

The original documents are located in Box D21, folder “Presenting Speaker of the House John W. McCormack to the House, January 10, 1967” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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JANUARY 10, 1967

REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD IN PRESENTING SPEAKER MC CORMACK TO THE HOUSE

Members of the House:

During all the victory celebrations Members of my party have been having since last November 8, I have been steeling myself for this moment of defeat. I want first of all to say that we ~~are going to have to~~ ^{must} do something about early election projections. ^{Today} ~~For a moment~~ ^{election}, the early returns ^{on the roll call} had led me to believe I was going to win. I hope I can take the final tally, however, in good grace. I am comforted by the fact that my vote was considerably better than the first time I lost the Speakership two years ago.

The mace that stands here reminds us of the Heritage our American Republic has from the Roman Republic. But there is one big difference. Under Roman Law

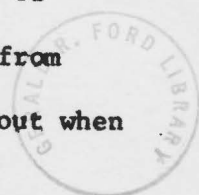


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the vanquished were at the mercy of the victor. Under our American tradition, the vanquished introduces the victor, and I do so today with great pleasure.

The late Mister Sam Rayburn, who had this same duty at the start of the 83rd Congress, presented our beloved Republican Speaker Joe Martin to this body, ~~and~~ I can find no better way to express my sentiments about the other Gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. McCormack, than in Mister Sam's words:

"The Speakership of the House of Representatives should be and is the second office in power in the government of the United States. I know (he) will never forget the dignity of this high office in protecting, defending and perpetuating the rights, the prerogatives and the privileges of the House of Representatives." "This is a great body that comes each two years fresh from the people," Mr. Sam said. "We know their wishes. We try to carry them out when they are wise and in the interest of the country."



We of the Loyal Opposition in the temporary--and I hope very temporary--minority will stand by our speaker in the same spirit. All of us who served in the 89th Congress or years past are ^{very} fond of the gentleman from Massachusetts. We have found him to be highly capable, a great leader of men, an individual uniquely equipped to fill a legislative position which is one of the cornerstones of our free system. *His word is his bond.*

May I extend my personal welcome to the new Members of the House. They are taking their seats in this body at a time of great moment in American history. They will have a voice and a hand in decisions which, hopefully, will move America forward on the path to international greatness. I extend to them the hand of friendship and assure them they will find all incumbent Members of the House ready to offer their assistance.

I also extend this pledge to our Speaker and to the American people. We

of the opposition will be loyal; we of the opposition will be responsible; and we will work together in all that is good for America.

The Speaker's lot is not easy. Everybody is always urging him to take one course or another. Abraham Lincoln, who was once a Freshman Member of this House, was waited upon during his Presidency by a delegation of self-styled political experts who pressed a certain course upon him and, of course, wound up telling him such action would win him a lot of friends. President Lincoln calmly replied that when he had finished his term, he hoped that he would have one friend left, and that one friend would be deep down inside himself.

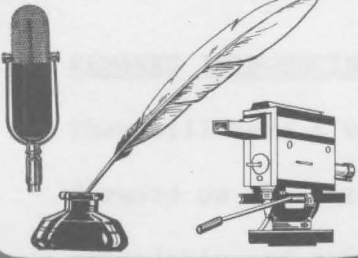
I commend Abraham Lincoln's declaration of conscience to all my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle. But I would like to amend it a little. When I finish my term as Minority Leader of the 90th Congress, I hope I will have at least two friends left--one deep down inside of me, and the other, the gentleman from

Massachusetts, the Honorable John W. McCormack, the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Fellow Members, I take great pleasure in presenting to this House a great Speaker, a great American, a great citizen of the State of Massachusetts, the Honorable John W. McCormack.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
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"This is a great body that comes each two years fresh from the people," Mr. Sam said. "We know their wishes. We try to carry them out when they are wise and in the interest of the country."

We of the Loyal Opposition in the temporary--and I hope very temporary--minority will stand by our Speaker in the same spirit. All of us who served in the 89th Congress or years past are fond of the gentleman from Massachusetts. We have found him to be highly capable, a great leader of men, an individual uniquely equipped to fill a legislative position which is one of the cornerstones of our free system.

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REMARKS INTRODUCING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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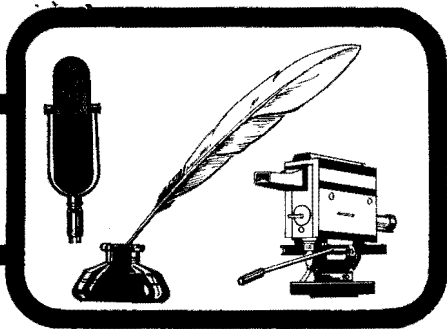
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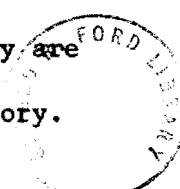
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