

[DECEMBER 6, 1962]

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY COLLEAGUES & FRIENDS,

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE /

*Barber Conable
Hank Brown*

REFLECTING UPON THE CLOSENESS OF MY MOST RECENT CONTESTED
RACE / IT'S ^{an awful lot} ~~SO MUCH~~ EASIER TO RUN UNOPPOSED /

BEFORE I SAY ONE MORE THING, LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO APOLOGIZE TO ALL OF YOU AND PARTICULARLY THE FRESHMEN CLASS /
FOR MY INABILITY TO DO WHAT A LEADER IS EXPECTED TO DO DURING
A CAMPAIGN / AND THAT IS TO GET OUT THERE AND FIGHT FOR HIS
TROOPS /

THE OPPOSITION SUCCEEDED IN TYING ME DOWN AND I REGRET
IT / BUT I SHALL NEVER FORGET THE THOUGHTFULNESS AND LOYALTY
OF ALL OF YOU / WHO PITCHED IN SO GENEROUSLY AND UNSELFISHLY
WHEN I NEEDED YOUR HELP /

I CAN SURELY ATTEST AGAIN TO WHAT YOU MORE SENIOR
MEMBERS HAVE KNOWN ALL ALONG AND WHAT YOU FRESHMEN MEMBERS WILL
COME TO REALIZE / THAT THERE ARE NO MORE STRONGER / LASTING TIES
OF FRIENDSHIP FORGED / THAN IN THIS INSTITUTION /

AND ONE ^{more} ~~FINAL~~ PERSONAL NOTE / MOST OF YOU INCLUDING OUR
FRESHMEN MEMBERS WON WITH A LARGER PERCENTAGE THAN I DID / SO
YOUR LEADER IS GOING TO BE JUST AS SENSITIVE TO ALL THOSE
TOUGH PROBLEMS / STICKY ISSUES / AND POLITICAL PRESSURES OUT
THERE AS ANY ONE OF YOU ARE /

NOW LET ME SAY JUST A WORD OR TWO ABOUT THE ROLE WE'RE DESTINED TO PLAY IN THE 98TH CONGRESS, OUTNUMBERED AS WE'LL BE 269 TO 166

WE READ A LOT ABOUT THE ALLEGED NEED FOR REPUBLICANS IN THE HOUSE TO 'COMPROMISE.' / DO I BELIEVE IN COMPROMISE? SURE I DO / I'M A NOTORIOUSLY GOOD-NATURED FELLOW / BUT JUST AS I DON'T BELIEVE IN UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT IN NATIONAL SECURITY / I DON'T BELIEVE IN UNILATERAL COMPROMISE IN POLITICS /

I DIDN'T ACCEPT THIS JOB IN ORDER TO PRESIDE OVER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE REPUBLICAN PROGRAM IN THE HOUSE /

ON THE CONTRARY, I ACCEPTED IT BECAUSE THAT PROGRAM IS STILL OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY / AND I'M EAGER TO FIGHT FOR IT / AND I HOPE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY /

IF THE PROGRAM NEEDS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED / THEN I WOULD SURELY LIKE TO SEE THE RESOURCES OF OUR KNOWLEDGEABLE CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS UTILIZED BY THE ^{President and the} WHITE HOUSE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT IN FURTHERANCE OF OUR MUTUAL GOALS /

THERE MAY EVEN BE TIMES IN THE NEW CONGRESS / WHEN TIP AND ^{his} WHOPPING DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY WILL GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER AND ACTUALLY PROPOSE SOMETHING OF SUBSTANCE ON THEIR OWN /

WHEN THAT TIMES COMES, WE'VE GOT TO BE READY FOR IT
EITHER WITH ALTERNATIVES OR INITIATIVES OF OUR OWN

SOMETIMES I'VE BEEN CRITICIZED FOR BEING TOO MUCH OF A
PRAGMATIST, TOO READY TO GET THINGS DONE, TO WORK THINGS OUT

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING: POLITICAL PRINCIPLES WITHOUT
EFFECTIVE ACTION ARE MERE DREAMS

PRINCIPLES WITH EFFECTIVE ACTION BECOME POLICIES AND
I'M HERE TO LEAD A PARTY THAT WANTS TO PUT POLICIES INTO
ACTION AND NOT DREAM ITS LIFE AWAY

THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 2ND COST US GOOD REPUBLICAN
MEMBERS RIGHT ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM WHICH SUGGESTS THERE
WAS NO ONE CLEAR MESSAGE FROM IT OTHER THAN DISENCHANTMENT
WITH HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE MISERABLE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

SELECTIVELY SOCIAL SECURITY / DEFENSE SPENDING / NUCLEAR
FREEZE / AND OTHER ISSUES DID COME INTO PLAY BUT IN SPITE OF
ALL OUR PROBLEMS, WE'RE MIGHTY HAPPY TO WELCOME INTO OUR
RANKS 25 NEW MEMBERS

YOU OF THE FRESHMEN CLASS BRING TO OUR RANKS REAL CLASS AND A GREAT DEAL OF EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE FROM BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

I'D LIKE TO FEEL THAT OUR DEFICIENCY IN MEMBERS WILL BE MORE THAN MADE UP FOR WITH EACH OF US ASSUMING A MORE AGGRESSIVE SPIRIT AND GIVING THAT ^{little} EXTRA MEASURE OF WHICH WE ARE ALL CAPABLE.

AND ONE FINAL WORD I DON'T KNOW WHEN DURING MY 26 YEARS IN THE HOUSE THAT WE REPUBLICANS HAVE VOTED TOGETHER UNANIMOUSLY AS A BLOC AS FREQUENTLY AS WE DID DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS.

WE HAD TO DO IT TO WIN THE BIG ONES AND TO DO IT WE HAD TO BRING THOSE OF SOMEWHAT DISSIMILAR POLITICAL PERSUASIONS IN OUR PARTY TOGETHER.

IT WAS NO EASY TASK AND IT REQUIRED A GOOD DEAL OF GIVE AND TAKE BY MOST OF US.

IF BY 1984 I HAVEN'T AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER INSULTED THE SENSIBILITIES OF EVERYONE FROM ROCK-HARD CONSERVATIVES TO OUR SO-CALLED GYPSY MOTHS I WILL NOT HAVE BEEN DOING MY JOB.

I'M NOT PROMISING YOU A ROSE GARDEN / BUT I CAN PROMISE
YOU THAT THERE WILL BE TIMES IN THE 98TH CONGRESS WHEN SOME
OF YOU MAY WELL BE STANDING IN THE ROSE GARDEN WITH THE
PRESIDENT / AFTER WINNING SOME SWEET VICTORY FOR THOSE
PRINCIPLES THAT DO BRING US TOGETHER AS A PARTY /

THANK YOU SO MUCH AGAIN / FOR THE GREAT HONOR YOU DO ME
IN ELECTING ME AGAIN AS YOUR LEADER.