

CONFERENCE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

DECEMBER 3, 1984

*Dan Lungren  
Olympia Snowe*

I THANK YOU ALL FOR THE TRUST YOU HAVE ONCE AGAIN  
PLACED IN ME / IT IS A GREAT HONOR AND A GREAT  
RESPONSIBILITY /

I ASK EACH OF YOU TODAY TO JOIN WITH ME IN PLEDGING  
ALL THAT IS BEST IN EACH OF US, FOR OUR PARTY AND OUR  
COUNTRY /

SINCE MY FIRST ELECTION AS LEADER BACK IN 1980, OUR  
PARTY IN THE HOUSE HAS BEEN IN A STATE OF TRANSITION /

WE HAVE BEEN MOVING AWAY FROM THE COMFORTABLE BUT  
STODGY STYLE OF THE "GRAND OLD PARTY" TOWARD WHAT SOME  
OF OUR MEMBERS CALL THE "BRAND NEW PARTY" /

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE HAVE DONE IS RID  
OURSELVES OF THAT SUBSERVIENT, TIMID MENTALITY / OF THE  
PERMANENT MINORITY /

WE HAVE TASTED VICTORY/ WE KNOW WE CAN, UNDER  
CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, PUT TOGETHER COALITIONS FOR  
VICTORY/ *particularly in this new Congress with the help of our  
outstanding freshman class (33 new members)*

SAM RAYBURN USED TO TELL YOUNG MEMBERS: IF YOU  
WANT TO GET ALONG, GO ALONG/

TODAY I SAY TO ALL OF YOU: THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN  
THE HOUSE IS NO LONGER CONTENT TO GO ALONG/

WE WANT TO GO FOR BROKE/

THE DEMOCRATS HAVE TRIED TO PORTRAY THE EXCITEMENT  
OF OUR PARTY'S TIME OF TRANSITION AS A SIGN OF DEEP  
DIVISION AND PERMANENT TURMOIL/

OF COURSE THE GREATEST GIFT WE COULD GIVE THE  
DEMOCRATS WOULD BE TO BECOME A PARTY BICKERING AND  
SCRATCHING/AND BITING EACH OTHER/-JUST LIKE THEIRS/

SO THE TRADITIONAL VIRTUE OF PARTY UNITY ISN'T JUST  
SOME KIND OF SLOGAN FOR US--IT'S AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY  
FOR SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS

IN MY VIEW, UNITY IS NOT UNIFORMITY IT IS NOT  
CONFORMITY IT IS NOT LOCK-STEP OBEDIENCE

AND IT IS CERTAINLY DOES NOT DEMAND THE ABANDONMENT  
OF FIRM PRINCIPLES FOR THE SAKE OF EPHEMERAL GOALS

TO ME UNITY MEANS THAT EVERYBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO  
HAVE HIS SAY--BUT NO ONE CAN EXPECT TO ALWAYS GET HIS WAY

UNITY CAN ALSO TOLERATE WANDERING OFF THE  
RESERVATION FROM TIME TO TIME WHEN YOU "VOTE YOUR  
DISTRICT" OR FOR SOME SPECIAL REASON

I UNDERSTAND THAT THAT'S ALL PART OF THE GAME

BUT WHEN INDIVIDUALISM BECOMES AN EPIDEMIC IT WILL  
DESTROY OUR EFFECTIVENESS

WE MAY NOT BE A MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE, BUT I FIRMLY  
BELIEVE WE ARE THE PARTY THAT SPEAKS FOR THE MAJORITY OF  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WHEN 73 MILLION VOTES ARE CAST FOR CONGRESSIONAL  
CANDIDATES AND DEMOCRATS GOT ONLY 40,000 MORE THEN  
REPUBLICANS, YOU KNOW IT ISN'T THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO  
FEEL THERE SHOULD BE A 71 SEAT DIFFERENCE IN THE HOUSE

FOR THOSE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO HAVE MANIFESTED  
THEIR SUPPORT FOR US, WE'RE OBLIGED TO ACT RESPONSIBLY  
WE DON'T JUST SEEK A PLACE IN THE MORNING HEADLINES BUT  
A PLACE IN HISTORY

*Furthermore*

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BECOME RIGIDLY LOCKED INTO ONE  
STRATEGY OR ONE APPROACH

IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF COMPROMISE OR CONFRONTATION  
IT'S A QUESTION OF WHICH TO PURSUE IN ANY GIVEN  
CIRCUMSTANCE TO BE EFFECTIVE

THE KEY WORD HERE IS EFFECTIVENESS

SOMETIMES WE WILL CONFRONT OTHER TIMES WE WILL  
SEEK TO FIND OUT HOW FAR THE OTHER SIDE IS WILLING TO Bend  
~~REND~~

THE PROCESS BY WHICH WE DECIDE WHICH TACTICS TO  
EMPLOY IS ONE THAT SHOULD BE OPEN AND FREE-FLOWING

IT'S GOOD TO HEAR DIVERGENT VIEWS/ IT'S GOOD TO  
GIVE AN ISSUE A THOROUGH GOING OVER BEFORE A COURSE OF  
ACTION IS PRESCRIBED/

ONCE THE COURSE IS SET, HOWEVER, THE TIME FOR  
DIVERGENCE IS OVER AND THE TIME FOR UNITY BEGINS

THAT'S THE KIND OF COLLEGIAL APPROACH THAT I PREFER  
AS YOUR LEADER/

I WANT TO SHOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT THIS PARTY  
HAS PROFOUND DIFFERENCES WITH THE CURRENT MAJORITY  
PARTY/

I WANT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THEIR  
AGENDA IS OUR AGENDA/AND I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT WE  
KNOW HOW TO GOVERN HERE IN THE HOUSE/

WE MUST BE THAT SYMBOL OF STRENGTH, THAT EXAMPLE OF  
EFFECTIVENESS/AND THAT PARTY OF PRINCIPLE AROUND WHICH  
OUR CANDIDATES CAN RALLY TO OUR CAUSE IN 1986///

FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN YOU FIRST ELECTED ME I SAID:

"WHAT I AM INTERESTED IN IS SEEING TO IT  
THAT THE SPOTLIGHT IS FOCUSED ON THE VAST  
ARRAY OF INDIVIDUAL TALENT WE HAVE ASSEMBLED  
IN THIS ROOM/ MY JOB IS TO ORCHESTRATE YOUR  
MANY TALENTS."

LET ME ONCE MORE USE THAT MUSICAL METAPHOR TO MAKE  
THE POINT:

A CONDUCTOR CAN WAVE HIS BATON UNTIL HIS ARM IS  
WEARY/ BUT IF THE VIRTUOSOS HE HAS ASSEMBLED LACK  
HARMONY/ THE RESULT IS DISCORD/

BETTER THAT ANY DISCORD COME FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF  
THE AISLE/ AND THAT WE ALL WORK TOGETHER HARMONIOUSLY/

THANK YOU ALL AGAIN FOR THE GREAT HONOR YOU DO ME  
IN ELECTING ME AGAIN AS YOUR LEADER/