus.

Ms. MUNDY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I congratulate you on your election to the Speakership. I look forward to working with you and the entire leadership team to address the needs of the citizens of our great Commonwealth.

As I call the names of the new members of the Democratic Caucus, I would ask that you all please stand, and I would ask the others to hold their applause until I have completed the introduction of all of our new Democratic members.

Lisa Bennington; Joseph Brennan; Mike Carroll; Scott Conklin; Eugene DePasquale; John Galloway; Jaret Gibbons; Patrick Harkins; John Hornaman; David Kessler; Chris King; Bill Kortz; Deberah Kula; Bryan Lentz; Mark Longjetti; Tim Mahoney; Michael O'Brien; Eddie Pashinski; Tony Payton, Jr.; Tim Seip; Frank Andrews Shimkus; Barbara McIlvaine Smith; Ken Smith; Matthew Smith; Rick Taylor; Chelsa Wagner; and Jesse White.

Congratulations and welcome to you all.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blair County, Mr. Stern, to introduce the freshman members of the Republican Caucus.

Mr. STERN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I call the names of the new members of the Republican Caucus, will they please stand. Please hold your applause until I have completed the introduction of all the members.

John Bear; Karen Boback; Michele Brooks; Jim Cox; Bryan Cutler; Garth Everett; Mike Fleck; Susan Helm; Carl Mantz; James Marshall; Bob Mensch; Duane Milne; Dan Moul; Jay Moyer; Thomas Murt; Michael Peifer; Scott Perry; Marguerite Quinn; Brad Roae; Todd Rock; RoseMarie Swanger; Michael Vereb; and Randy Vulakovich.

Please welcome the new members of the Republican Caucus. Welcome to Harrisburg.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. DeWEESE. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will try to limit my remarks to 8 or 10 minutes.

This is an unusual day, as we all are aware, and as I was thinking yesterday, when I was not working the phones, I thought that the words of Abraham Lincoln's message to Congress in 1862 – it is only two sentences – would be appropriate. Federal troops had been pulverized at the Battle of the Seven Days in June. Union battalions were ripped apart at Second Manassas. Their ranks were slaughtered at Fredericksburg. It had been a tough year. Lincoln went to the Congress and he said, "The dogmas of the quiet past are

inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion."

As the eminently talented and humorous and civil and urbane Bob O'Donnell, former Speaker of the House, just indicated, we are going to have some exciting times ahead. Lincoln presided over politically what would have been an open jug of nitroglycerin. Some might opine that we face a similar challenge. But regardless, I think we are all here because we want to be, we are all here because we are motivated.

There was a wonderful line about an American military commander who fought in the Revolutionary War – he was quite audacious; he was a cavalry commander – and I remember it went something like this: that a war-horse cannot ignore the shrilling of the bugle. That is why Art Hershey ran again. I am not saying Art is a war-horse, but he heard the shrilling of the bugle, the shrilling of the opportunity for public service.

So these brief remarks are to my political kinsmen, kinswomen across that aisle, that aisle where I hope we will meet again and again and again, and by virtue of the fact that we have over 50 new men and women in this room is a stupendous statement about the responsiveness of our democracy, about the absolute wonderful fulfillment of the challenge of the Founding Fathers.

When our behavior was ostensibly untoward and when we admitted that we made some mistakes, some of us were able to endure and some of us had our careers terminated. But this is a beginning, this is a renaissance for this chamber, and I think Bob O'Donnell adumbrated it that way.

Now, politics has always been up close and personal. Rome: Catiline, Caesar, Augustus, Brutus, Pompey. It was a very, very intense personal moment. The political moment in the Roman Senate and the cascading of 20 centuries that bring us to this hall have not changed things very much.

Washington Irving, arguably the most popular American from the first two generations of the 19th century, was well-educated and a world traveler; loved politics. His vocation was literature, but he loved politics and politicians, and one of his biographers said – he was something like Marc Gergely – he said he loved to mix it up and be out with people who had opposing political biases. He made it his business to engage with men and women who had opposing political biases, and I think that is what we are going to have to do if we are going to be successful.

The legislative pay raise, the consternations and vexations of the recent months have to be squarely confronted by this room. We have got to forget the bickering. We have to take the advice of President George Bush, who on the day after the November election said, anybody that holds a grudge in this business is not going to be very effective, and we have got to put things behind us. We have got to reform this Assembly. It is an imperative. There is no other way to do it, but we have to do it with the geniality that our new Speaker continues to evince. We have to do it.

And this is the day when late President Gerald Ford, who handed me my college diploma many years ago, is being laid to rest in Grand Rapids. If we take a page from that wonderful Republican's book and we try to emulate Gerald Ford when he was the minority leader, when he was the United States congressional committee chairman and a United States congressional Republican rank and file, if we do that, this chamber will be enhanced.

The other night at o'dark thirty, I went and saw one of the catalogings of his life, and he said that one of the great thrills that he had was when he was a Congressman and he and Tip O'Neill would come together with two or three of their top lieutenants – their Keith McCall; their Dwight Evans; their Joshua Shapiro or Mike Gerber; their Chelsea Wagner – on both sides of the divide and they would work out a compromise.

Well, that is the way Vic and Dottie brought me up. I have not had a lot of success in the last few years, and I will take some of the blame. But this is a new day. It is a new day for all of us.

Some of us had tough races. I ran against a very, very nice gentleman. I was able to convince my constituency, only barely, that I would be a more effective participant in this room. But we, we all know that the time has run out. We are going to have to deliver. I think we will all be better public servants than we would have been had it not been for the chastisements of the body politic that so many of us experienced.

The new members, the new members, this is a big day for you. I have been here for 31 wintertimes, and I have never seen anything quite like this, but I am confident, especially because of the caliber and quality of the first-term members, and Republicans are just as much a part of this dynamic, and the fact that we can reach across the aisle, and we have to reach across the aisle. There is no alternative. We have to be a more bipartisan General Assembly. Edward G. Rendell has made strong calls for reform across the State, and he has insinuated, appropriately so, that we need to make some serious changes here. But we do have a lot of things going for us. We have the impeccable rectitude of Steve Nickol. We have the lapidary humor of Daylin Leach. That was supposed to get at least a laugh from our side. Anyway, I think we can keep the rancorous discord to a very, very limited way.

I am going to close my remarks by four lines of poetry from Alfred, Lord Tennyson:

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

As Abraham Lincoln said, may God have mercy and help us superintend a solution to our many problems and challenges.

Thank you very much.

Congratulations, Speaker O'Brien.

REMARKS BY MINORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Republican leader, Mr. Smith, for remarks.

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

Mr. Speaker, first let me congratulate you officially on the record. I can sympathize with your moments of acceptance when you are not as fully prepared as one might want to be at this particular time, and I think that under the circumstances, all has been accorded well, and I congratulate you on the election to Speaker.

Secondly, just as a side note, I must say that I think it was the chastisements of the body politic that the Democratic leader just made reference to and his references to President Ford and to President Lincoln and those various Republican points of view, it must be a new day in Pennsylvania, because I do not think

I have ever heard Bill DeWeese talk where I agreed with more of the things he was saying.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to kind of talk a little bit today, in past years when we make these types of opening-day remarks, we talk about an agenda or where we are going. Sometimes we talk about the history of Pennsylvania that is represented on the Apotheosis, and on this day – kind of following up a little bit on what the Democratic leader just spoke about – I cannot help but think about something that is a little bit more akin to the law of physics. There is a law of physics called the law of conservation of energy. Simply stated, it is that energy is neither created nor destroyed. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that in this atmosphere, in any atmosphere, frankly, not just this one, maybe more importantly in this one, but in politics there could also be something called the law of conservation of power, and in simple form, it would be that power is neither created nor destroyed.

I came to this conclusion, Mr. Speaker, when talking to people about some of the issues that face us day in and day out, and it always boils down to, where do you want the authority to rest to make the final decision? In our representative form of democracy, the power is with the people, but ultimately they are electing each of us, people like us to make that final decision about what the laws of this Commonwealth will be. They have delegated that power, that authority, to the members of this legislature, and my point is that, Mr. Speaker, is that the power does not change. The Speaker's office, the Speaker's chair has just changed. The power still rests in the Speaker's chair, in the Speaker's office.

Frequently people would come to me and say, with you as the majority leader, you have a lot of power, and I would say, no, I do not have power. I say, there is a lot of authority and responsibility that is vested in this office of majority leader, but that does change in time – a little more prophetically than I would have liked. But nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, the authority does not rest with us as individual peoples; it rests in the office in which we have been elected, and I think that it is always important for us to be mindful of that.

I have been saying for the last year and a half or two years that one of the real challenges we have before us is how we go about doing this business. You know, 15, 18 years ago you got a few letters from constituents, handwritten letters; you knew what that meant. If you got a few phone calls, you knew what that meant. If you got a petition that was signed by 40 or 50 people, you knew what that meant. In the last few years, while it has changed in the business world, the world of the Internet, the world of communications, of bloggers and all of those reams of writing that are out there, our world that we conduct this business has changed. It happened in the world of business in online banking or the world of eBay and the sale of cars over the Internet. Who would have thought 10 years ago you would buy a car over the Internet. And just in the last few years, Mr. Speaker, that challenge has come to this body, to the world of legislation; the fact that you can be sitting on the floor and you have constituents e-mailing you about the debate that is before you at the very moment.

You know, when this representative democracy was created and the Constitution was put forth and the days were put into the calendar for dealing with the issues, my lands, it was, you know, a couple days' ride to your district, perhaps, in many cases, and today it is a couple seconds' ride over the Internet. And that presents a great challenge to us, Mr. Speaker, and the

challenge is going to boil down to, are we going to continue to function as a representative democracy where the people that elect us expect us to do what is best, and if we do not, then we probably do not get reelected in 2 years or 4 years or whatever the office may hold. The challenge is going to be about that or whether it will ultimately devolve into some kind of electronic town meeting and a pure democracy, and I would argue, Mr. Speaker, that the challenge for us is to maintain this great Commonwealth and this great country of ours as a representative form of democracy, and that is part of the challenge that we are facing.

The themes for this year, Mr. Speaker, obviously we will focus significantly on reform, and we stand prepared to deal with those reforms to make sure that the legislation that we produce, that how we go about our business is as important as the results of that legislation, that we are using the process in the proper format, in a proper way, and that that is as important as what we produce. Mr. Speaker, we stand ready to make those reforms and recognize that perhaps the easy day is when we first enact those types of reforms in the way that we do business. The hard day is when we hold ourselves responsibly to do that, and I stand ready to lead in that direction, Mr. Speaker.

Responsibility, I think we must instill a greater level of responsibility across the way of our government in all the things that we do. We must live up to the accountability that we are expected to, and that through our legislative actions in an open, deliberative process, we will earn the people's trust and do the things that they have sent us here to do.

Our guiding principles, Mr. Speaker, we have taken an oath to govern, and in order to succeed, we must learn from our experience, we must let our conscience be our guide, and we must strive to provide clear and direct leadership.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations again on your election of Speaker, and God bless the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

At this time we are about to begin the joint session, so I would ask the guests of the members, you can go to your various parties, your offices, especially those in the well of the House, and at this time we will stand at ease for about 5 minutes.

REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

Mr. ARGALL submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

The day after the November election, I was asked to briefly explain the State House election results to a group of students and faculty members at Penn State's Harrisburg campus. I summed up our current situation in this way:

For the next 2 years, this House will either:

- A) succumb to a complete and bloody partisan gridlock, which will destroy any attempts to pass meaningful legislation throughout the next 2 years, or
- B) focus on bipartisan solutions to the problems facing the people of Pennsylvania.

This is certainly not a complicated analysis. In any year, when the election results are 102 to 101, as is the case in the Pennsylvania

House, no matter which party is in theoretical control, these are the two options.

The 203 members of this House will have to choose if they prefer option A or option B. No one else can make that decision; only the 203 elected members of this House can decide this important point. My choice, in case anyone is wondering, is option B, the bipartisan approach.

It has been said that State legislators, here in Pennsylvania and across the nation, have already satisfactorily addressed many of the "easy" problems. The problems which remain, however, some would say challenging, I would like to believe that instead present us with a great opportunity. John William Gardner, U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare under President Lyndon Johnson once remarked, "We are continually faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems."

For an example of perhaps our most "insoluble" problem, I would suggest you consider our experiences in attempting to address local property tax reform in recent years. While perceived to be an insoluble problem, I see it as this chamber's greatest opportunity to do the greatest good. If we can efficiently work together, we can eliminate the ever-increasing obstacle that this unfair tax has placed in the way of our seniors who live out their lives in the family homestead and our hardworking families' dreams of home ownership.

It is my hope that we will all roll up our collective sleeves this term and on a bipartisan basis – yes, there is that word again – on a bipartisan basis, make another attempt to eliminate, or at least to greatly reduce, the school district property tax problem which plagues so many of our districts.

If we can successfully work together, it will be an unprecedented opportunity for we, the members of the people's House, to restore the faith in this government's ability to achieve the greatest good for our citizens.

This is one of many "insoluble" problems that we as a body have an incredible opportunity to solve and deliver the prosperity and promise of a new Pennsylvania to the good people we were elected to serve.

My only other comment today is to congratulate my neighbor, Rep. McCall from Carbon County, on his new assignment. The two of us have found a way, in the past two decades, here on the floor of the House and back in the valley where we both grew up and now are raising our own families, to cooperate and solve a number of challenging issues, despite our partisan differences. I welcome him, as well as all of our many new members and our returning veterans, to what I am sure will be a very challenging term.

I hope that, in the weeks to come, as the smoke of today's battle clears, we will all find ways to work together in a bipartisan manner and avoid the bloody partisan gridlock which is, of course, the other option before us.

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 2, 2007

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in Joint Session on Tuesday, January 2, 2007, 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 7, 2006, in the several counties of the Commonwealth.

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 2, 2007

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 sixteenth instant, 2007, 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.

SENATE MESSAGE

RECESS 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 2, 2007

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Regular Session of the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Regular Session of the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

COMMITTEE ON PART OF SENATE RECOGNIZED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.
The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the committee on the part of the Senate, Senator Waugh.
The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes Senator Waugh.
Mr. WAUGH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker.
Members of the House of Representatives, we are a committee, and I would like to introduce my committee: Senator McIlhinney, Senator Washington, and myself, all proud former members of this very body, I might add. We are a committee from the Senate. We are here to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate is convened and organized in regular session. We are ready to proceed with business, and I would like to thank you and again congratulate you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

ARRIVAL OF SENATE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, the Senate is now entering the hall of the House.

The SPEAKER. The Senate is now entering the hall of the House.

Members and guests will please rise.

The Chair requests the Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Catherine Baker Knoll, to preside over the proceedings of the joint session of the General Assembly.

The President pro tempore of the Senate, the Honorable Joseph B. Scarnati III, is invited to be seated on the rostrum.

The members of the House and Senate will please be seated.

JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL) PRESIDING

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Representative Gerber, please come to the podium. Representative Mike Gerber, please come to the podium.

ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Please take your seats. The session will now come to order. Please take your seats.

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 the House of Representatives, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of this Commonwealth for the opening and computing of the official returns of the election for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, 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 Lisa Baker, and the teller on the part of the House of Representatives is the Representative from Montgomery County, Representative Mike Gerber. The tellers will please come to the desks 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 HER 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:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 7, 2006, for the office of Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Mr. Ed Rendell, Democratic Party, received 2,470,517 votes,
Mr. Lynn Swann, Republican Party, received 1,622,135 votes,
Write-in Votes, 3,425 (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 second day of January, 2007.

(SEAL)

Pedro A. Cortés
Secretary of the Commonwealth

* * *

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HER 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:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 7, 2006, for the office of Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Ms. Catherine Baker Knoll, Democratic Party, received
2,470,517 votes,
Mr. Jim Matthews, Republican Party, received 1,622,135 votes,
Write-in Votes, 3,425 (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 second day of January, 2007.

(SEAL)

Pedro A. Cortés
Secretary of the Commonwealth

CERTIFICATE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HER 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 second day of January, 2007.

(SEAL)

Pedro A. Cortés
Secretary of the Commonwealth

TELLERS' REPORT

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair recognizes Senator Lisa Baker.

Ms. BAKER. Madam President and 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.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Thank you, Senator Baker.

Mr. GERBER read the following report:

Ed Rendell and Catherine Baker Knoll, Democrats,
received 2,470,517 votes;
Lynn Swann and Jim Matthews, Republicans,
received 1,622,135 votes.

Ms. BAKER. That concludes our report.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Thank you

Edward G. 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 2007.

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION FILED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I have signed all the papers.

So the certificates of election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, having been signed by the officers and the tellers on the part of the Senate and House of Representatives, will now be filed.

The following signed certificates of election were filed:

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

January 2, 2007

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 second day of January, A.D., two thousand and seven, 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 Edward G. Rendell had the highest number of votes; where upon The Honorable Edward G. 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) Catherine Baker Knoll
President of the Senate

(SEAL) Dennis M. O'Brien
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Lisa Baker
Teller on the part of the Senate

Michael F. Gerber
Teller on the part of the House of
Representatives

* * *

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

January 2, 2007

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 second day of January, A.D., two thousand and seven, 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 this Commonwealth.

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

(SEAL) Catherine Baker Knoll
President of the Senate

(SEAL) Dennis M. O'Brien
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Lisa Baker
Teller on the part of the Senate

Michael F. Gerber
Teller on the part of the House of
Representatives

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 the 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 this joint session has been assembled having been transacted, the session is now adjourned.

Everyone can take a few minutes.

THE SPEAKER (DENNIS M. O'BRIEN) 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. DeWEESE. Mr. Speaker, I move the proceedings of the joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives held this 2d day of January 2007 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 York County, Mrs. Mackereth; the gentleman from Bucks County, Mr. O'Neill; the lady from Philadelphia, Ms. Youngblood; the gentleman from Erie County, Mr. Fabrizio.

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

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints a committee to wait upon the Governor and notify him the House is organized: the gentleman from Washington County, Mr. Daley; the gentleman from Clinton County, Mr. Hanna; the lady from Lebanon County, Mrs. Gingrich; the gentleman from Washington County, Mr. Solobay; the gentleman from Bucks County, Mr. DiGirolamo.

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

TEMPORARY RULES ADOPTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Democratic whip, Mr. McCall.

Mr. McCALL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a motion. That motion would be to adopt temporary rules of the House, to adopt the rules of the 2005-2006 legislative session, that those rules shall expire within 45 days, and that a committee be established to meet within 30 days from the adoption of the temporary rule to adopt the rules of the House, and again, like I said, our temporary rule will expire in 45 days.

We have been working very diligently with our bipartisan reform caucus on rules changes – Representative Tangretti, Representative Freeman, Representative Manderino. We certainly want to reach out to the other side and work in a bipartisan manner on that rule, temporary rule adoption.

I would ask that we move to adopt the temporary rules of 2005-2006.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Smith.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I seem to hear two motions, and I would just like a clarification. One motion was to adopt the rules of the '05-'06 session as temporary rules for 45 days, and then there was a reference to forming some kind of a committee or whatever that would review the rules. I am just unclear, Mr. Speaker. Are we talking about two separate things here? If we could get some idea of what that actually looks like.

Mr. McCALL. No, Mr. Speaker. Just adopting the temporary rule. The caveat or what I mentioned was that we look forward to working with that bipartisan reform caucus or movement in establishing the new rules of the House.

Mr. S. SMITH. So then if I understand, Mr. Speaker, the motion before us is to adopt temporary rules, which would be the rules of last session, for 45 days, period. That is the motion before us, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. McCALL. That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. On the adoption of the resolution, those in favor will say "aye"; those opposed, "no."

The "ayes" have it. The motion is adopted.

INTERROGATION

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Republican leader.

Mr. S. SMITH. May I interrogate the Democratic leader, Mr. Speaker? Would he stand for brief interrogation?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman indicates that he will. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, there was a reference to a committee being formed to review the rules in this 45-day period. Do we have that reduced to paper, or is that just a kind of a loose-end organization, or is there something concrete that we can expect to abide by or know who is being appointed? Are there any procedures or did you put anything in writing on this, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. DeWEESE. That is a very fair question.

I would ask the Honorable Speaker to get some attention for a moment. This is a very poignant interrogatory that the gentleman from Jefferson has offered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, Mr. Steil; the gentlelady, Ms. Manderino, on our side of the aisle; Tom Tangretti; Bobby Freeman;

Joshua Shapiro; Mike Gerber – so many of our folks are working with your folks in a comparatively ad hoc group, Mr. Smith, to bring this to fruition.

We are asking for a 45-day temporary inclusion of our former rules, and I do not know, sir. We will work with you diligently if we need 90 days or more, 120 days. We would like to think that a Steil-Shapiro blue-ribbon committee of some kind or a Steil-Freeman blue-ribbon committee, some kind of event or some kind of team could be organized. The honorable gentleman knows that the substructure is already organized. So it would just probably be given a little official sanction by our General Assembly and maybe some modification – maybe some new people, some first-term people would be added to it. But essentially, there is a group of very idealistic Republicans and idealistic Democrats that are going to be helping us, helping all of us, not just our leadership team but, with all due respect, we hope your leadership team and make some profound changes on our internal mechanisms as well as, to my good colleague, take the group or take their committee out on the State hustings a little bit and discuss the issues of the day, especially the ones that Governor Rendell has offered.

I am not a big fan of term limits, but nevertheless, it needs to be discussed in an open forum. So this commission— And I would like to think that we will show our bipartisan enthusiasms by having it the Steil-Shapiro commission, the Steil-Shapiro blue-ribbon commission, one of our young second-termers, one of your more seasoned idealists, and we want to change the way we do business here. So it is a commitment on our part, sir, and I think it is very appropriate that you would ask the question.

Thank you very kindly.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, if I may continue interrogation of the Democratic leader.

I appreciate the comments he just made, but I do not think it actually answered my question. My question is, do we have something before us that we are voting on that would create some kind of rules reform commission at this moment or are you strictly talking hypothetically about how it might come together, because you named people and you named issues, some well beyond the breadth of the rules. I was thinking we were talking about how we were going to enact permanent rules in 45 days, and you talked about some other issues that are other elements of reform, and I am just simply uncertain, Mr. Speaker, as to what you are actually proposing and are you proposing a specific— I mean, normally we would have a resolution—

Mr. DeWEESE. No, sir; no, sir.

Mr. S. SMITH. Normally we would have a resolution before us—

Mr. DeWEESE. No; no.

Mr. S. SMITH. So you are just talking hypothetically about what might take place. So there is no formal organization for discussion of the rules, the permanent rules. There is no formal organization. You are just talking about people, you know, that might be invited into that room to discuss that?

Mr. DeWEESE. Everyone is invited in, but we are not doing anything specific at this time. We are going to try to change our rules in the near future but not the immediate future, and we are asking that we go on with the rules that we operated under in the last session for at least 45 days, and we may come back and want 90 days, but we are going to take the group that Ms. Manderino, Mr. Schroder, Mr. Steil, Mr. Freeman,

Mr. Tangretti, et al., have been working with. That is going to be the core group, and quite frankly, I have just been told by the gentledady from Philadelphia, Ms. Manderino, that every member of the General Assembly will be welcomed to join in these deliberations. But we are certainly, certainly not trying to do anything today; just adopting our temporary rule today.

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

The SPEAKER. Those in favor of the resolution will vote "aye"; those opposed will vote "no." The members will proceed to vote.

(No question was formally put before the House.)

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

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

Mr. REICHLEY. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

I just want to clarify. Maybe it is a point of parliamentary inquiry.

Would the adoption of the temporary rules include the continued provision of the legislative leave provisions that are under the current existing rules of January 2005?

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair selects the following members for appointment to the Committee on Committees: Mr. Hanna, Mr. DeWeese, Mr. McCall, Mr. Dwight Evans, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Mundy, Mr. George, Mr. Frankel, Mr. Preston, Mr. Gerber, Mr. Hess, Mr. Geist, Mr. Stairs, Mr. Fairchild, Ms. Pickett.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. REICHLEY. Mr. Speaker, I think I posed a question, a point of parliamentary inquiry, and I think that was the existing question I had posed.

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

Mr. REICHLEY. I had raised the question as a point of parliamentary inquiry whether the previous motion which had been raised by the Speaker would include the provisions of rule 64 under the rules of January 2005 regarding legislative leave, somewhat popularly known as ghost voting? I was just trying to determine if it was the motion to keep that as an applicable rule under the motion that it was being offered?

The SPEAKER. The answer is yes.

Mr. REICHLEY. I am sorry?

The SPEAKER. The answer is yes.

Mr. REICHLEY. So all members will now be required to take a roll-call vote on the continued practice of ghost voting. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER. As the rules were, they will be in place for the next 45 days.

Mr. REICHLEY. Another point of parliamentary inquiry.

Is a member in place to challenge the presence of a quorum and then therefore the Speaker would be directed to close the doors of the House and only members on the floor would be allowed to vote?

The SPEAKER. All the same rules are in place.

Mr. REICHLEY. I would therefore raise the question of a quorum being present on the floor, Mr. Speaker, and direct that the doors of the House be closed and only members within the House be allowed to vote.

The SPEAKER. The Chair observes that there is a quorum present, and there is no vote before the House.

Mr. REICHLEY. I would appeal the ruling of the Chair, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn with the proviso that the whole world knows that the gentleman from the 134th District voted for that rules change 2 years ago.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we adjourn.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I oppose that motion.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. S. SMITH. Point of parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. S. SMITH. Could you clarify. There was a statement about doing the temporary rules. There was an implication that the rules were going to be adopted by a voice vote. I believe that a member asked for them, for a recorded vote that was on the board a minute ago, that we were going to have a recorded vote on the rules, and I am just not clear, Mr. Speaker, as to where we stand.

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman suspend.

The Chair made that announcement in error.

The Chair rescinds that announcement that a recorded vote is necessary.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, a point of parliamentary inquiry.

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

Mr. S. SMITH. Can we not request a recorded vote even if it is not necessary? Cannot a member request that a recorded vote be put on the board?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order to make the motion.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I would simply request that on the issue of adopting the temporary rules that the members be allowed to – that we have a recorded vote on the board.

The SPEAKER. Will the leaders come to the rostrum for a moment, please.

The House will be at ease.

(Conference held at Speaker's podium.)

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman, Representative Reichley, come to the rostrum, please.

RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Democratic leader, Mr. DeWeese, for the purposes of offering HR 1, which the clerk will read.

The following resolution was read:

A RESOLUTION

Adopting temporary rules for the House of Representatives.

RESOLVED, That the Rules of the House of Representatives (2005-2006) be adopted as temporary rules for the 2007-2008 session of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution expire in 60 days.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Republican leader, Mr. Smith.

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

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us is a formal resolution which would adopt the rules of last session as temporary rules for us, and while I think that there have been some concerns raised because of those old rules, and particularly one that was mentioned here a few minutes ago for ghost voting and that was a part of last year's vote, although there was controversy there, it actually provided a way for members to vote while they were on legislative business elsewhere in the building.

I think, Mr. Speaker, there were many concerns that were raised as to just how fast these rules will be revised into permanent rules, and certainly, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for us to adopt some rules to abide by in this interim period. We are not in session very many days in the month of January as we get things ramped up, as we hope to get committees organized, and I think, Mr. Speaker, that we need to be careful as to how we characterize this.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to point that out to the members that while some of the issues embodied in last year's rules are certainly of controversy or at least subject to reform – and I believe, Mr. Speaker, we would like to change many of those areas of controversy – I wanted to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that the members understood the vote that was before them. We do need to have rules to operate under. However, some members may have specific concerns as to what is embodied in those rules of last year, and I just wanted to advise the members of that fact, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. DeWEESE. Let me repeat, Mr. Speaker, the rules that we are going to adopt now are temporary. They are the rules that Mr. Perzel and Mr. Smith proffered in the last session of the General Assembly. There are many frailties and areas that we want to change and alter.

A second point I want to make, the rules reform group will meet and report at a date certain, and every member of the House here will have a chance to amend, alter, change, participate in the debate. We are going to change the rules of the House. What we are only asking is temporary rules that the Republican majority has used for the last couple of sessions just to get us up and running for 60 days. So if somebody is going to

vote "no" today but voted "yes" the last time and the time before and the time before, I certainly hope they have a good explanation.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Mr. Petri.

Mr. PETRI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a point of parliamentary inquiry.

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

Mr. PETRI. Thank you.

Is it the intent of the House to vote on this bill? It is not on the computer, and we have no printed handouts.

Furthermore, I would like to add that the last time I asked to participate with this select group on rule changes, I was denied that opportunity. I would like that in the record.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Maher.

Mr. DeWEESE. I would like to state for the record, Mr. Speaker, if I might, he was not denied by us. He is a Republican rank and file. We did not deny him the opportunity.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will yield.

Does the gentleman request recognition?

Mr. DeWEESE. I apologize. I request no further recognition.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

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

Mr. MAHER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A parliamentary inquiry.

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

Mr. MAHER. Mason's provides that a resolution is a form of written proposal. Is HR 1 a written proposal?

The SPEAKER. Yes, it is, Mr. Maher.

Mr. MAHER. Is there any intent to circulate this written proposal to the members, or are we expected to vote blindly?

The SPEAKER. If the gentleman would so desire, we can recess for a few minutes and have this resolution circulated.

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

Mr. MAHER. With all due respect, Mr. Leader, I believe I have the floor.

Mr. DeWEESE. With all due respect, you are correct.

Mr. MAHER. Thank you.

Mr. DeWEESE. But it is two sentences, so if you want me to, I will read it.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman may continue.

Mr. MAHER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it strikes me that one or more gentlemen from across the aisle in years past have made a rather insistent point that the complete language of the rules to be adopted be before the body for its consideration. Now, many of us had the good fortune to serve Pennsylvania before being sworn in today and have familiarity with the rules, but the rules run to many, many pages. A quarter of this body has never had a single legislative session day operating with those rules. I think that in the spirit of openness, transparency, reform, sunshine that I know the gentleman across the aisle embraces or projects an embrace of, that under that purpose it would be appropriate for the rules to be distributed that are being proposed.

The SPEAKER. The House will be at ease while the copies are being made.

Mr. MAHER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You are providing then copies of the rules that are being proposed as opposed to those two sentences. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER. A copy of the resolution is being copied for the members.

Mr. MAHER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Another parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. MAHER. What is the appropriate procedure for offering an amendment to this resolution?

The SPEAKER. You would have to have an amendment drafted by the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Mr. MAHER. Now, if one has language drafted by the Legislative Reference Bureau, could that language be offered to amend this two-sentence resolution by replacement?

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman approach the rostrum?

Is the gentleman, Mr. Maher, and the Republican leader going to come to the rostrum?

(Conference held at Speaker's podium.)

SENATE MESSAGE

RECESS 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 2, 2007

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Regular Session of the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Regular Session of the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

On the question,

Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?

Resolution was concurred in.

Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. All members are asked to stop by the Chief Clerk's Office to sign the Oath Book.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker?

As you were talking, there was HR 1—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman has not been recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNMENT MOTION CONTINUED

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

Mr. DeWEESE. I have a motion to adjourn on the floor. I would like that motion to be recognized, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, if that is possible.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion.

Those in favor will say "aye"; those opposed, "no."

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

(Members proceeded to vote.)

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. There is nothing before the House except the motion to adjourn.

Mr. S. SMITH. A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend; the gentleman will suspend.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, I understand that a motion—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentleman's motion was before the House.

The question recurs on the motion.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I was seeking recognition on the motion.

The SPEAKER. Those in favor will say "aye"; those opposed, "no."

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, I seek recognition on this motion.

The SPEAKER. Members will proceed to vote.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I seek recognition on this motion. I asked to be recognized, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek recognition on the motion to adjourn.

VOTES CHALLENGED

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I am challenging the seats of Democratic members. They are not in their seats, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Nothing is in order but the taking of the roll.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I am entitled to challenge those members who are not seated on the floor. Mr. Speaker, I am challenging this vote.

Mr. Speaker, am I recognized to challenge members on the floor?

The SPEAKER. The Chair will ask all the members to report to the floor who are not here. The board will remain open.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I would request order and that each member be advised to be in their seat. Mr. Speaker, could we request order and have each member be in their seat? I believe that is what the rules of the House call for under the decorum of the House.

The SPEAKER. Members will please take their seats.

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

The SPEAKER. The aisles will be cleared. Members will please take their seats.

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

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

Mr. DeWEESE. Would it be appropriate or inappropriate, and I will take the advice of the Chair, for me to, at least while we are waiting for members to come back from their families and their offices and their celebrations, for me to give a couple comments about what this is all about? I do not know that anybody is aware—

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker? That is not in order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Only by unanimous consent, Mr. DeWeese.

Mr. DeWEESE. I do not think that is going to happen.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. I do not think we have unanimous consent.

Mr. DeWEESE. Well, we can stay here for 3 or 4 more hours like Mr. Maher wants us to. That is okay with me.

The SPEAKER. Have all the members voted?

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see the people in their seat and call their names that are not here.

Mr. DeWEESE. On swearing-in day he wants to see the people who are with their families and call their names. Wow.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will cease.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, what do the rules say?

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes Representative Hornaman.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, the rules say that after 10 minutes the board should be closed. It has been 10 minutes, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. There is 1 more minute, Mr. Leader. We are watching the clock.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. Time has expired.

On the question recurring,

Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—101

Belfanti	George	Mann	Seip
Bennington	Gerber	Markosek	Shapiro
Bianucci	Gergely	McCall	Shimkus
Bishop	Gibbons	McGeehan	Siptroth
Blackwell	Goodman	McI. Smith	Smith, K.
Brennan	Grucela	Melio	Smith, M.
Buxton	Haluska	Mundy	Solobay
Carroll	Hanna	Myers	Solobay
Casorio	Harhai	O'Brien, D.	Staback
Cohen	Harkins	O'Brien, M.	Sturla
Conklin	James	Oliver	Tangretti
Costa	Josephs	Pallone	Taylor, R.
Cruz	Keller, W.	Parker	Thomas
Curry	Kessler	Pashinski	Vitali
Daley	King	Payton	Wagner
DeLuca	Kirkland	Petrarca	Walko
DePasquale	Kortz	Petrone	Wansacz
Dermody	Kotik	Preston	Waters
DeWeese	Kula	Ramaley	Wheatley
Donatucci	Leach	Readshaw	White
Eachus	Lentz	Roebuck	Williams
Evans, D.	Levdanský	Sabatina	Wojnarowski
Fabrizio	Longietti	Sainato	Yewcic
Frankel	Mahoney	Samuelson	Youngblood
Freeman	Manderino	Santoni	Yudichak
Galloway			

NAYS—101

Adolph	Fleck	Marsico	Rapp
Argall	Gabig	McIlhatten	Raymond
Baker	Geist	Mensch	Reed
Barrar	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Reichley
Bastian	Gingrich	Micozzie	Roae
Bear	Godshall	Millard	Rock
Benninghoff	Grell	Miller	Rohrer
Beyer	Harhart	Milne	Ross
Boback	Harper	Moul	Rublely
Boyd	Harris	Moyer	Saylor
Brooks	Helm	Murt	Scavello
Caltagirone	Hennessey	Mustio	Schroder
Cappelli	Hershey	Nailor	Smith, S.
Causar	Hess	Nickol	Sonney
Civera	Hickernell	O'Neill	Stairs
Clymer	Hutchinson	Payne	Steil
Cox	Kauffman	Peifer	Stern
Creighton	Keller, M.	Perry	Stevenson
Cutler	Kenney	Perzel	Swanger
Dally	Killion	Petri	Taylor, J.
Denlinger	Mackereth	Phillips	True
DiGirolamo	Maher	Pickett	Turzai
Ellis	Major	Pyle	Vereb
Evans, J.	Mantz	Quigley	Vulakovich
Everett	Marshall	Quinn	Watson
Fairchild			

NOT VOTING—1

Hornaman

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.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

Mr. S. SMITH. There is an announcement.

The Republican members will have a caucus. Republican members will have a caucus at 4:30; Republican caucus at 4:30.

RECESS

Mr. DeWEESE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recess until the call of the Chair.

The SPEAKER. This House is now in recess to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

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

RECONSIDERATION MOTION FILED

The SPEAKER. The Chair is in receipt of a reconsideration motion filed by the gentlemen, Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Reichley, to reconsider the vote by which HR 1 was defeated on January 2, 2007.

Further, the Chair is in receipt of a—

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Republican leader.

Mr. S. SMITH. I apologize. I did not hear what you just read about HR 1. Was that the motion, the reconsideration motion that I had submitted earlier today?

The SPEAKER. I am about ready to recognize that we are in receipt of your reconsideration motion as well.

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

RECONSIDERATION MOTION FILED

The SPEAKER. Further, the Chair is in receipt of a reconsideration motion filed by the gentleman, Mr. S. Smith, and Miss Major to reconsider the vote by which the temporary rules of the House were adopted on the 2d day of January 2007.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Maher.

Mr. MAHER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Recognizing the occasion of the Governor's inaugural and the interest in members for attending such, I have a number of points I would like to cover, but I am not intending to head towards a vote on anything so much as hoping that we will have a collegial accord that there are matters that need to be resolved but those matters can be resolved a week from today.

In the first matter, Mr. Speaker, I observed that I had the floor on January 2 when there was a succession of interruptions, and consequently, I appreciate your recognizing me now, because whoever has the floor at the time of recess, that continues over, according to Mason's, and I thank you for that recognition.

RECONSIDERATION MOTION RULED OUT OF ORDER

Mr. MAHER. I understand you just indicated there was a reconsideration motion for HR 1, and I was unaware of any vote actually taken on HR 1. Is it the Chair's—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is correct. There was no vote taken, so that reconsideration is out of order.

Mr. MAHER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to seek with unanimous consent that our further consideration of HR 1 be postponed until a week from today so that we cannot be bogged down in that discussion today.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman can proceed.

Mr. MAHER. We are in order? We are in agreement?

Mr. DeWEESE. The Democrats have no objection.

Mr. MAHER. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Leader.

There were a couple of other matters where votes were announced that a vote would be taken and yet no vote followed, and without dragging through the details of those, I would simply say that between your motion on the Committee on Committees and the recognition of Mr. Smith's motion that the "yeas" and "nays" be taken on the McCall motion, that those are matters that will need to be resolved. But if we can agree that they will be as ripe for a resolution next week as they are today, then I would happily recommend that we postpone consideration of those matters until next week, provided we have an explicit agreement that they will be as ripe for consideration next week as they are today.

The SPEAKER. Does the majority leader seek recognition?

Mr. DeWEESE. As my honorable gentleman friend from Upper St. Clair realizes, there is nothing sunshined for today anyway, so we could not be voting today, in my view.

Mr. MAHER. To remind the gentleman, the motion to adjourn on January 2 failed. A recess was announced absent any vote on the 2d. We are now in a continuation of the 2d, returning from that recess. So the question is that matters that are ripe on the 2d, if we can agree they will be equally ripe on the 23d, I will be quite happy to postpone consideration of those, but I do not wish to forfeit whatever procedural aspects might be involved by such a postponement.

Mr. DeWEESE. That call would have to come from the dais. The Speaker and the Parliamentarian would make that ultimate decision. All I am saying is that today we are not sunshined, and notwithstanding the adroit parliamentary discussion that you have just helped with, I do not think we could be voting today anyway. However, when we come back next week, I am sure these matters will be, to use your word, ripe.

Mr. MAHER. Mr. Speaker, given that the leader has deferred to your judgment as to whether or not these matters will still be ripe a week from now so that we can move on today and allow people to get into the bleachers or preferred seating, as the case may be—

The SPEAKER. It is the intention of the Chair to proceed as outlined by the gentleman, Mr. Maher.

Mr. MAHER. Thank you, sir.

REPORTS SUBMITTED

Mr. MAHER. Two further matters, Mr. Speaker. One merely administrative.

The Legislative Audit Advisory Commission is submitting its reports for fiscal years '05 and '06 for the record. May we attach these to the Journal of today's proceedings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(For reports, see Appendix.)

Mr. MAHER. And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that between now and next week, perhaps sharp eyes could take a moment to review the draft of the Journal. The Journal draft that came to my attention departed significantly, in my view, from the clear record that can be perceived from any video of the day's proceedings, and I would just ask that recognizing that a lot of people are new in their respective positions, that these may be innocent oversights and errors. But I ask that a revised draft be attended to so that when we get to the point of approving the Journal, we will not have a debate on that subject.

The SPEAKER. The Parliamentarians will do their very best to reconcile the Journal with the events of that day. The technical challenges that we had that day with the microphones working and not working intermittently will obviously have to be considered. But the Parliamentarians will do their due diligence.

Mr. MAHER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate your indulgence, and like my colleagues on the other side, I am sure everybody will want to head downstairs in all due speed. But I believe that concludes my January 2 observations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. Does the Republican leader seek recognition?

Mr. S. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A parliamentary inquiry.

I appreciate that the reconsideration motion of the, the verbal motion made by the Democratic whip earlier on January 2 that was to approve temporary rules, that was subsequently approved by a voice vote – it is a little cumbersome to say – I just wanted to clarify by parliamentary inquiry that that reconsideration motion would be available to us to be considered when we come back next week. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER. That reconsideration motion was read across the desk for the record.

Mr. S. SMITH. And would it be in order to be dealt with—

The SPEAKER. Yes.

Mr. S. SMITH. —to be brought up so that I would have the opportunity to call that reconsideration motion up for a vote next week when we return to session?

The SPEAKER. Yes.

Mr. S. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is the only interrogatory I have.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader, Mr. DeWeese.

Mr. DeWEESE. I would move that we adjourn the 2d day of January's session at this time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader, who moves that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, January 16, 2007, at 11:12 a.m., e.s.t, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to, and at 11:11 a.m., e.s.t., Tuesday, January 16, 2007, the House adjourned.