

[OCTOBER 4, 1995]

To our friends in the media, you'll be happy to hear that you won't have to ask me any more whether I'm running again.

The answer is simply, "No".

I do want to tell all our good friends, supporters, and well-wishers here at home and my colleagues in the Congress who have urged me to run again, that I have very carefully considered your arguments in arriving at my decision.

Had George Bush won reelection, I would have felt obligated to see his Administration through, and cap my career with 40 years in the House.

I don't have that obligation now. When I complete this term it will be 38 years in the House, 8 years as an assistant to my predecessor and over 3 years in the military, which adds up to just under 50 years of public service.

That ought to be enough. I think it's a good time to hang it up.

The big projects in our district that I've been identified with will be completed within a year or so.

In the House, while we're still in the minority where I've always been, we're pulling together and making the most of our numbers. And even though I believe the prospects are excellent for our winning big in the House next year, I'm not sure it will be enough to make me the Speaker.

Therefore, I believe it appropriate to announce my intention to bow out now, when we're on a high, and there's time remaining in this term to help make an orderly transition from my Leadership to whomever.

*added* { In addition there are some big issues that must be dealt with in a bipartisan way during the remainder of this term, such as health care, NAFTA, welfare, campaign and congressional reform and I'm looking forward to closing out my legislative career working for their enactment.

I want to pay my respects publicly to my dear wife, Corinne, and our family, without whom I could never have achieved whatever measure of success I've enjoyed over these many years in public life.

Corinne has been the steady influence, always there with her love, support and understanding, filling in the numerous gaps and always having that positive, up-lifting attitude when the going was rough.

We're both deeply grateful for the abiding loyalty of so many friends and associates who have worked for us and with us, and especially for the wonderful people we've met and come to know in the political arena.

Yes, politics can be a noble profession. One of my constant goals in life has always been to prove to my once doubting parents that it could be so.

I'd like to feel that as I prepare to leave the Congress, I've lived up to my parents high ethical standard and that I'll be remembered by my constituents for representing them faithfully and well, and that nationally I will be judged as having contributed significantly to the deliberations of the House and served the Institute of the Congress with honor and in an exemplary fashion.