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No. 6

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 p.m., and was called to order by the Clerk.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, it seems this evening we may be at last standing at the threshold of a new Congress.

I am not done yet.

Should we, with Your blessing, find our way through the doorway this night, cause us to consider carefully what we have learned on the way.

Turning to You each day, we asked for Your help in our deliberations, and You answered us. But Your answer was to allow us to suffer the anxiety, uncertainty, and aggravation that follows when we choose to allow healthy debate to devolve into contentious and unproductive argument.

And yet, in Your mercy, You transformed this foray into discord into an opportunity to learn to find common ground with unlikely partners. Would that this be a habit we continue.

Remind us that while the spirit of dispute can be traced to our government's earliest days, we have served this country best when we sought to reconcile our differences with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. May we be more willing to wield these fruits of Your spirit in our future discourse with one another.

We pray Your continued mercy on us. May Your anger with us last but a moment and Your favor a lifetime. And for all that we endure this night, allow joy to come in the morning.

In the hope found in Your name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The CLERK. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The CLERK. The Representatives-elect will please remain standing and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The CLERK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The CLERK. The question recurs upon the election of a Speaker. The tellers will please come forward and take their seats.

The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY).

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Clerk, I am honored to rise tonight to nominate my good friend, the gentleman from California, KEVIN MCCARTHY, to serve as Speaker of this House.

Madam Clerk, it has been a long week, and a lot of attention has been placed upon us here in the House, but then again, I state that to the most famous woman in Washington this week. It was a better joke as written, actually, than delivered.

I want to start by thanking the men and women who make this House run. From the janitorial staff to the parliamentarians, to the doorkeepers, to the Sergeant at Arms, to the Capitol Police officers, to the men and women that make this institution run, we thank you.

On this day and as a source of charity, we would even thank the Capitol press corps for sitting on floors. That, too, was actually funnier on paper than how it delivered. I don't know why you asked me to do this, KEVIN.

Look, the President has called this process an embarrassment. Talking heads have labeled this chaos and a mess, and some would call it shamolic, even. But it is called democracy, and this is a hallmark of a free society where every voice and every vote counts.

We know it is messy, but open and transparent debate is what sets us apart from authoritarian regimes.

In order to outcompete our adversaries, we must adhere to the prin-

ciples that make our Nation, this Nation, our constitutional Republic, great. That starts with a free and open exchange of ideas, and that is exactly what we have done this week.

To some, it may have felt like Congress was on hold, but the alternative, a government that assembles with no input from the Representatives elected by the people, is a far worse alternative than these constitutional principles we are adhering to in this complicated process of setting up the House.

Over these last few days, KEVIN MCCARTHY has allowed this process to work among House Republicans, and he has empowered Members to come together to find consensus on behalf of conservative policy and a greater involvement of all voices throughout our Conference.

□ 2210

We have all played a part, whether you are the dean or a Member who has just been waiting for 4 days and voting loyally. It is KEVIN's leadership style, a leadership style that has been lacking in this institution for too long.

It is the same style KEVIN employed with each of us as we developed our policy proposal, a Commitment to America, a plan that works to secure our border and stop the flow of fentanyl into our communities; to give Chairman COMER and Chairman JORDAN the tools they need to hold the Biden administration accountable for their failures; to take China on and end the President's COVID emergency powers that have been abused far too many times; to finally reopen the people's House, empower our standing committees, and get people back to regular order here on the House floor; and countless other conservative solutions that are very powerful and good for constituents in Bakersfield, California, or Lincolnton, North Carolina.

Madam Clerk, I am one of the few Members left on the Republican side

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H41

Dauids (KS)	Jayapal
Davis (IL)	Jeffries
Davis (NC)	Johnson (GA)
Dean (PA)	Kamlager-Dove
DeGette	Kaptur
DeLauro	Keating
DelBene	Kelly (IL)
Deluzio	Khanna
DeSaulnier	Kildee
Dingell	Kilmer
Doggett	Kim (NJ)
Escobar	Krishnamoorthi
Eshoo	Kuster
Espallat	Landsman
Evans	Larsen (WA)
Fletcher	Larson (CT)
Foster	Lee (CA)
Foushee	Lee (NV)
Frankel, Lois	Lee (PA)
Frost	Leger Fernandez
Galleo	Levin
Garamendi	Lieu
Garcia (IL)	Lofgren
Garcia (TX)	Lynch
Garcia, Robert	Magaziner
Golden (ME)	Manning
Goldman (NY)	Matsui
Gomez	McBath
Gonzalez, Vicente	McCollum
Gottheimer	McGarvey
Green (TX)	McGovern
Grijalva	Meeks
Harder (CA)	Menendez
Hayes	Meng
Higgins (NY)	Mfume
Himes	Moore (WI)
Horsford	Morelle
Houlahan	Moskowitz
Hoyer	Moulton
Hoyle (OR)	Mrvan
Huffman	Mullin
Ivey	Nadler
Jackson (IL)	Napolitano
Jackson (NC)	Neal
Jackson Lee	Neguse
Jacobs	Nickel
	Norcross

At the direction of the Republican Conference, I advance the name of

KEVIN MCCARTHY as the next Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 118th Congress.

The CLERK. The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS).

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Clerk, I rise to say wow.

Madam Clerk, I rise to place into nomination for election to the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives the esteemed and wonderful leader of House Democrats, Mr. HAKEEM JEFFRIES of New York.

Our Nation's first President, unanimously elected by the electoral college in 1789, keeps watch over us every single day right here in this Chamber. In his inaugural address to our new Nation, he spoke of "a form of government for the security of [our] Union and the advancement of [our] happiness."

But 234 years later, and after 14 rounds of balloting and a ridiculous war for personal power across the aisle, we the people still find ourselves without a constituted government, our security neglected and the advancement of anything impossible.

And happiness? Suffice to say, Americans are unhappy by the nonsense and the dysfunction playing out on this floor, particularly those who need us the most, who rely on our offices—and I mean every single one of our offices—for services and support, not to mention the unhappy GOP and Democratic ranking members and chairs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Armed Services Committee, and the Intel Committee who say that the risk to our safety and security grows with each passing hour. This is not just unhappiness; this is dangerous.

However, the 212 unified members of the House Democratic Caucus have a very effective solution for this problem. We call him HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

In the spirit of friendliness and hopefulness, we extend a warm invitation to at least six of you across the aisle to join us. Let's end this nonsense, constitute this Congress, and elect him Speaker of the House.

He is a man who is ready to work with everyone in this Congress and throughout our country to place people over politics and solve our country's problems; a man of competency, decency, and integrity; a man of courage, honor, and resolve; a man who listens better than anyone I have ever known in my life; and a man of innovation, cooperation, and, yes, indeed, alliteration.

Madam Clerk, 14,421 Americans have served in the United States Congress since George Washington's inaugural address 234 years ago. One of the very finest of those Americans is HAKEEM JEFFRIES of the great State of New York, and it is the honor of a lifetime to place his name into nomination for Speaker of the House.

The CLERK. The Reading Clerk will now call the roll.

The tellers having taken their places, the House proceeded to vote for the Speaker.

The following is the result of the vote:

[Roll No. 20]

MCCARTHY—216

Aderholt	Garcia, Mike	Mills
Alford	Jimenez	Molinaro
Allen	Gonzales, Tony	Moolenaar
Amodei	Gooden (TX)	Mooney
Armstrong	Gosar	Moore (AL)
Arrington	Granger	Moore (UT)
Babin	Graves (LA)	Moran
Bacon	Graves (MO)	Murphy
Baird	Green (TN)	Nehls
Balderson	Greene (GA)	Newhouse
Banks	Griffith	Norman
Barr	Grothman	Nunn (IA)
Bean (FL)	Guest	Obernolte
Bentz	Guthrie	Ogles
Bergman	Hageman	Owens
Bice	Harris	Palmer
Billirakis	Harshbarger	Pence
Bishop (NC)	Hern	Perry
Bost	Higgins (LA)	Pfluger
Brecheen	Hill	Posey
Buchanan	Hinson	Reschenthaler
Buck	Houchin	Rodgers (WA)
Bucshon	Hudson	Rogers (AL)
Burchett	Huizenga	Rogers (KY)
Burgess	Hunt	Rose
Burlison	Issa	Rouzer
Calvert	Jackson (TX)	Roy
Cammack	James	Rutherford
Carey	Johnson (LA)	Salazar
Carl	Johnson (OH)	Santos
Carter (GA)	Johnson (SD)	Scalise
Carter (TX)	Jordan	Schweikert
Chavez-DeRemer	Joyce (OH)	Scott, Austin
Ciscomani	Joyce (PA)	Self
Cline	Kean (NJ)	Sessions
Cloud	Kelly (MS)	Simpson
Clyde	Kelly (PA)	Smith (MO)
Cole	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (NE)
Collins	Kiley	Smith (NJ)
Comer	Kim (CA)	Smucker
Crawford	Kustoff	Spartz
Crenshaw	LaHood	Staubert
Curtis	LaLota	Steel
D'Esposito	LaMalfa	Stefanik
Davidson	Lamborn	Steil
De La Cruz	Langworthy	Steube
DesJarlais	Latta	Stewart
Diaz-Balart	LaTurner	Strong
Donalds	Lawler	Tenney
Duarte	Lee (FL)	Thompson (PA)
Duncan	Lesko	Tiffany
Dunn (FL)	Letlow	Timmons
Edwards	Loudermilk	Turner
Ellzey	Lucas	Valadao
Emmer	Luetkemeyer	Van Drew
Estes	Luna	Van Dуйne
Ezell	Luttrell	Van Orden
Fallon	Mace	Wagner
Ferguson	Malliotakis	Walberg
Finstad	Mann	Waltz
Fischbach	Massie	Weber (TX)
Fitzgerald	Mast	Webster (FL)
Fitzpatrick	McCarthy	Wenstrup
Fleischmann	McCauley	Westerman
Flood	McClain	Williams (NY)
Foxx	McClintock	Williams (TX)
Franklin, C.	McCormick	Wilson (SC)
Scott	McHenry	Wittman
Fry	Meuser	Womack
Fulcher	Miller (IL)	Yakym
Gallagher	Miller (OH)	Zinke
Garbarino	Miller (WV)	
	Miller-Meeks	

JEFFRIES—212

Adams	Bush	Cleaver
Aguiar	Caraveo	Clyburn
Allred	Carbajal	Cohen
Auchincloss	Cárdenas	Connolly
Balint	Carson	Correa
Barragán	Carter (LA)	Costa
Beatty	Cartwright	Courtney
Bera	Casas	Craig
Beyer	Case	Crockett
Bishop (GA)	Casten	Crow
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Cuellar
Blunt Rochester	Castro (TX)	Davids (KS)
Bonamici	Cherfilus-	Davis (IL)
Bowman	McCormick	Davis (NC)
Boyle (PA)	Chu	Dean (PA)
Brown	Cicilline	DeGette
Brownley	Clark (MA)	DeLauro
Budzinski	Clarke (NY)	DeBene

Deluzio	Larsen (WA)	Ruiz
DeSaulnier	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger
Dingell	Lee (CA)	Ryan
Doggett	Lee (NV)	Salinas
Escobar	Lee (PA)	Sánchez
Eshoo	Leger Fernandez	Sarbanes
Espallat	Levin	Scanlon
Evans	Lieu	Schakowsky
Fletcher	Lofgren	Schiff
Foster	Lynch	Schneider
Foushee	Magaziner	Scholten
Frankel, Lois	Manning	Schrier
Frost	Matsui	Scott (VA)
Gallego	McBath	Scott, David
Garamendi	McCollum	Sewell
Garcia (IL)	McGarvey	Sherman
Garcia (TX)	McGovern	Sherrill
Garcia, Robert	Meeks	Slotkin
Golden (ME)	Menendez	Smith (WA)
Goldman (NY)	Meng	Sorensen
Gomez	Mfume	Soto
Gonzalez,	Moore (WI)	Spanberger
Vicente	Morelle	Stansbury
Gottheimer	Moskowitz	Stanton
Green (TX)	Moulton	Stevens
Grijalva	Mrvan	Strickland
Harder (CA)	Mullin	Swalwell
Hayes	Nadler	Sykes
Higgins (NY)	Napolitano	Takano
Himes	Neal	Thanedar
Horsford	Neguse	Thompson (CA)
Houlahan	Nickel	Thompson (MS)
Hoyer	Norcross	Titus
Hoyle (OR)	Ocasio-Cortez	Tlaib
Huffman	Omar	Tokuda
Ivey	Pallone	Tonko
Jackson (IL)	Panetta	Torres (CA)
Jackson (NC)	Pappas	Torres (NY)
Jackson Lee	Pascrell	Trahan
Jacobs	Payne	Trone
Jayapal	Pelosi	Underwood
Jeffries	Peltola	Vargas
Johnson (GA)	Perez	Vasquez
Kamlager-Dove	Peters	Veasey
Kaptur	Pettersen	Velázquez
Keating	Phillips	Wasserman
Kelly (IL)	Pingree	Schultz
Khanna	Pocan	Waters
Kildee	Porter	Watson Coleman
Kilmer	Pressley	Wexton
Kim (NJ)	Quigley	Wild
Krishnamoorthi	Ramirez	Williams (GA)
Kuster	Raskin	Wilson (FL)
Landsman	Ross	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—6

Biggs	Crane	Good (VA)
Boebert	Gaetz	Rosendale

NOT VOTING—0

□ 0037

The CLERK. The tellers agree in their tallies that the total number of votes cast is 428, of which the Honorable KEVIN MCCARTHY of the State of California has received 216, the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES of the State of New York has received 212, with 6 recorded as present.

Therefore, the Honorable KEVIN MCCARTHY of the State of California, having received a majority of the votes cast, is duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 118th Congress.

The Clerk appoints the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK);

The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON);
 The gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU);
 The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN);
 The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE);
 The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON);
 The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);
 The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER);
 The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE);
 The gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE);
 The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR);
 The gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN);
 The gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD);
 The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE);
 The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS);
 The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY);
 The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE);
 The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY);
 The gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE);
 The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES);
 The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ);
 The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL);
 The gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE);
 The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY);
 The gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER);
 The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS);
 The gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS);
 The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP);
 The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. Crockett);
 and the Members of the California delegation:
 Ms. PELOSI
 Ms. WATERS
 Mr. CALVERT
 Ms. ESHOO
 Ms. LOFGREN
 Mr. SHERMAN
 Mrs. NAPOLITANO
 Mr. THOMPSON
 Mr. SCHIFF
 Ms. SÁNCHEZ
 Mr. ISSA
 Mr. COSTA
 Ms. MATSUI
 Mr. MCCLINTOCK
 Ms. CHU
 Mr. GARAMENDI
 Mr. BERA
 Ms. BROWNLEY
 Mr. CÁRDENAS
 Mr. HUFFMAN
 Mr. LAMALFA

Mr. PETERS
 Mr. RUIZ
 Mr. SWALWELL
 Mr. TAKANO
 Mr. VARGAS
 Mr. DESAULNIER
 Mrs. TORRES
 Mr. VALADAO
 Ms. BARRAGÁN
 Mr. CARBAJAL
 Mr. CORREA
 Mr. KHANNA
 Mr. PANETTA
 Mr. GOMEZ
 Mr. HARDER
 Mr. LEVIN
 Ms. PORTER
 Mr. MIKE GARCIA
 Mrs. KIM
 Mr. OBERNOLTE
 Mrs. STEEL
 Mr. DUARTE
 Mr. ROBERT GARCIA
 Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE
 Mr. KILEY
 Mr. MULLIN.

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

□ 0050

SWEARING IN OF SPEAKER

The Sergeant at Arms announced the Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives of the 118th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Clerk, Whip Clark, distinguished members of the House Democratic Caucus and the House Republican Conference, it is my high honor and distinct privilege to finally be able to welcome all of you to the 118th Congress.

Let me just begin by thanking my good friend PETE AGUILAR for his very generous words of introduction and for placing my name into nomination a total of nine times.

I thank my other colleagues from the Democratic Caucus for their generous words of nomination, as well: JIM CLYBURN, KATHERINE CLARK, TED LIEU, DEAN PHILLIPS, JOE NEGUSE, and VERONICA ESCOBAR.

I thank my colleagues and my friends in the House Democratic Caucus for their perseverance, for their strength, for their friendship, for their unanimity of purpose, and for their unanimous support. I want to say that that showing of strength is not for any one particular individual. It will be a showing of strength throughout the 118th Congress, unanimity of purpose on behalf of the American people.

□ 0100

Before I proceed any further, let me begin by acknowledging the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of California, the iconic, the heroic, and the legendary Speaker Emerita, NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI.

Speaker Emerita PELOSI will go down in history as the greatest Speakers of

all time. Throughout her turn in Congress, she has been a legendary legislator, a fabulous facilitator, and a no-nonsense negotiator. We know that NANCY PELOSI is a woman of faith, a loving wife, a mother of five, a grandmother of nine, a defender of democracy, a voice for the voiceless, and a powerful champion for the children, the climate, California, Charm City, the Caucus, the Congress, the country, and the Constitution.

I thank the Speaker Emerita for all that she has done. It is an honor to stand on her broad shoulders as well as the shoulders of the great STENY HOYER and the great JIM CLYBURN, two consequential leaders in their own right.

The Scripture says in Galatians: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Over the last 2 years, House Democrats, in partnership with President Biden and our colleagues in the Senate, have been hard at work on behalf of the American people getting big things done. We passed the American Rescue Plan, saved the economy from a deep recession, put shots in arms, money in pockets, and kids back in school. We passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to create millions of good-paying jobs, fix our crumbling bridges, roads, tunnels, our airports, our sewer and water systems, our mass transportation systems, and ensured high-speed internet access in every single community. We passed gun safety legislation for the first time in 30 years that will save lives and make our communities safer.

We passed the CHIPS and Science Act to bring domestic manufacturing jobs back home to the United States of America and ensure that our workforce has the skills to succeed in the 21st century economy.

We passed the Inflation Reduction Act to strike a dramatic blow against the climate crisis, set our planet on a sustainable trajectory forward, lower energy costs, strengthen the Affordable Care Act, lower healthcare costs, and drive down the high price of lifesaving prescription drugs for millions of Americans.

It was one of the most consequential Congresses in American history. President Biden gets the job done, and the D in Democrat stands for deliver.

So over the next 2 years, as we begin this 118th Congress, let us continue to fight for lower costs, let us continue to fight in this Congress for better-paying jobs, let us continue to fight in this Congress for safer communities, let us continue to fight in this Congress to defend democracy, let us continue to fight in this Congress to protect the public interests, let us continue to fight in this Congress for economic opportunity in every single ZIP Code, and let us continue to fight in this Congress for reproductive freedom because as Democrats, we do believe in a country for everyone, a country that provides for the poor, works for working

families, makes sense for the middle class, stands up for senior citizens, innovates in the inner city, strengthens suburban communities, helps out the heartland, and revitalizes rural America.

We believe in a country with liberty and justice for all, equal protection under the law, and free and fair elections. Yes, we believe in a country with the peaceful transfer of power.

We believe that in America, our diversity is a strength, it is not a weakness. It is an economic strength, a competitive strength, and a cultural strength. Our diversity is a strength. It is not a weakness.

We are a gorgeous mosaic of people from throughout the world. As John Lewis would sometimes remind us on this floor: We may have come over on different ships, but we are all in the same boat now.

We are White, we are Black, we are Latino, we are Asian, we are Native American, we are Christian, we are Jewish, we are Muslim, we are Hindu, we are religious, we are secular, we are gay, we are straight, we are young, we are older, we are women, we are men, we are citizens, and we are Dreamers. Out of many we are one. That is what makes America a great country. And no matter what kind of haters are trying to divide us, we are not going to let anyone take that away from us—not now, not ever.

This is the United States of America, a land of opportunity. The fact that I am able to stand up here today is another data point in that narrative. I was born in Brooklyn Hospital, raised in a working-class neighborhood in Crown Heights, grew up in the Cornerstone Baptist Church, and started off in the Cradle Roll Department. Somehow I survived the violence of the crack cocaine epidemic and wound up here in the United States Congress as the highest ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives.

America is truly a land of opportunity, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

So on this first day, let us commit to the American Dream, a dream that promises that if you work hard and play by the rules, then you should be able to provide a comfortable living for yourself and for your family, educate your children, purchase a home, and one day retire with grace and dignity.

Let us commit on this first day to lift up the American Dream for every single person in this Nation.

I recognize that this is a moment of transition as we transition from one Congress to the next, from one majority to the next, from a year of accomplishment to a year of ambiguity, a moment of transition. The American people, understandably after the events of this week, recognize that the Congress is at a fork in the road.

I ask the question: What direction will we choose?

□ 0110

On this first day, I do not pretend to answer that question on behalf of my

colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but we do extend our hand of partnership to you and want to make clear that we extend and intend to try to find common ground whenever and wherever possible on behalf of the American people.

Not as Democrats, not as Republicans, not as Independents, but as Americans.

But I also want to make clear that we will never compromise our principles. House Democrats will always put American values over autocracy, benevolence over bigotry, the Constitution over the cult, democracy over demagogues, economic opportunity over extremism, freedom over fascism, governing over gaslighting, hopefulness over hatred, inclusion over isolation, justice over judicial overreach, knowledge over kangaroo courts, liberty over limitation, maturity over Mar-a-Lago, normalcy over negativity, opportunity over obstruction, people over politics, quality-of-life issues over QAnon, reason over racism, substance over slander, triumph over tyranny, understanding over ugliness, voting rights over voter suppression, working families over the well-connected, xenial over xenophobia, “yes, we can” over “you can’t do it,” and zealous representation over zero-sum confrontation.

We will always do the right thing by the American people, so let us not grow weary of doing good, for the American people will reap the benefit of the harvest if we do not give up.

God bless you, God bless the House, and God bless the United States of America.

It is now my solemn responsibility to hand over the people’s gavel to a son of Bakersfield, a former small business owner, a proud product of a firefighter’s household, the gentleman from the great State of California, and the next Speaker of the 118th Congress, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Mr. MCCARTHY. That was easy, huh? I never thought we would get up here.

Thank you, Minority Leader JEFFRIES. HAKEEM, I have got to warn you, 2 years ago, I got 100 percent of the vote from my Conference.

There is somebody else I want to thank, the gentlewoman who served as our presiding officer this week, our clerk, Cheryl Johnson. Thank you.

My father always told me, it is not how you start, it is how you finish. And now we need to finish strong for the American people.

If the son of a fireman and the grandchild of immigrants can rise to the highest position in the most important legislative body in our country, and if my colleague, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, with his life story, can rise to lead his party, then opportunity and democracy still thrive in America.

To Leader JEFFRIES, there will be times we agree, and many times we will differ. I promise our debates will be passionate, but they will never be personal. That is my commitment to you.

And now the hard work begins. What we do here today, next week, next month, next year will set the tone for everything that follows.

Tonight, I want to talk directly to the American people. As Speaker of the House, my ultimate responsibility is not to my party, my Conference, or even our Congress. My responsibility, our responsibility, is to our country. Two months ago, you voted for a new direction for our country. You embraced our Commitment to America, and now we are going to keep our commitment to you.

It is a commitment for an economy that is strong, where you can fill up your tank of gas and feed your family, where paychecks grow and not shrink. It is a commitment for a Nation that is safe, where communities are protected, law enforcement is respected, and criminals are prosecuted; a commitment for the future that is built on freedom, where children come first and are taught to dream big because in America, dreams can still come true; a commitment for a government that is held accountable, where Americans get the answers they want, need, and deserve.

Our system was built on checks and balances. It is time for us to be a check and provide some balance to the President’s policies.

There is nothing more important than making it possible for American families to live and enjoy the lives they deserve. That is why we commit to stop wasteful Washington spending, to lower the price of groceries, gas, cars, housing, and stop the rising national debt.

□ 0120

We pledge to cut the regulatory burden, lower energy costs for families, and create good-paying jobs for workers by unleashing reliable, abundant, American-made energy.

I know the night is late but when we come back, our very first bill will repeal the funding for 87,000 IRS agents. You see, we believe government should be here to help you, not go after you.

We are going to pass bills to fix the Nation’s urgent challenges, from the wide-open southern border to America’s last energy policies to woke indoctrination in our schools.

We will also address America’s long-term challenges: the debt and the rise of the Chinese Communist Party. Congress must speak with one voice on both of these issues.

That is why we will end wasteful Washington spending. From now on, if a Federal bureaucrat wants to spend it, they will come before this institution to defend it.

As for the Chinese Communist Party, we will create a select committee on China to investigate how to bring back the hundreds of thousands of jobs that went to China, and then we will win this economic competition.

Now, speaking of committees, we will hold the swamp accountable—from the

withdrawal from Afghanistan to the origins of COVID to the weaponization of the FBI. Let me be very clear. We will use the power of the purse and the power of the subpoena to get the job done.

This is something we should all agree upon. We will stand up and speak out for the backbone of our economy: the hardworking taxpayers.

It is nighttime here in Washington but in some ways, it is also like a new beginning, a fresh start. My friends, this Chamber is now fully open for all Americans to visit.

I want to give all Americans a personal invitation: You are welcome to see this body at work. No longer will the doors be closed, but the debates will be open for you to witness what happens in the people's House.

From the committee rooms to this floor, we commit to pursue the truth passionately and embrace debate. No more one-sided inquiries. Competing ideas will be put to the test in public so that the best ideas win.

We also pledge to bring Congress to the people because answers have not and will not always be found in Washington. That is why one of our very first hearings will be held at the southern border. No more ignoring this crisis of safety and sovereignty. We must secure our border. We must get America back on track.

Now, on a personal note to my family here and at home: my wife, Judy; my children, Meghan, Connor, and Emily; my brother, Marc; Monica and Zac; and, yes, my mom, Bert, I am where I am because you are who you are.

I would also like to thank my constituents in California's Central Valley, and yes, especially my hometown of Bakersfield. I don't know if you are familiar with music but as Buck Owens sings: "How many of you that sit and judge me have ever walked the streets of Bakersfield?"

Well, I have walked those streets my entire life. I know its people. They are hardworking and relentlessly optimistic about our future, and I am very honored to have the opportunity to represent them in Congress.

As a son of a firefighter, I saw firsthand how hard work, leadership, and service to others can change people's lives. That is exactly why we are here today: to serve you, the people.

We come here with the support of our families and the faith of our neighbors to be their voice in Washington. For all the wives and husbands, children and parents who are watching a loved one be sworn in—I know it took a couple extra days. I will be honest, that is not how I had it planned—I want you to remember this moment. Take it in.

Your loved ones are about to become a part of history. My colleagues and I thank you for your understanding and your sacrifice. We will work every day to make you proud.

My most favorite spot in this building is not in this Chamber. It is in the Chamber they met before, in Statuary

Hall. It is my favorite place to take people on a tour. It is where Abraham Lincoln served. He was just a one-term Congressman; sat in the back. I like to go in that spot and stand where he stood. I like to do it at night when people aren't around. I like to look over and look at the clock because that is the same clock and same view that Abraham Lincoln saw.

I have watched Lincoln serve in the greatest challenge to our Constitution, the Civil War. I watched him take people who were rivals and put them together. I watched at a time when he did not know if the Nation could sustain itself, but he dreamt of a future and built a railroad across the Nation.

I want us to all take a moment one time that you are here; I want you to stand there. I want you to look, and I want you to think: If America could do it then, we can do it now. One more time.

□ 0130

Abe Lincoln gave his life in service to this country. One of his most important observations about America applies today as much as it did 160 years ago. He said: "We are striving to maintain the government and institutions of our fathers . . . and transmit them to our children and our children's children forever." My fellow Americans, that is still our mission today.

This moment calls for restoring trust within our country and with each other. In that spirit, I will work with anyone and everyone who shares our passion to deliver a better future for the Nation.

I hope you will join me. As a Congress, we can only operate if we cooperate.

My door will be open. I would like you to come by. I want you to see, as you walk down the hall, a large portrait of Lincoln. I want you to go into that conference room, and I want you to see another portrait. My Members know this. It is of Washington crossing the Delaware. We all know the story. It happened on Christmas 1776. There was no iPhone to take a picture.

People wonder when it was painted. It wasn't painted by someone who was there. It was painted in 1850 and 1851. He was an immigrant who lived in America, Emanuel Leutze.

Do you know why he painted it? Because he knew America was more than a country. America was an idea.

He went home to Germany, and he wanted Germany to have a revolution based upon the values and freedoms that we defend every day. His talent was art, so he believed if he painted this painting, he could inspire his countrymen to rise up for the idea of freedom.

Many historians will tell you he didn't get it correct. They will tell you Washington crossed on a Durham boat, but he paints it with Washington in a rowboat.

You see 13 people but only 12 faces. You see Washington standing up in a

rowboat in the middle of winter, wearing a ceremonial uniform with his hand on his chest. He looks so stoic. You would look at that man and you would say, "I would follow him anywhere." You proudly believe that he never lost a battle.

But history would tell us, at that moment, at that time, he had only lost. We had never won. You see, that was the night of our first victory as a nation, when we surprised the Hessians.

When you look at that painting, don't look at Washington. I want you to look at who is in the boat. You see the second rower in the beret; he is Scottish. The person directly across from him in the green, rowing in the exact same cadence, is an African American. You come down right to the middle in the red. The person who is rowing the strongest is a woman, and in the very back is a Native American.

I don't know from a historic fact if they were in the boat that night, but to this young immigrant who had lived in America, that is who he believed would be in the boat.

The second-to-last person is a farmer. He could be from Bakersfield. I am not sure. His hand goes across his face. People will debate this part, but what I see is the hand of the 13th person nobody sees. You see, what I believe Emanuel was saying is: Here we are, battling for the creation of the idea of freedom, that every individual is equal, not a perfect nation but striving to be a more perfect union, having lost every battle against the greatest challenge with the strongest nation, having lost them all but willing to do it on our holiest of nights with a hand reached out and asking if you would join us.

That is as true today as it was then. If we let everybody in the boat, if we row in the same cadence together, there is no obstacle this body can't overcome for this Nation. It is time for us to be the voice and worthy of their vote.

Let me close with this. I may not know all of you—some of you are new—but I hope one thing is clear after this week: I never give up.

I make this promise: I will never give up for you, the American people, and I will never give up on keeping our commitment to America.

Our Nation is worth fighting for. Our rights are worth fighting for. Our dreams are worth fighting for. Our future is worth fighting for.

Therefore, with love for this country and charity for each other, let us now take our oath and be worthy of the office which we are about to enter.

God bless everybody in this Chamber, and God bless America.

Not so fast. I have to get sworn in first. Sit down.

I am now ready to take the oath of office.

I ask the dean of the House, the Honorable HAL ROGERS of Kentucky, one of my first mentors, to administer the oath of the office.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. First, we want to offer a bipartisan congratulations to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky then administered the oath of office to Mr. MCCARTHY of California, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

□ 0140

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. According to precedent, the Chair will swear in the Members-elect en masse.

The Members-elect will rise and raise their right hands.

The Members-elect rose, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now Members of the 118th Congress.

MAJORITY LEADER

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as majority leader the gentleman from Louisiana, the Honorable STEVE SCALISE.

MINORITY LEADER

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as minority leader the gentleman from New York, the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

MAJORITY WHIP

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as majority whip the gentleman from Minnesota, the Honorable TOM EMMER.

MINORITY WHIP

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have

been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as minority whip the gentlewoman from Massachusetts, the Honorable KATHERINE CLARK.

ELECTING OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1

Resolved, That Cheryl L. Johnson of the State of Louisiana be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Catherine Szpindor of the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

That the Reverend Doctor Margaret Grun Kibben of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR) for the purpose of offering an amendment.

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the resolution, but before offering the amendment, I request that there be a division of the question on the resolution so that we may have a separate vote on the Chaplain.

The SPEAKER. The question will be divided.

The question is on agreeing to that portion of the resolution providing for the election of the Chaplain.

That portion of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. AGUILAR

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the remainder of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

That Tasia Jackson of the State of New York be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That William J. Walker of the State of Maryland be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That Gideon Bragin of the State of New York be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California.

The amendment was rejected.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the remainder of the resolution offered by the gentlewoman from New York.

The remainder of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provision of section 208(a) of the Legisla-

tive Reorganization Act of 1946, the Chair appoints William McFarland of the State of Maryland to act as and to exercise the duties of Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives, effective today.

SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now swear in the officers of the House.

The officers presented themselves in the well of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT A QUORUM OF THE HOUSE HAS ASSEMBLED AND OF THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER AND THE CLERK

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that Kevin McCarthy, a Representative from the State of California, has been elected Speaker; and that Cheryl L. Johnson, a citizen of the State of Louisiana, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CONGRESS

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 3

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 0150

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE
PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO
HOUSE RESOLUTION 3

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to House Resolution 3, the Chair appoints the following Members to the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), and

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO IN-
FORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER AND
THE CLERK

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution

and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 4

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected Kevin McCarthy, a Representative from the State of California as Speaker, and Cheryl L. Johnson, a citizen of the State of Louisiana as Clerk, of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to make a statement concerning the introduction and reference of bills.

Since the rules of the 118th Congress have not yet been adopted, the rights of Members to introduce bills, and the authority of the Speaker to refer them, is delayed.

The Chair will state that submitted bills will be held until adoption of the rules, at which time they will be referred as expeditiously as possible to the appropriate committee. At that time, the bills which are not referred and do not appear in the RECORD as of that day will be included in the next day's RECORD and printed with a date as of the time that the rules were adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces to the House that the whole number of the House is 434.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn until 5 p.m. on Monday.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Monday, January 9, 2023, at 5 p.m.