

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1997

SESSION OF 1997

181ST OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 1

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Prayer will be offered by the Reverend Dr. George F. Riley, assistant to the president of Villanova University.

Members and guests will please rise and remain standing for the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, on this auspicious day of ending and beginning, we come to You, who is the beginning and end of all of us, because in today's convulsive and changing society, where in some circles to be in you have to be far out, gratitude is often a neglected virtue. We indeed sometimes forget to get on our knees because we are trying to stay on our political toes.

But for 220 years we Americans have split the atom and cleared the forests and attacked the enormity of nature, and for 221 years, Almighty Father, the more we outwardly master the world about us, the more You inwardly master our hearts. Two thousand and twenty-one years ago, ancient Rome gained the world and lost its soul. Today, modern America clings to her manifest destiny while the destiny of her soul is hardly manifest.

We are the fortunate followers of our Founding Fathers – fortunate to know, fortunate to enjoy and be thankful, fortunate to eat while others are hungry, fortunate to laugh while others are sad, fortunate to reap what others have planted, fortunate to be Americans and not behind the Iron or Bamboo Curtain. Let us never take our many gifts and privileges and talents too much for granted. The philosophers of history remind us constantly, those who forget the past are bound to repeat it.

So in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President, today we pray, give our Nation, O Lord, a clear vision so that we might know where to stand and what to stand for, because unless we stand for something, we might just fall for anything. And may we all leave this historic Assembly later with a deeper appreciation of our glorious past and of our challenging present and of our promising future, and also more proud of our great country and more loyal to this fine Commonwealth, more friendly towards one another, and more indebted to our common God, who is number one in heaven just as all Pennsylvanians are always number one on earth. Amen. Salut. Shalom. God bless. That is it.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

The CHIEF CLERK. The Sergeant 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 Chief Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Chief Clerk, the Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, Ms. Kim Pizzingrilli.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes Ms. Pizzingrilli.

Ms. PIZZINGRILLI. On behalf of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Yvette Kane, I have the honor to present the returns and the statement of campaign expense compliance for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the election held November 5, 1996.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair extends the thanks of the House to Ms. Pizzingrilli.

The clerk will proceed with the reading of the returns.

The following election returns were read:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 5, 1996. 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	Name	District
Linda Bebko-Jones	First	Jess Stairs	Fifty-ninth
Italo S. Cappabianca	Second	Timothy L. Pesci	Sixtieth
Karl Boyes	Third	Joseph M. Gladeck, Jr.	Sixty-first
Tom Scrimenti	Fourth	Sara G. Steelman	Sixty-second
Tracy Seyfert	Fifth	Fred McIlhattan	Sixty-third
Teresa E. Brown	Sixth	Scott E. Hutchinson	Sixty-fourth
Michael Gruitza	Seventh	Jim Lynch	Sixty-fifth
Howard L. Fargo	Eighth	Sam Smith	Sixty-sixth
Chris Sainato	Ninth	Kenneth M. Jadlowiec	Sixty-seventh
Frank LaGrotta	Tenth	Matthew E. Baker	Sixty-eighth
Guy A. Travaglio	Eleventh	William R. Lloyd, Jr.	Sixty-ninth
Pat Carone	Twelfth	John W. Fichter	Seventieth
Art Hershey	Thirteenth	Edward P. Wojnarowski, Sr.	Seventy-first
Mike Veon	Fourteenth	Tom Yewcic	Seventy-second
Nick Colafella	Fifteenth	Gary Haluska	Seventy-third
Susan Laughlin	Sixteenth	Camille George	Seventy-fourth
Rod E. Wilt	Seventeenth	Dan A. Surra	Seventy-fifth
Gene DiGirolamo	Eighteenth	Mike Hanna	Seventy-sixth
Bill Robinson	Nineteenth	Lynn Herman	Seventy-seventh
Don Walko	Twentieth	Dick L. Hess	Seventy-eighth
Frank J. Pistella	Twenty-first	Richard A. Geist	Seventy-ninth
Frank J. Gigliotti	Twenty-second	Jerry A. Stern	Eightieth
Ivan Itkin	Twenty-third	Larry O. Sather	Eighty-first
Joseph Preston, Jr.	Twenty-fourth	Daniel F. Clark	Eighty-second
Joseph F. Markosek	Twenty-fifth	Thomas W. Dempsey	Eighty-third
Tim Hennessey	Twenty-sixth	Brett Feese	Eighty-fourth
Thomas C. Petrone	Twenty-seventh	Russ Fairchild	Eighty-fifth
Jane C. Orié	Twenty-eighth	Allan Egolf	Eighty-sixth
David J. Mayernik	Twenty-ninth	Patricia H. Vance	Eighty-seventh
Jeffrey E. Habay	Thirtieth	Jerry L. Nailor	Eighty-eighth
David J. Steil	Thirty-first	Jeffrey W. Coy	Eighty-ninth
Anthony M. DeLuca	Thirty-second	Patrick E. Fleagle	Ninetieth
Frank Dermody	Thirty-third	Stephen R. Maitland	Ninety-first
Ronald R. Cowell	Thirty-fourth	Bruce Smith	Ninety-second
Tom Michlovic	Thirty-fifth	Mike Waugh	Ninety-third
Harry Readshaw	Thirty-sixth	Stan Saylor	Ninety-fourth
Katie True	Thirty-seventh	Stephen H. Stetler	Ninety-fifth
Richard D. Olasz	Thirty-eighth	Mike Sturla	Ninety-sixth
David Levdansky	Thirty-ninth	Jere L. Strittmatter	Ninety-seventh
Albert W. Pettit	Fortieth	Thomas E. Armstrong	Ninety-eighth
Ralph Kaiser	Forty-first	Leroy M. Zimmerman	Ninety-ninth
Tom Stevenson	Forty-second	John E. Barley	One hundredth
Jere W. Schuler	Forty-third	Edward H. Krebs	One hundred first
John R. Pippy	Forty-fourth	Peter J. Zug	One hundred second
Fred A. Trello	Forty-fifth	Ron Buxton	One hundred third
Victor John Lescovitz	Forty-sixth	Mark S. McNaughton	One hundred fourth
Leo J. Trich, Jr.	Forty-seventh	Ron Marsico	One hundred fifth
Anthony L. Colaizzo	Forty-eighth	Frank Tulli, Jr.	One hundred sixth
Peter J. Daley	Forty-ninth	Robert E. Belfanti, Jr.	One hundred seventh
Bill DeWeese	Fiftieth	Merle H. Phillips	One hundred eighth
Larry Roberts	Fifty-first	John R. Gordner	One hundred ninth
James E. Shaner	Fifty-second	J. Scot Chadwick	One hundred tenth
Robert W. Godshall	Fifty-third	Sandra J. Major	One hundred eleventh
Terry E. Van Horne	Fifty-fourth	Fred Belardi	One hundred twelfth
Joseph A. Petrarca	Fifty-fifth	Gaynor Cawley	One hundred thirteenth
James E. Casorio, Jr.	Fifty-sixth	Frank A. Serafini	One hundred fourteenth
Thomas A. Tangretti	Fifty-seventh	Edward G. Staback	One hundred fifteenth
Herman Mihalich	Fifty-eighth	Todd A. Eachus	One hundred sixteenth
		George C. Hasay	One hundred seventeenth
		Thomas M. Tigie	One hundred eighteenth
		Stanley Jarolin	One hundred nineteenth
		Phyllis Mundy	One hundred twentieth
		Kevin Blaqu	One hundred twenty-first
		Keith R. McCall	One hundred twenty-second
		Edward J. Luecy	One hundred twenty-third

David G. Argall	One hundred twenty-fourth
Bob Allen	One hundred twenty-fifth
Dante Santoni, Jr.	One hundred twenty-sixth
Thomas R. Caltagirone	One hundred twenty-seventh
Sam Rohrer	One hundred twenty-eighth
Sheila Miller	One hundred twenty-ninth
Dennis E. Leh	One hundred thirtieth
Pat Browne	One hundred thirty-first
Charles W. Dent	One hundred thirty-second
T. J. Rooney	One hundred thirty-third
Don Snyder	One hundred thirty-fourth
Lisa Boscola	One hundred thirty-fifth
Joseph A. Corpora III	One hundred thirty-sixth
Leonard Q. Gruppo	One hundred thirty-seventh
Craig A. Dally	One hundred thirty-eighth
Jerry Birmelin	One hundred thirty-ninth
Thomas C. Corrigan, Sr.	One hundred fortieth
Anthony J. Melio	One hundred forty-first
Matthew N. Wright	One hundred forty-second
Joe Conti	One hundred forty-third
Thomas W. Druce	One hundred forty-fourth
Paul Irvin Clymer	One hundred forty-fifth
Robert D. Reber, Jr.	One hundred forty-sixth
Raymond Bunt, Jr.	One hundred forty-seventh
Lita Indzel Cohen	One hundred forty-eighth
Connie Williams	One hundred forty-ninth
John A. Lawless	One hundred fiftieth
Eugene F. McGill	One hundred fifty-first
Roy W. Cornell	One hundred fifty-second
Ellen M. Bard	One hundred fifty-third
Lawrence Curry	One hundred fifty-fourth
Curt Schroder	One hundred fifty-fifth
Elinor Z. Taylor	One hundred fifty-sixth
Carole A. Rubley	One hundred fifty-seventh
Chris Ross	One hundred fifty-eighth
Thaddeus Kirkland	One hundred fifty-ninth
Stephen Barrar	One hundred sixtieth
Tom Gannon	One hundred sixty-first
Ron Raymond	One hundred sixty-second
Nicholas A. Micozzie	One hundred sixty-third
Mario J. Civera, Jr.	One hundred sixty-fourth
William F. Adolph, Jr.	One hundred sixty-fifth
Greg Vitali	One hundred sixty-sixth
Bob Flick	One hundred sixty-seventh
Matthew J. Ryan	One hundred sixty-eighth
Dennis M. O'Brien	One hundred sixty-ninth
George T. Kenney, Jr.	One hundred seventieth
Kerry A. Benninghoff	One hundred seventy-first
John M. Perzel	One hundred seventy-second
Michael P. McGeehan	One hundred seventy-third
Alan Butkovitz	One hundred seventy-fourth
Marie Lederer	One hundred seventy-fifth
Chris Wogan	One hundred seventy-sixth
John J. Taylor	One hundred seventy-seventh
Roy Reinard	One hundred seventy-eighth
William W. Rieger	One hundred seventy-ninth
Benjamin Ramos	One hundred eightieth
W. Curtis Thomas	One hundred eighty-first
Babette Josephs	One hundred eighty-second
Julie Harhart	One hundred eighty-third
William Keller	One hundred eighty-fourth
Robert C. Donatucci	One hundred eighty-fifth
Harold James	One hundred eighty-sixth
Paul W. Semmel	One hundred eighty-seventh
James R. Roebuck	One hundred eighty-eighth

Joe Battisto	One hundred eighty-ninth
Michael Horsey	One hundred ninetieth
Anthony H. Williams	One hundred ninety-first
Louise Williams Bishop	One hundred ninety-second
Steven R. Nickol	One hundred ninety-third
Kathy Manderino	One hundred ninety-fourth
Frank L. Oliver	One hundred ninety-fifth
Todd Platts	One hundred ninety-sixth
Andrew J. Carn	One hundred ninety-seventh
Rosita C. Youngblood	One hundred ninety-eighth
Albert H. Masland	One hundred ninety-ninth
LeAnna M. Washington	Two hundredth
John Myers	Two hundred first
Mark B. Cohen	Two hundred second
Dwight Evans	Two hundred third

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

(Seal) Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this twentieth day of December, 1996.

Yvette Kane
Secretary of the Commonwealth

CERTIFICATE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

(Seal) Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this sixth day of January, 1997.

Yvette Kane
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The CHIEF CLERK. Are there requests for leaves of absence? The Chair recognizes the majority whip, Mr. Snyder. Mr. SNYDER. There are no requests for leaves of absence on this day, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman. The Chair recognizes the Democratic whip, Mr. Itkin. Mr. ITKIN. Mr. Chief Clerk, there are no requests for leaves. The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

ROLL CALL

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

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

PRESENT—203

Adolph	Donatucci	Maitland	Saylor
Allen	Druce	Major	Schroder
Argall	Eachus	Manderino	Schuler
Armstrong	Egolf	Markosek	Scrimenti
Baker	Evans	Marsico	Semmel
Bard	Fairchild	Masland	Serafini
Barley	Fargo	Mayermik	Seyfert
Barrar	Feese	McCall	Shaner
Battisto	Fichter	McGeehan	Smith, B.
Bebko-Jones	Fleagle	McGill	Smith, S. H.
Belardi	Flick	McIlhattan	Snyder, D. W.
Belfanti	Gannon	McNaughton	Staback
Benninghoff	Geist	Melio	Stairs
Birmelin	George	Michlovic	Steelman
Bishop	Gigliotti	Micozzie	Steil
Blaum	Gladeck	Mihalich	Stern
Boscola	Godshall	Miller	Stetler
Boyes	Gordner	Mundy	Stevenson
Brown	Gruitza	Myers	Strittmatter
Browne	Gruppo	Nailor	Sturla
Bunt	Habay	Nickol	Surra
Butkovitz	Haluska	O'Brien	Tangretti
Buxton	Hanna	Olasz	Taylor, E. Z.
Caltagirone	Harhart	Oliver	Taylor, J.
Cappabianca	Hasay	Orie	Thomas
Carn	Hennessey	Perzel	Tigue
Carone	Herman	Pesci	Travaglio
Casorio	Hershey	Petrarca	Treffo
Cawley	Hess	Petrone	Trich
Chadwick	Horsey	Pettit	True
Civera	Hutchinson	Phillips	Tulli
Clark	Itkin	Pippy	Vance
Clymer	Jadlowiec	Pistella	Van Home
Cohen, L. I.	James	Platts	Veon
Cohen, M.	Jarolin	Preston	Vitali
Colafrilla	Josephs	Ramos	Walko
Colaizzo	Kaiser	Raymond	Washington
Conti	Keller	Readshaw	Waugh
Cornell	Kenney	Reber	Williams, A. H.
Corpora	Kirkland	Reinard	Williams, C.
Corrigan	Krebs	Rieger	Wilt
Cowell	LaGrotta	Roberts	Wogan
Coy	Laughlin	Robinson	Wojnaroski
Curry	Lawless	Roebuck	Wright, M. N.
Daley	Lederer	Rohrer	Yewcic
Dally	Leh	Rooney	Youngblood
DeLuca	Lescovitz	Ross	Zimmerman
Dempsey	Levdansky	Rublely	Zug
Dent	Lloyd	Sainato	
Dermody	Lucyk	Santoni	
DeWeese	Lynch	Sather	Ryan, Speaker
DiGirolamo			

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

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

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MEMBERS-ELECT

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

Members-elect 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 Stephen J. McEwen, Jr., President Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

(Members-elect stood.)

JUDGE McEWEN. I cannot tell you how pleased and honored I am that your Speaker and my friend for 51 years has selected me to participate in this assembly this morning, an assembly not simply to take the oath of office but to affirm a faith, a faith in the spirit of liberty — a spirit which is not always certain that it is right; a spirit which requires us to seek the views of others so as to achieve balance without bias; a spirit which requires the weak to be seated next to the strong and from there to be heard.

And so it is, members of the House, with a salute to the veteran members for their many years of dedicated service and with a warm greeting to the new members and with a special wink to the Delaware County delegation, may I ask you to raise your hands and repeat after me:

I solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

(Members asserted oaths.)

JUDGE McEWEN. Thank you, and congratulations.
The CHIEF CLERK. The members may be seated.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED**ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

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

In the House of Representatives
January 7, 1997

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

NOMINATIONS FOR SPEAKER

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

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

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

Mr. Chief Clerk, honored guests, family members, and my colleagues in this great chamber: I welcome you to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Before I begin, though, I would like to welcome to this House the wife of our next Speaker. She will play a dual role here today. She will play spouse and judge — administering the oath of office to her husband.

I would like to introduce the Honorable Patricia H. Jenkins, judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Delaware County, to the members and guests. Judge Jenkins? Your Honor, we welcome you here today, and it is an honor to have you here with us.

Greatness is not something you aspire to. Those who do usually fail. Greatness is something you grow into by accident or by experience over a period of time. Historians confer greatness only after many years of measurement, analysis, and comparisons with one's peers.

We do not today need to wait for historians to judge Matt Ryan's career in public service, his many achievements as a member of this General Assembly, and his contributions to the quality of life in Pennsylvania. Speaker Ryan has already carved out a place for himself among the best and the greatest of Pennsylvania's sons and daughters.

Matt Ryan is a man without peer in this House of Representatives, in this General Assembly. Among legislators and legislative leaders from throughout this great Nation, Speaker Ryan is viewed with a respect that borders on awe, for he is a man of substance, a man of keen intellect, a man of sharply honed legislative skills.

Matt Ryan embodies what we want in our leader — vision, fairness, dignity — a strong, steady hand when we need to be brought back to the center. He knows when to fight the fight, and he knows when it is time to compromise. He knows when to shake his finger or give us that long stare or, from time to time, bang that big gavel he has got up there.

I am proud to know him as a colleague. I am proud to have him as a mentor. I am proud to have him as my leader. I am proud to have him as our Speaker. And I am proud to look at you, Speaker Ryan, a person I respect, and call you my friend.

In a few moments we are going to elect Matthew J. Ryan as our Speaker for this session of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. When that moment comes, Speaker Ryan will join a very elite, rare group of Pennsylvanians. He will carve out a special place in history as the first Republican in nearly a century, since Henry F. Walton in 1905 — Matt was just a freshman back then — to serve three terms as Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Matt will be the only other Republican in the history of the Republican Party to do so.

When that moment comes, Speaker Ryan will be one of the few persons — records show less than 10 — in the 315-year history of our great House of Representatives to serve three terms as Speaker. He is the only person to serve as Speaker, majority leader,

majority whip, minority leader, and minority whip. For 27 years — the longest tenure in history in either party — he has been a member of the Republican Caucus's leadership.

But you do not become Speaker of the House because you were here the longest; you become Speaker because you have a special God-given gift of leadership. Your colleagues recognize this is needed to keep this House and our Commonwealth on course.

By anyone's measurement, Matthew J. Ryan is a great man. We know he is one of the greatest leaders that this House — and that this Commonwealth — has ever known.

Matthew J. Ryan, son of Thomas and Kathleen Ryan, son of Pennsylvania, son of Irish ancestors, is a great man, a great leader, and a great Pennsylvanian.

Matthew J. Ryan, a former marine, a well-respected attorney, father of five, grandfather of eight, and as I mentioned earlier, husband of Delaware County Judge Patricia Jenkins, has spent half his life leading this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Ladies and gentlemen, I take particular privilege and great personal pride in placing in nomination for the Speaker of the House of Representatives the name of the Honorable Matthew J. Ryan.

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

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

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

It is really a pleasure for me to rise and second the nomination of Matt Ryan for Speaker of the House.

Every ship needs a rudder, and at times this place has been rudderless, as we all know, and Matt Ryan presents the man who is the rudder of the House of Representatives. He is a man who knows boats inside and out. Once in a while he may fall off the dock, but one thing is for sure, that when he is driving that boat, it always goes in the right place.

I think it is a pleasure for all of us who have spent as much time as I have here to have been able to work side by side with Matt Ryan. He is an absolutely marvelous politician with one of the best and sharpest wits of anybody who has ever served anywhere in the world of politics, and it pleases me to be able to put his name into play and second his nomination.

Thank you.

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

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

Mr. GANNON. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

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

Matt Ryan possesses all of the talents, dedication, skills, and principles that are needed for an energetic, capable, and effective leader of this chamber. His years of experience as a member of the House and as leader of this Assembly have molded his character and firmed his qualifications.

In 1981 Representative Warren Spencer described Matt Ryan in the following way: "As a leader, when there were cries for retribution, he urged forbearance. When bigotry surfaced, he counseled tolerance. When impetuosity gained momentum, he stalled it with reason and patience. Yet he was tenacious, determined, and very Irish when the occasion demanded."

I do not believe I could say anything that better defines the character and qualifications of Matt Ryan. At just the right circumstance in time, Matt will mix delicate diplomacy and his natural Irish wit. For example, a while back, one of our junior House members went to see Matt for counsel and advice after a public-relations disaster. He said to Matt, "I suppose you think I'm a perfect idiot," and Matt responded, "Not at all. Nobody's perfect."

Again, a few years back, a former member from Westmoreland, now in the Senate, admonished Matt for identifying him as the gentleman from Allegheny County. Quickly, Matt offered two apologies: one to the member from Westmoreland, and the other to the people of Allegheny.

The chances of getting struck by lightning are 1 million to 1. The odds of winning the Pennsylvania Lottery are 6.1 million to 1. The chances of becoming Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives are not 12 million to 1. You do not become Speaker by chance; you have to earn it, and during his 33 years of service to the people of Pennsylvania and to the House of Representatives, Matt Ryan has earned the position of Speaker of the House.

Matt Ryan has our shared goal of making Pennsylvania the best place in the world to live, work, and raise our families. It is with great pride that I ask all of my fellow members of this House to elect Matthew Ryan Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

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

The Chair recognizes the lady from Chester County, Mrs. Rubley.

Mrs. RUBLEY. Mr. Chief Clerk, I move that the nominations now be closed.

The CHIEF CLERK. The lady from Chester County, Mrs. Rubley, moves that the nominations now be closed.

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

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

Congratulations, Mr. Ryan.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT SPEAKER-ELECT TO ROSTRUM

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

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

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

Mr. PERZEL. Ladies and gentlemen, on the way up in the elevator I had spoken to Matt Ryan and he had told me that we had asked about the fact that Ben Franklin was the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and he said he was really here a term after Ben Franklin was the Speaker of the House of Representatives. So it is with great pleasure that I introduce the Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, Matthew J. Ryan.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO SPEAKER-ELECT RYAN

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

SPEAKER-ELECT RYAN. I usually do not allow anyone on the rostrum with me, Pat — Your Honor.

JUDGE JENKINS. Yes; that is better.

Place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand: I, Matthew J. Ryan, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Constitution of the United States of America, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

(Speaker-elect Ryan asserted oath.)

JUDGE JENKINS. Congratulations.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL

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

Mr. IRVIS. (Mr. Irvis rapped the gavel.) That is familiar.

First of all, I want to thank the Speaker for giving me the very high honor of presenting the gavel to him, and secondly, I want to congratulate the House of Representatives having elected him.

I remember a few years back — 1959, to be exact — when I first walked in through those rear doors and looked on the empty hall of the House and said, "My God, what am I doing here? Will I ever learn anything about it?" I learned a lot about it, but not everything.

We have had in the history of our government — and I am thankful to the Reverend for reminding us about Abraham Lincoln — a number of gifted men and women to lead this nation, but none so gifted as Abraham Lincoln, who spoke only a few miles away from here in Gettysburg, and among the things he said in that brief discourse were these. He said, we are a nation testing whether such a nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. I would say to you, having lived now 77 years in this nation and in this great Commonwealth, we are still a nation testing as to whether or not we can long endure. There is no God-given or man-made edict which guarantees that for our people, but you, ladies and gentlemen of this House of Representatives, elected by the people

of this Commonwealth to do those things for them that they cannot do for themselves — which, again, were the words of Abraham Lincoln — you are the chief guarantors that this nation shall long endure, and I congratulate you on your election.

I must say that I missed being up here with you. I do miss it very much, but to show you how long it takes to get used to being out of office, when Ted called for the roll, and I noticed one member was not voted, without thinking about it I called down to Steve, “make sure that member is voted,” and he was.

I enjoyed the years I was here with you. Some of them were productive; all of them were rewarding. I did not retire because of age or ill health. I retired because I thought it was time for the older men to clear the way for the younger men and women to move forward. If I could have stayed for another 30 years without blocking other people, I would have stayed.

But I congratulate you on your selection of Matthew Ryan as your next Speaker. He is an excellent man, an honest man, an intelligent man, and he is the only Speaker I know who kissed the judge as a thank-you after he was sworn in. I can tell you one thing, Matt: I did not kiss mine.

Matthew, with those few words and my congratulations — and I thank you again for having me here; I feel quite at home — I am glad to pass the gavel of power to Matthew Ryan, the next Speaker. Thank you, Matthew.

THE SPEAKER (MATTHEW J. RYAN) PRESIDING

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. I would like to begin by thanking Speaker Irvis for his kind words; my wife for her good job; my good friends, Father Riley and Judge McEwen, for the fine services they performed.

There is another former Speaker of the House here in the hall — Bob O’Donnell. Speaker O’Donnell? And, of course, it is too easy for us to forget that there is another Speaker on the floor, and that is Bill DeWeese, because Bill is still active— Because Bill is so active politically as the Democratic leader, we sometimes forget to recognize the fact that he was Speaker just a few years ago, and that should not be but it happens, and I apologize for that. I am glad that he is a former Speaker and not a present Speaker. I know he understands that.

And as I make these various remarks of thanks, more than anyone else I want to thank all of you for once again electing me Speaker. The honor that it brings being reelected, if you will, does not dim. The thrill of being reelected to this leadership position does not diminish. It is still a moment to cherish.

Allow me to begin my remarks, if you will, this morning with a story taken from the time of President Eisenhower’s years in the White House.

It seems a man was waiting in the Oval Office to meet with the President, and while there, he noted a rather peculiar painting in the office entitled “Signing of the Declaration.” The picture was an odd picture, because it was only a third finished, and there was a mass of gray, raw canvas left really undone. And when questioned by the guest, the guard who was stationed in the Oval Office said that President Eisenhower rescued this particular painting from the

catacombs of the White House because he thought it reflected the hand of divine providence. The artist commissioned by the Congress had died before he could complete the painting.

To Eisenhower, to President Eisenhower, the message was that it is not just the signers who had the task of preserving these ideals, but all of us. In other words, there is room for all of us in that picture of the declaration of signers, and it is up to all of us as Americans, as citizens of Pennsylvania — the birthplace of liberty — to affirm that declaration by our lives.

As members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, that is precisely what we are called upon to do. As public servants, we are charged with preserving the precious essence of the past. Reference was made to that by not only Speaker Irvis but by Father Riley. By that I mean we all have a responsibility to keep alive the dream of our founder, William Penn — a dream where each citizen could choose his own work or calling, where each could worship in his own way, where each could be free to choose his own representative to make the laws in a self-government under which no one would be above the law or outside its jurisdiction. He called this dream a Commonwealth. And as the makers of laws in this great Commonwealth, we are the legal successors as well as the preservers of the government Penn put in place over 300 years ago.

On this happy yet somber occasion, we are reminded that the representative government we still practice was not won without great cost. Allow me to share with you those words from another President, these words. John Quincy Adams said, “Posterity — you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it.” The question then for us must be, have we, are we, making good use of it? The answer to that must be a loud “yes.”

The outstanding accomplishments of the Pennsylvania General Assembly through the years and in the recent past leave no room for doubt. We are carrying out the form of government set forth so long ago as the very heart of Penn’s Holy Experiment.

Now today, in 1997, 3 years before the turn of the century, it is our time, it is our turn, and we are here to celebrate. However, amid the pageantry of this day, as I look out over this body comprised of 202 other members of the House, I see more than faces and flowers. I see a community of men and women, unique, because as members of the Pennsylvania House, we are living a dream — the dream of William Penn — and there is no greater proof of that than the oath you have taken today to protect and support the Commonwealth he created.

On this first Tuesday of January, as we open the 181st session of the House, we once again begin another part of our journey together. To the newly elected members starting your service, I hope you find, as I continue to find, it is a journey worth taking. Without question, you will find it to be a journey of change, of challenge, of commitment, and of discovery. Accept the challenge. Aim high. Make your work here notable enough to earn a place in history.

Also, may each of you, along with those of us returned to serve again, never lose sight of the dream of Penn, as together we spend ourselves in this worthy cause. And even though our philosophies will not always mesh, may we all be blessed with a singleness of purpose as we engage in the same sort of unselfish devotion to public service as did our founder and our Founding Fathers, as we are reminded once again that together with generations past and

generations to come, we are all part of the partially finished picture rescued by President Eisenhower many years ago — each committed to saving the dream.

I look forward to having a good 2 years, I look forward to getting to know the new members well, and I think it will be a productive session. Good luck and Godspeed. Thank you.

FAMILY INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. At this time I would like to take the opportunity of introducing members of my family: my son — according to age — my son, Matt; his wife, Ann Marie; and his three children. Stand up, Matt and Ann Marie. My son is the one without the coat on. He was bundling everyone up outside of Baltimore where they live and they got everything in the car for the kids, and as he was getting ready to come in, he realized that he forgot his coat; it is in Maryland, so— And nobody has a coat big enough to fit him. And next in the pecking order is Jayne and Bill Kramer — my daughter, Jayne, and her husband, Bill. Stand up. Then Katie and Cyler Walker; Terri and Bill McTear. And you have met my wife. She is dressed in black. I hope that does not mean anything.

PRESENTATION OF COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. Today it is my duty and privilege, as Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, to present to Speaker Matthew J. Ryan a commemorative gavel to open the historical 181st session of the House of Representatives.

Speaker Ryan has come to symbolize all that is right and proper about service in the House of Representatives. He has set a tone of behavior and become a beacon of light for both members and staff. Not only is he dedicated to his responsibilities, but he also embodies honor, truth, fierce loyalty, determination, and uncanny ability to listen and to reason.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for maintaining the spirit and the decorum of the House and for your leadership, service, and most of all, your friendship.

The SPEAKER. It is a ceremonial gavel. That will not do the job when the House is unruly. Thank you, Ted.

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 Clancy Myer as Parliamentarian of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJORITY FLOOR LEADERS

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

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

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADERS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as the reelected chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, I have been asked to announce for the information of all in attendance today and for the record that the entire Democratic leadership team of the previous session has been reelected by the 99 members of the House Democratic Caucus. H. William DeWeese of Greene County is Democratic leader; Ivan Itkin of Allegheny County is Democratic whip; Jeffrey Coy of Franklin County is Democratic caucus secretary; Michael Veon of Beaver County is Democratic policy committee chairman; Fred Belardi of Lackawanna County is Democratic caucus administrator; and Dwight Evans of Philadelphia is Democratic Appropriations Committee chairman.

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the lady from Chester, Mrs. Taylor, for the purpose of introducing the freshman members of the Republican Caucus.

Mrs. TAYLOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations to you and the members of the House.

I want to welcome the new members on both sides of the aisle. You have a privilege, an opportunity, and a responsibility to serve not only your constituents but the citizens of the Commonwealth.

I am reminded of St. Benedict's Rule, which simply states, "Ask the youngest" — maybe not the youngest in age but the youngest in membership in this body — "Ask the youngest, the boldest, who are not yet laden with history." We will look to you on the issues to see freshness and vigor.

Mr. Speaker, I now want to call the names of the members of the Republican Caucus and ask them to stand. I will ask that you hold your applause until I have completed the introduction of all members.

Stephen Barrar; Kerry Benninghoff; Craig Dally; Fred McIlhattan; Mark McNaughton; Jane Clare Orie; John Pippy; Chris Ross; Tracy Seyfert; Thomas Stevenson; Rod Wilt.

And on behalf of the members, we welcome you. Congratulations to you.

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

Mr. COY. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and my congratulations on your reelection as well.

It gives me also great pleasure to introduce and welcome new members of the House of Representatives on both sides of the aisle, and on behalf of the Democratic Caucus, to especially welcome all members and look forward to a spirit of cooperation during this session, and in particular, to introduce four new members of the Democratic Caucus, and if they would stand, and if you could hold your applause until they have all been recognized.

First, the gentleman from Westmoreland County, James E. Casorio, Jr.; the gentleman from Luzerne County, Todd A. Eachus; the gentelady from Montgomery County, Connie Williams; and the gentleman from Cambria County, Ed Wojnaroski, Sr.

Will you please welcome these new members.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader, Mr. Perzel, for the purpose of giving remarks.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, the Attorney General-elect of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is here — Michael Fisher. Welcome to the chamber.

And, Mr. Speaker, whenever you do something like this, you miss somebody, so I apologize. But knowing in advance I do that, that is why I am apologizing.

We have former majority leader Sam Hayes — the last majority leader before I was elected majority leader of the Republican Caucus. Representative Hayes.

And the Auditor General-elect, Robert Casey, Jr., is also here.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal word of welcome to every member, family member, and guest in this chamber here today as we open this session of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

I would like to take a moment to introduce the most important woman in my life. My wife, Sheryl, is here with me today, and she

asked not to be stood up because she is embarrassed, so I will not ask her to stand. Sheryl.

Our four sons are downstairs. David, Andrew, John Jr., and Sam are also here with us today, watching on TV, as many of your family members are also watching on TV.

This has been a wonderful day — a historic day — one of the best days in my life as a member of this General Assembly.

In just a few weeks, we will be busy with the nuts and bolts of legislating — writing bills, going to committee meetings, coming to the floor of the House of Representatives to cast our votes.

By nature, I am not a philosopher. I get my joy from getting the job done — finding a way to solve a constituent problem with the bureaucracy, helping a member pass a bill, or getting the Governor's budget approved. I get my joy from making sure the taxpayers receive the value for the hard-earned tax dollars they send here to Harrisburg, year in and year out.

Two years ago, when the Republican Caucus went into the majority, we told Pennsylvania we were taking charge for change. Looking back upon those 2 years, you now see that we meant what we said. We did what we said we would do.

As the 21st century approaches, Pennsylvania has begun to change. Pennsylvania is changing because of the hard work and cooperation of the vast majority of the men and women in this chamber here today.

We worked together, not always as Republicans or Democrats, but as Pennsylvanians who want our children and our grandchildren to have a bright future right here in Pennsylvania.

I learned the last session the importance of working together, not necessarily as a partisan, to find solutions to the problems we face — to change Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania is changing because of the efforts of Representative Flick from Chester County, who knew our welfare system was broken and needed to be transformed. Most of you — Republicans and Democrats alike — joined with Mr. Flick.

Pennsylvania is changing because of the efforts of Mrs. Taylor from Chester County and Mrs. Vance from Cumberland County, who know our senior citizens need to be protected from abuse.

Pennsylvania is changing because of the efforts of members like Representative Boscola from Northampton County, who wants young people to understand that there are consequences when you violate the law.

Pennsylvania is changing because of the efforts of members like Mr. Thomas from Philadelphia, who wants to stop the ripoff of his constituents by some check-cashing companies within his legislative district.

Pennsylvania is changing because of the efforts of members like Mrs. True from Lancaster County, who has dedicated her career to confronting drug and alcohol abuse.

And Pennsylvania is changing because of efforts of members like Mr. Boyes from Erie County and Mr. Trello from Allegheny County, who are tackling the toughest of all issues in this General Assembly — local tax reform.

I could list the name of every member of this chamber to show how they have been contributing to changing, preparing Pennsylvania for the 21st century.

Every member of this House, including our 15 freshman members, is a leader, elected to represent the 60,000 constituents from his or her district. Historians will judge us on how we are able to lead our great State through this period of change. We are

expected to make decisions here, to lead, and to put Pennsylvania in the forefront again.

I do not believe that Representative Orié's constituents in Allegheny County sent her here so that Pennsylvania could move backwards. Nor do I believe the voters of Westmoreland County sent Mr. Casorio here to watch Pennsylvania slide into oblivion.

We are helping Pennsylvania change — to compete — to make sure our children and grandchildren have an opportunity to succeed right here in Pennsylvania. That is my children, Ms. Youngblood's son and her grandchildren in Philadelphia, Mr. Ryan's grandchildren in Delaware County, Mr. Benninghoff's children in Centre County, Mrs. Laughlin's grandchildren in Beaver County, and Mr. McNaughton's children right here in Dauphin County.

If our children and grandchildren are going to have a bright future in the 21st century, right here in Pennsylvania, then we must work together. That is our challenge, Mr. Speaker.

I look forward to working with each of you during the coming session.

May God bless you all.

And thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REMARKS BY DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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

Mr. DeWEESE. Speaker Irvis, Speaker O'Donnell, Speaker Ryan — congratulations — my wife, Holly, Katie Stoy from Greene County, all of the people from Arnold and Lower Burrell and Conshohocken and Bristol and Pittsburgh and Erie and everywhere else:

My 4 or 5 minutes will be primarily focused on the people who have not been here before, that cascade of Republican freshmen and Wojnaroski and Williams and Casorio and Eachus, and their families — primarily people who have not been here to hear our elegant phrases, highly embroidered; people who work hard for a living, spend one day at a time in a pretty happy Western civilization.

I could not help but notice the paper this morning, Mr. Ryan, the world affairs section: 200,000 people gathered last night — Christmas Eve in the Orthodox faith — on the streets of Belgrade because their elections had been annulled. Township supervisors, county commissioners, borough council people in Serbia had been effaced from their electoral victories.

Here we are.

Several thousand miles south of Belgrade, in an unhappy area between Rwanda and Burundi and eastern Zaire, hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people still mourn the fact that 600,000 Africans were slaughtered within the last 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, we are a lucky bunch, and the families of Wojnaroski and Williams and Eachus and Casorio and, as I said, that happy group of Republican warriors who come to us for the first time — that big happy group of Republican warriors who come to us for the first time — are so lucky; we are so profoundly fortunate.

As we gather here, IRA (Irish Republican Army) commandos are hurling grenades in Belfast. We have very little in common

with south-central Asia, except these garlands of flowers which surround us this morning.

Mr. Speaker, Teddy Roosevelt once observed that "The noblest of all forms of government is self-government; but it is also the most difficult."

Father Riley, in his remarks today, said that we were as a collective society pursuing a manifest destiny but our destiny was not manifest. Nothing is manifest except for the fact that we all have been granted certificates of election.

And we are here, we are here to move aggressively, as my worthy colleague, John Perzel, said, with Mr. Boyes and Mr. Trello, toward a seemingly insoluble problem: local property tax reform — a debate that often blossoms forth into a marathon dialogue and nothing gets accomplished. It was a very important issue, I remember, 21 years ago when I came to this floor for the first time, but nevertheless, I think we still have hope and we still have optimism, and with new members, new blood, high anticipations, hopefully we will solve our local property tax reform proposal. Representative Trich from Washington County advocates a special session like we had for crime last time, and so do I.

I also want to be substantive momentarily and talk about college tuition creeping up and up and up and up in the last several years, not to make a partisan issue of it but to make certain that all of us today remember that we have to do something about our rising college tuition, and we have to remember that the rural Republicans are just like Bill DeWeese and Dwight Evans in our districts back home. We have to do something about the fact that kids in rural Pennsylvania are being educated at \$6,000 a year and wealthy suburbanites are being educated at \$11,000 a year. We have to do something about that, or we will not have a common wealth; we will not have a common wealth.

Campaign finance reform. Where is young Conti? He is somewhere behind the flowers. Representative Steil; Representative Michlovic; Representative Levdansky; Representative Mundy; Representative Steelman. Campaign finance reform is a worthy goal, and it has been a pernicious plague in the American body politic, and we are going to have to do something about it.

And after that, we are going to have to do something about our local cops on the street. We have loans for volunteer firemen. We are going to have to listen to Tom Tangretti and try to figure out how to get loans for small police forces. We have an exciting agenda; we have an exciting agenda. And to paraphrase the worthy judge from the Superior Court, Judge McEwen, we need to seek the views of others; we need to seek the views of others.

The great abolitionist Maria W. Stewart once said that "Talk without effort is nothing." And I am here to advocate, Mr. Speaker, that we get more effort out of our committees. Our committee system is sacrosanct, and yet, in my opinion, we need to do more with our committee chairmen and more with our committee memberships and more with our committee meetings. We should not so cavalierly have meetings off the hall, a 2-minute meeting. We should debate and we should have dialogue within our committees.

In summation, Mr. Speaker, as Benjamin Disraeli once observed, no country can be secure without a strong, loyal opposition. He also said that in politics, it is hard to get to the top of a greasy flagpole. Well, somehow, someday, unlike Serbia,

unlike Mogadishu, unlike Tiananmen Square – metaphorically, of course – we have gotten to the top of that flagpole. We have got to build bridges across the aisle like Sam Hayes used to build. We have to be, we have to be— I know this echoes Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gingrich, despite some of their peripheral travails. They are accurate when they say we need more bipartisanship. Unless we work together, we are going to have a 2-year shouting match, and nobody is going to stay till the end and nobody is going to want to send us home.

As Cardinal Bernadine said, Mr. Speaker, “Life is too short for us to be dragged down by division and acrimony.”

Here in this secular yet sacred tabernacle of democracy – the hall of the House – I congratulate you again, Mr. Speaker, marine to marine, man to man, politician to politician, and I will accede to the admonition of young Jimmy Roosevelt, after a speech in the late 1940’s, when he said, essentially, to be favorably received, one must be sincere, be brief, and be seated. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. Well, you were two for three.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY WHIP

The SPEAKER. The Chair now recognizes the majority whip, Mr. Snyder.

Mr. SNYDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again, congratulations on your election to a third term as Speaker of the House.

I, too, would like to thank the support of my family – my wife, Nancy, and my children, Schelly and Sean – and the committed staff and friends from my district and Harrisburg office for their support throughout my career.

Today, among the decorations of festive foliage and the effervescent enthusiasm of friends and family, I join the previous leaders in congratulating my 202 colleagues as we embark on a new journey into the future of the Commonwealth.

To the new members, welcome to one of the oldest democratic institutions in the world – the Pennsylvania General Assembly. As Speaker Ryan has already reminded us, you have now joined a lineage of men and women who have shared their energy, expertise, and experience in a common interest of good governance that has continued for more than 300 years since the gathering of the first General Assembly in 1682.

To my fellow caucus members, thank you for the honor and opportunity to serve you as the majority whip. During the next 2 years, I will work with you and my fellow leaders to develop our legislative agenda and to successfully achieve our goals.

And to all of the members of the House, I look forward with great anticipation to meaningful and constructive discussions and debate on the issues so that the final outcomes of our actions will be developed and deliberated through a bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, when our founder, William Penn, drafted the Constitution for the new Commonwealth, he recognized that no matter how the structure of government was initially designed, its future would be determined by the quality of men and women who served in it.

In the year 1681, Penn wrote in the preface to the “First Frame of Government” as follows:

“Governments, like clocks, go from the motion men give them, and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them they are ruined too. Wherefore governments rather depend upon men,

than men upon governments. Let men be good, and the government cannot be bad; if it be ill, they will cure it. But if men be bad, let the government be never so good, they will endeavor to warp and spoil it to their turn.”

Thus, Mr. Speaker, it is up to each of us, as the elected representatives of our legislative districts, to continue to carry on the leadership to do good for the people of Pennsylvania as foreseen by William Penn’s vision of a government whose powers are ordained of God. Just as Penn’s prominent image at the front of this chamber is a continual reminder of our heritage, the Bible many of us used today for our oath contains the divine guidance that Penn followed and still offers direction for us during this 181st session of the General Assembly.

Penn’s admonition to lay aside our own self-interests in order to work together for the welfare of the people of Pennsylvania is founded in those scriptures. Verses 3 and 4 from chapter 2 of the Apostle Paul’s Letter to the Philippians in the New Testament advises us to, quote, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others,” unquote.

Selfish ambition can ruin a government, but being humble to serve can strengthen it. Laying aside selfishness allows us to treat others with respect and common courtesy, and humility involves having a true perspective about ourselves. Showing genuine interest in others is a major step toward working together in unity for a common purpose.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I wish to wish congratulations and best wishes to everyone for a very productive term. Working together, we can create many opportunities to improve the lives of our constituents and the future of this Commonwealth. Today we continue the rich heritage of service established by William Penn and maintained by the thousands of legislators who have preceded us in this office. May we look back in November of 1998, upon the completion of our work, with the same sense of pride and enthusiasm that we share on this momentous occasion, knowing that we have done our best to address the needs of the people of Pennsylvania.

Thank you.

REMARKS BY DEMOCRATIC WHIP

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

Mr. ITKIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As we begin a new session, allow me to read part of a letter I received recently.

A constituent of mine – a grandmother and taxpayer – wrote about education funding. She fully accepted what she called her “financial responsibility” to support public schools, but she wondered whether the State had accepted the same responsibility.

And in the course of her letter, she asked a question that had already been on my mind for some time. “Throughout our history,” she wrote, “America has given its youth as good an education as society can provide. Think now if you who are responsible are meeting your responsibility to do just that.”

“You who are responsible” – that would be us. We have been elected to office, and today we raised our hands and swore to uphold the Pennsylvania Constitution.

But remember, this constituent also asked if we are meeting our responsibility. That is the big question today. We know who we are, but do we know why we are here?

Whose responsibility are the children of this State? Whose responsibility are the elderly, the infirm, and struggling families? It is awfully easy to point fingers at anyone but ourselves, but remember this: Those we are pointing at are probably pointing at someone else. So if it is not our responsibility and it is not theirs, then whose is it?

Is it nobody's? Nobody's responsibility — that is a scary thought. Children, old folks, sick people — have they not a friend in Pennsylvania?

Of course they do, but we, their Representatives, have a responsibility to demonstrate that friendship. And before we get our backs up and start choosing sides in the well-worn "personal responsibility" debate, let us look at the middle ground. There is a ground between those who think government should have no role and those who think government has the only role in citizens' lives.

On the one side is benign neglect. On this side, our cities collapse and our children are lost in the rubble. On this side, businesses are leaving town and we say, "Too bad about all those people out of work. Oh, well, those jobs will turn up on the other side of the State somewhere."

And on the other side is nagging interference, where we drive businesses out of the State through excessive regulation or foolish interstate bidding. On this side are the overblown policies that make Peter pay for Paul's misdeeds.

In the middle ground, though, is heartfelt caring and imaginative policymaking. That is where we should be. That is where we find good schools for all children. That is where public-private partnerships are forged, where government learns that less is more and employers learn that good citizenship is good business. In this middle ground are decent jobs, drawn here by communities and States that have banned self-destructive bidding wars and have vowed to work together in regional accord.

As we begin a new session, let us pledge to resolve this Commonwealth's tangled dilemmas with imagination and dogged determination. Let us say out loud what we know in our hearts: that a tax cut here and a liquor store sale there might count as accomplishments, but they do not count as stewardship.

Let us be stewards. Today let us challenge ourselves to be the responsible people that our constituents — the people of Pennsylvania — so richly deserve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

RESOLUTION

ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY RULES

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

The following resolution was read:

House Resolution No. 1

A RESOLUTION

Providing for the adoption of temporary rules of the House of Representatives.

RESOLVED, That the existing rules of the 1995-1996 session be and are hereby adopted for a period not to exceed 45 calendar days as the temporary rules for the 1997-1998 session of the House of Representatives.

On the question,

Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman, Mr. Vitali, seek recognition?

Mr. VITALI. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. For what purpose?

Mr. VITALI. To speak on the resolution.

The SPEAKER. On the resolution, the gentleman is recognized.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have great reservations, as some members do, about the current rules, but I realize that today is not the time to change the status quo. Therefore, what I am going to be discussing is a maintenance of the status quo with regard to, in particular, House rule 73, which is the press gallery.

Now, some members may not be aware that the press gallery, which was formerly in the southeast corner of the House, has been removed. The press are now directed to conduct their business in the galleries.

The free press, historically, has served as a check against the abuse of government. The people in this room and the people throughout the Commonwealth find out what happens here by reading the Inquirer, reading the Post-Gazette, the Harrisburg Patriot. Those reporters were able to get right down into the pit up until now — the most advantageous place.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will yield.

The gentleman is not debating the resolution. That has nothing to do with the resolution that is before the House.

What you are objecting to, apparently, is my having made a decision, after conferring with the majority leader and the minority leader and their offices, as to how the floor would be arranged not only with respect to the press but with respect to other matters. It has nothing to do with the rules or the resolution before the House.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VITALI. With regard to what is subject to discussion, rule 73 is not clear as to the press' right to be in the gallery. Would it be in order for me to speak to the lack of clarity with regard to rule 73?

The SPEAKER. Not unless you are proposing an amendment.

Mr. VITALI. Then, Mr. Speaker, at this time, then I would propose to amend that resolution—

The SPEAKER. Do you have an amendment in writing?

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, as we do not have rules—

The SPEAKER. Well, then it is not in order, Mr. Vitali. Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VITALI. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. VITALI. At this time are we governed by the existing House rules?

The SPEAKER. We are at this time following a long series of precedents with respect to the conduct of an opening day's session.

Mr. VITALI. Further inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. You may state it.

Mr. VITALI. Is it in order to, based on that precedent and prior to the adoption of rules, by verbalization simply propose an amendment?

The SPEAKER. In writing, yes.

Mr. VITALI. Can it be done orally?

The SPEAKER. No.

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to what rule governs your decision on that point?

The SPEAKER. I am sorry. Would you restate that?

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, what you are saying is at variance with my understanding of what should happen now. Could you point to what precedent you are using to exclude verbal amendments?

The SPEAKER. The general parliamentary procedure is that to amend a resolution, it is necessary for the amendment to be in writing. That is based on precedents that go back to time immemorial, and I have been here that long.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VITALI. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

At this point, what would be amended at this point, and how would one amend something one does not have in his possession to amend?

The SPEAKER. Mr. Vitali, what is before the House, which you well know, is simply an extension of the existing rules for a period of up to 45 days, at such time — that is, within the next month and a half — at such time the rules will come before the House for adoption on a permanent basis. Do you agree with that?

Mr. VITALI. I do not know when the rules will come before the House, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Well, that is what is before the House, is the adoption of rules for 45 days.

Now, I am not going to spend a day — this day — debating with you. If you are unhappy with my ruling, you appeal the ruling of the Chair. I have ruled.

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

The SPEAKER. I know of no motion that would be in order at this time. You are out of order. You may appeal the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. VITALI. I will decline to do that, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Thank you.

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

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as a committee to notify the Senate that the House is organized, the lady from Susquehanna County, Miss Major; the gentleman from Lancaster County, Mr. Zimmerman; the lady from Montgomery County, Ms. Williams.

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

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as a committee to wait upon the Governor and notify him that the House is organized, the gentleman from McKean, Mr. Jadowiec; the lady from Berks, Mrs. Miller; the gentleman from Cambria, Mr. Haluska.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The following members have been selected to serve on the Committee on Committees: Mr. Hasay, chairman; Mr. Allen; Mr. Flick; Mr. Habay; Mr. Kenney; Mr. Reber; Mr. Schuler; Mr. Semmel; Mr. Sam Smith; Mr. Tulli; Mr. DeWeese; Mr. DeLuca; Mr. McCall; Mr. Evans; Mr. Itkin; and the Speaker.

STATEMENT BY MR. GRUPPO

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Gruppo. For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. GRUPPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. If I would be able to make very brief remarks.

Is that in order?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman asks for unanimous consent to make a statement.

Mr. GRUPPO. Yes, whatever; whatever it takes.

The SPEAKER. And then I will see what you have to say, and I may withdraw my unanimous consent.

Mr. GRUPPO. May I speak?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just wanted to point out, Mr. Speaker, while we are in this lull, that this past Saturday evening I had the privilege, my wife and I did, of having dinner at the home of Henry F. Walton III, the grandson of the Speaker which was mentioned earlier in this ceremony.

He was eager to show me many of the memorabilia which he had of his grandfather, including the Bible which he took the oath of office on, a lovely cup which was engraved with all the members of the House, et cetera. And I was quite impressed by Mr. Walton's history, and if you recall, I had the gentleman here last year to introduce him to you. And I know that if he were here today, he would join with me in congratulating you in joining his grandfather as being one of the very privileged few who have served in this capacity three times.

But I do want to say, on behalf of Speaker Walton and all those who followed him — including you, Mr. Speaker — of the importance of the leadership of the Speaker in the overall behavior of this House of Representatives, and I want to thank you and Speaker Walton and all those Speakers who have made such a fine contribution to this Pennsylvania House of Representatives, to make it the finest legislative body in the Nation. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

COMMITTEE ON PART OF SENATE RECOGNIZED

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

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

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Senator Helfrick — former distinguished member of this body.

Mr. HELFRICK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I really appreciate those remarks, and I enjoyed myself when I was here.

Mr. Speaker, we are a committee from the Senate to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate is convened and organized in regular session and ready to proceed with business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

SENATE MESSAGE

JOINT SESSION

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

In the Senate
January 7, 1997

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in Joint Session, Tuesday, January 7, 1997, 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 Attorney General, Auditor General and State Treasurer, held on Tuesday, November 5, 1996, in the several counties of the Commonwealth, and to elect a Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

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

On the question,
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?
Resolution was concurred in.
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE TO ESCORT SENATE

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

In the House of Representatives
January 7, 1997

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

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as a committee to wait upon the Senate, the lady from Lancaster, Mrs. True; the gentleman from Montgomery, Mr. Fichter; the lady from Philadelphia, Ms. Bishop.

RESOLUTION

APPOINTMENT OF TELLER

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

In the House of Representatives
January 7, 1997

RESOLVED, That the gentleman from Delaware, Mr. Adolph, be appointed Teller on the part of the House of Representatives to open and compute the vote for Attorney General, Auditor General and Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in a Joint Session of the Senate and House at a time to be fixed by concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER. The Senate of Pennsylvania will shortly be arriving. It will necessitate our use of these seats in this portion of the House, in the little circular amphitheater here. So the folks who are seated there, this is a mixed blessing — you do not have to watch the joint session. You now have an opportunity to leave, if you want, and you could tell people I put you out.

The gentleman, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, during this lull and in this day of historic firsts, our new member, Rod Wilt, is the third generation from his family to serve in the General Assembly.

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman yield.

Save that remark until we are back.

The House will be temporarily at ease awaiting the arrival of the Senate.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ESCORTING SENATE

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

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

The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, the chairwoman of the committee on the part of the House, Representative True.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the chairwoman of the committee escorting the Senate, Mrs. True.

Mrs. TRUE. Mr. Speaker, your committee appointed to wait upon the Senate and escort them to the hall of the House has performed that duty and reports that the Senate is in attendance.

The SPEAKER. The committee is discharged with the thanks of the House.

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

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

The members of the Senate will please be seated.

JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (MARK S. SCHWEIKER) PRESIDING

ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The joint session will come to order.

This joint session of the General Assembly will please come to order, and members of both the House and Senate are encouraged to take their places. Members will take their seats.

This being the day and time agreed upon by a concurrent resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of this Commonwealth for the opening and computing of the official returns of the election of the State Treasurer, Auditor General, and Attorney General held on Tuesday, November 5, 1996, 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 gentleman from Lancaster County, Senator Wenger, and the teller on the part of the House of Representatives is the Representative from Delaware County, Representative William F. Adolph, Jr. 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 prescribed duties.

The following election returns were read:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 5, 1996 for the office of State Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Barbara Hafer, Republican, received 2,041,081 votes
Mina Baker Knoll, Democratic, received 1,952,613 votes
Dean L. Snyder, Constitutional, received 88,452 votes
John D. Famularo, Libertarian, received 56,602 votes
Michael S. Klein, Reform, received 119,158 votes
Scattered Write-In votes - 441

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

(Seal)

Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this second day of January, 1997.

Yvette Kane
Secretary of the Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 5, 1996 for the office of Auditor General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Bob Nyce, Republican, received 1,706,835 votes
Bob Casey, Jr., Democratic, received 2,367,760 votes
Robert P. Lord, Constitutional, received 43,487 votes
Sharon H. Shepps, Libertarian, received 103,234 votes
Scattered Write-In votes - 236

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

(Seal)

Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this second day of January, 1997.

Yvette Kane
Secretary of the Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 5, 1996 for the office of Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Mike Fisher, Republican, received 2,088,163 votes
Joe Kohn, Democratic, received 2,026,161 votes

Timothy William Collins, Libertarian, received 92,961 votes
Scattered Write-In votes - 285

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

(Seal) Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this second day of January, 1997.

Yvette Kane
Secretary of the Commonwealth

CERTIFICATE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1632(b) of the Pennsylvania Election Code [25 P.S. § 3252(b)], I do hereby certify that Mike Fisher, Attorney General, Bob Casey, Jr., Auditor General, and Barbara Hafer, State Treasurer, have filed all of the reports and statements of contributions and expenditures required by the provisions of Article XVI of the Pennsylvania Election Code entitled "Primary and Election Expenses."

(Seal) Witness my hand and the seal of my office
this second day of January, 1997.

Yvette Kane
Secretary of the Commonwealth

TELLERS' REPORT

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair recognizes the teller on the part of the Senate, the gentleman from Lancaster County, Senator Wenger.

Mr. WENGER. Mr. 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 State Treasurer, Auditor General, and Attorney General:

For State Treasurer:

Barbara Hafer, Republican, received 2,041,081 votes;
Mina Baker Knoll, Democratic, received 1,952,613 votes;
Michael S. Klein, Reform, received 119,158 votes;
Dean L. Snyder, Constitutional, received 88,452 votes;
John D. Famularo, Libertarian, received 56,602 votes;
Scattered write-in votes totaled 441.

For Auditor General:

Bob Casey, Jr., Democratic, received 2,367,760 votes;
Bob Nyce, Republican, received 1,706,835 votes;
Sharon H. Shepps, Libertarian, received 103,234 votes;
Robert P. Lord, Constitutional, received 43,487 votes;
Scattered write-in votes totaled 236.

For Attorney General:

Mike Fisher, Republican, received 2,088,163 votes;
Joe Kohn, Democratic, received 2,026,161 votes;
Timothy William Collins, Libertarian, received 92,961 votes;
Scattered write-in votes totaled 285.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair thanks Senator Wenger.

The President would note that Barbara Hafer, having received the highest number of votes, is duly elected Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years from the third Tuesday of January 1997.

Robert P. Casey, Jr. – and the Chair would for a moment ask the gentleman, the Auditor General-elect, to stand for one moment so the joint session may acknowledge your presence. The Chair would point out that Robert P. Casey, Jr., has received the highest number of votes and is duly elected Auditor General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years from the third Tuesday of January 1997.

And finally, the Chair at this time would recognize and ask Senator Fisher and Attorney General-elect Michael Fisher – the Chair would be specific to point out – to please stand. And the record will reflect that D. Michael Fisher has received the highest number of votes and is duly elected Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years from the third Tuesday of January 1997.

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

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION FILED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The certificates of election for State Treasurer, Auditor General, and Attorney General, having been signed by the officers and tellers on the part of the Senate and House of Representatives, will be filed.

The following signed certificates of election were filed:

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 7, 1997

We, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the seventh day of January, A.D., one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for State Treasurer 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 Barbara Hafer had the highest number of votes: whereupon The Honorable Barbara Hafer was declared to have been duly elected State Treasurer of this Commonwealth.

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

(Seal) Mark S. Schweiker
President of the Senate

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

Noah W. Wenger
Teller on the part of the Senate

William F. Adolph, Jr.
Teller on the part of the House of
Representatives

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 7, 1997

We, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the seventh day of January, A.D., one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for Auditor General 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 Robert P. Casey, Jr. had the highest number of votes; whereupon the said Robert P. Casey, Jr. was declared to have been duly elected Auditor General of this Commonwealth.

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

(Seal) Mark S. Schweiker
President of the Senate

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

Noah W. Wenger
Teller on the part of the Senate

William F. Adolph, Jr.
Teller on the part of the House of
Representatives

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 7, 1997

We, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the seventh day of January, A.D., one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for Attorney General 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 D. Michael Fisher had the highest number of votes; whereupon The Honorable D. Michael Fisher was declared to have been duly elected Attorney General of this Commonwealth.

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

(Seal) Mark S. Schweiker
President of the Senate

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

Noah W. Wenger
Teller on the part of the Senate

William F. Adolph, Jr.
Teller on the part of the House of
Representatives

**NOMINATION FOR DIRECTOR OF
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

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

At this time for this purpose, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland County, Senator Mowery.

Mr. MOWERY. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I am pleased to nominate Carl L. Mease of Camp Hill to serve as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. This is one of the key positions that allows the General Assembly to operate efficiently and effectively. In Carl Mease, we have an individual who is well versed in the workings of State law and highly qualified for this responsibility. He has worked for the Reference Bureau for more than 20 years, including serving since 1995 as the Acting Director, a role he also filled capably in the late 1980's.

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

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

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Senator from Cumberland County, Senator Mowery, has now placed in nomination for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau Carl L. Mease.

And also at this time for the same purpose, the Chair recognizes the Representative from Cumberland County, the Honorable Representative Pat Vance.

Mrs. VANCE. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am delighted to second the nomination of Carl Mease as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, for three very specific reasons: for his education; for his real-life experiences as a private attorney and also serving in the United States Air Force; and thirdly and most importantly, for the expertise that he has gained as an attorney in the Legislative Reference Bureau since

1972, as a drafting attorney, as the statutory editor of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, as Acting Director since 1995. He certainly has gained the expertise in a highly technical area.

I am delighted to second his nomination.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair thanks the gentlelady and asks, are there any additional nominations?

The Chair hears none, and the Chair at this time declares the nominations closed.

Those in favor of Carl L. Mease for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau will now say "aye" in support or opposed, "no." The "ayes" have it. Carl L. Mease is declared unanimously elected Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

COMMITTEE TO ESCORT DIRECTOR-ELECT OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Representative from Cumberland County, Representative Vance, and the Senator from Cumberland County, Senator Mowery, will now escort Carl L. Mease to the front of the rostrum for the purpose of taking the oath of office.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Please rise.

(The oath of office was administered to Mr. Carl L. Mease, Director-elect of the Legislative Reference Bureau, by Lt. Gov. Mark S. Schweiker.)

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. Congratulations, Carl. Mr. MEASE. Thank you very much.

JOINT SESSION ADJOURNED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. At this time the Chair asks the members of the House 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 who are with us are encouraged to please reassemble in the Senate chamber upon adjournment of this meeting.

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

THE SPEAKER (MATTHEW J. RYAN) PRESIDING

The SPEAKER. The House will come to order.

MOTION TO PRINT PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT SESSION

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the proceedings of the joint session of the Senate and the House held this 7th day of January 1997 be printed in full in the day's Legislative Journal.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

SENATE MESSAGE

ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE

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

In the Senate,
January 7, 1997

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate adjourns this week it reconvene on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the Senate adjourns the week of January 21, 1997, it reconvene on Monday, January 27, 1997, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives adjourns this week it reconvene on Monday, January 27, 1997, 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?

Mr. PERZEL offered the following amendment:

Amend Resolution by striking out the third resolved clause and adding
RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives adjourns this week it reconvene on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives adjourns the week of January 21, 1997, it reconvene on Monday, January 27, 1997, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the amendment?

Amendment was agreed to.

On the question,

Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate as amended?

Resolution as amended was concurred in.

Ordered, That the clerk return the same to the Senate with the information that the House has passed the same with amendment in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There are two announcements. I know that many of the members have left the floor, and the speaker boxes, hopefully, in your offices are on.

The members should report to the Chief Clerk's Office sometime this afternoon to sign the oath book. Let me say that again. May I have your attention. Sometime today the members should report to the Chief Clerk's Office to sign the oath book. Now, you have to do that or you do not get paid.

The other announcement — and I am sorry I did not make this sooner when the House was full — is that today is John Perzel's birthday, and I thank him for the wonderful birthday present he gave me. Happy birthday, John.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Perzel.

Mr. PERZEL. Mr. Speaker, I realize that the hour is late, but I wanted to mention that Representative Rod Wilt is the third generation in his family to be elected to this Pennsylvania House of Representatives. That is the first time in the history of this General Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that that has ever occurred.

He has here this evening his brother, Roy Jr.; he has Roy Sr., who was also a member of this General Assembly, a member of the Senate — I served with him on the Labor Relations Committee many years ago — his mother, Sonny; and Marcella, his grandmother, who this is her 22d time she has been at the inauguration ceremonies of the members of the General Assembly, Mr. Speaker. So congratulations to your family, and welcome to this General Assembly.

The SPEAKER. For the record I might add that I served with all three of those generations.

SENATE MESSAGE

HOUSE AMENDMENTS CONCURRED IN BY SENATE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, informed that the Senate has concurred in the amendments made by the House of Representatives to the Senate resolution numbered and entitled as follows, viz:

In the Senate,
January 7, 1997

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate adjourns this week it reconvene on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the Senate adjourns the week of January 21, 1997, it reconvene on Monday, January 27, 1997, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

~~RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives adjourns this week it reconvene on Monday, January 27, 1997, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.~~

RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives adjourns this week it reconvene on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives adjourns the week of January 21, 1997, it reconvene on Monday, January 27, 1997, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. Does the gentleman, Mr. DeWeese, have any further business?

Hearing none, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Northumberland, Mr. Phillips.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, January 21, 1997, at 1 p.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 2:20 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.