

"THE VISION OF A REPUBLICAN CONGRESS"

Honorable Newt Gingrich

As you well know, the majority party in Congress dictates the agenda, the schedule, and what proposals will even have the chance to be voted on. For the last thirty eight years the Democrats have been the majority party. That's longer than Castro has been in power in Cuba and more than half the time the communist were in control in the Soviet Union.

The American people want change. They demand bold leadership from Congress. But the Democrats in Congress only want to cling to the status quo, which has brought them power.

If Republicans were in control of Congress, we would schedule votes on the proposals Americans want:

- Stiffer Criminal Laws
- Tax Cuts
- Health Reform
- Choice in Education
- Welfare-to-Workfare Proposals
- Full Disclosure of Congressional Activities
- Congressional Term Limits
- Balanced Budget Amendment
- Line Item Veto
- School Prayer

All of these changes have been proposed; few of them have been brought up for votes. A "Necessary Revolution" would take place with a Republican Congress.

We believe that this revolution is vital to each American's personal prosperity. Our government, through its tax code, punishes industry, encourages debt, discourages savings, and makes jobs creation an almost unattainable goal. In contrast, imagine a tax code that rewards people for investing in, and saving for, the future. We have proposed such reforms:

- cut taxes on income earned from investments in capital assets, and make even steeper cuts for investments in small businesses;
- cut taxes on senior citizens who work;
- encourage savings through expansion of the IRA laws;
- encourage home ownership through flexible rules on IRA use and tax credits for the first-time home buyer; and
- repeal counterproductive tax laws that cost jobs, such as the excise tax on boats and aircraft.

We believe that another generation of drug addiction and violent crimes will destroy our children socially and spiritually. The personal safety of every individual must be protected and preserved. We should be committed to a policy of prisons before pork, and we should build enough prisons so that there are enough cells for every violent criminal in America. And while they are in prison, we should make all prisoners work to help pay for the cost of their incarceration. Finally, we should make sure that every illiterate prisoner emerges from jail literate so that they can become productive citizens and not repeat criminals.

We believe that education is a vital key to a successful competitive America and to sustain economic growth. There is no sector in American life in which the coming revolution is more necessary or vital. Imagine an educational system that allows parents to choose which school their children attend, and rewards flexibility, creativity and excellence. That is what we have proposed through America 2000. We must let the individuals on the local level, not the federal government, decide what is best for their children. Through more creative participation from local communities, America will once again achieve excellence in education.

We believe that personal safety and security is not just a matter of ridding the country of the criminal plague but by assuring all Americans the right to a health system that is affordable and available to everyone. Imagine a revitalized, health-oriented system that emphasizes wellness and promotes choice. The Leader's Task Force on Health has proposed giving small businesses the same treatment for its employees now given big businesses. This fairness in tax treatment coupled with insurance market reform will give millions of Americans access to health policies they now don't possess. Our legislation would establish a common sense approach to malpractice lawsuits that add enormous costs to the health care system.

We believe that the welfare state's current bureaucracy and payments create a strong bias against work, savings and family values. These are the very aspects so sorely needed by those who are currently in the welfare system. Imagine a system for the needy that promoted workfare instead of welfare. Welfare payments should lead the recipient to a job. This can be done by requiring they get a high school education if they don't have one. We should eliminate the current system's penalty against families and we should eliminate additional benefits for people who have more children while on welfare. The values of work, family and education must replace the welfare state's current bureaucratic values.

We believe that this economic and cultural revolution must extend to the government. Congress must live by the guidelines it dictates to others. We should demand a full disclosure of all Congressional affairs so that the public can see how their tax dollars are spent. Imagine a Congress that had to

live with the laws it passes for everyone else in the country. Imagine a Congress whose members better understand the problems of their constituents, and are not insulated from those problems by special perks and overuse of taxpayers' money to get reelected.

Imagine a Congress that allowed all of these things to happen, from changes in economic policies that would create jobs, to change in social policy that would put all violent criminals in prison to stay, to change in education policy that favored parents and children over unionized bureaucracies, to change in health policy to promote wellness and choice and reduce costs to families, to change in welfare policy to emphasize workfare instead of welfare, to a change in the way Congress itself operates so that all Americans can have a Congress it can be proud of.

In his first inaugural address on March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln said,

This country with its institutions belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it.

The challenge to America is clear. Use ballots, not bullets, to win this necessary revolution. If Americans want change, they must get out and vote. America met challenges in the cold war and Desert Storm. We believe we can find just as much courage and commitment to meet the challenge here at home.