think we should agree that stalemate is not an option; solutions are.

''To all my colleagues, I say: We must get our job done and done now. We have an obligation to pass all the appropriation bills by this summer. We will not leave this Chamber until we do. I intend to be a good listener, but I want to hear ideas and the debate that flows from them. I will have a low tolerance for campaign speeches masquerading as debate, whatever the source.

''Our country faces four big challenges which we must address, and not next month or next year or the year after that, but now. Each challenge involves an element of our security.

''First is retirement and health security. Both our social security and Medicare programs will run into brick walls in a few years if we do not do something about them now. We must make sure that social security is there for those who depend on it and those who expect to. We also must consider options for younger workers, so they can look forward to an even brighter retirement.

''Nearly a year ago President Clinton came here to give his State of the Union Address. He called for reform of social security. This year I invite him to return to give us his reform plan, and he has my assurance that it will be taken seriously.

''Second, we must ensure a secure future for America's children by insisting that every child has a good school and a safe, drug-free environment. In my 16 years as a teacher, I learned that most of the decisions having to do with education are best left to the people closest to the situation: parents, teachers, school board members. What should the Federal government's role be? It should be to see that as many education dollars as possible go directly to the classrooms, where they will do the most good.

''Next is economic security. In the early eighties we adopted policies that laid the foundation for long-term growth. Except for one brief period, that growth has continued ever since. We want our economy to keep on growing. Toward that end, it is time for us in Congress to put a microscope to the ways that government takes money from our fellow citizens and how it spends it.

''There is a culture here in Washington that has grown unchallenged for too long. It combines three notions. One is that government has a prior claim to the earnings of all Americans, as if they worked for the government and not the other way around. Another notion is that a government program, once it is begun, will never end. A third notion is that every program must grow each passing year.

''To borrow a musical line, it just ain't necessarily so; at least, it will not be as long as I am around here to have something to say about it. We must measure every dollar we spend by this criterion: Is it really necessary?

''This is important. For most Americans, money does not come easy. When I was a kid, to make ends meet my dad had a feed business and he worked nights in a restaurant. My mom raised chickens and sold the eggs. I still remember, when tax time came around, our family really felt it. What we need is a leaner, more efficient government, along with tax policies that spur and sustain growth by giving tax relief to all working Americans.

''Finally, there is the challenge of America's security in a world of danger and uncertainty. Without it, other elements of our security will not be possible. We no longer worry about Soviet nuclear bombs raining down on us. Today there are different worries: the sudden violence of a terrorist bomb, the silent threat of biological weapons, or the rogue state that aims a deadly missile at one of our cities.

''We need a defense capability that matches these turn-of-the-century threats. We have asked the men and women of our Armed Forces to take on assignments in many corners of the Earth. Yet, we have not given them the best equipment or preparation that they need to match those assignments. That must be corrected.

''These are not Democratic or Republican issues, they are American issues. We should be able to reach agreement quickly on the goals. And yes, we are going to argue about the means, but if we are in earnest about our responsibilities, we will find common ground to get the job done. In the process, we will build the people's faith in this great United States Congress.

''As a classroom teacher and coach, I learned the value of brevity. I learned that it is work, not talk, that wins championships.

''In closing, I want you to know just how proud I am to be chosen to be your Speaker. There is a big job ahead for all of us, so I ask that God bless this House as we move forward together. I thank the Members very much. Now, let us bring an end to talk and let us get to work.

''I recognize my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), Dean of the House, my colleague from the Committee on Commerce, whose common sense and fairness I admire. He will administer the oath of office.''.

¶1.8 OATH OF OFFICE—SPEAKER

At the request of the Speaker the oath of office was then administered to him by Mr. DINGELL, dean of the House.

¶1.9 OATH OF OFFICE—MEMBERS-ELECT, DELEGATES-ELECT, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER

The SPEAKER said: ''According to precedent, the Chair will swear in all Members of the House at this time. If the Members will rise, the Chair will now administer the oath of office.''.

The Members-elect, Delegates-elect and Resident Commissioner, then rose in their places and took the oath of office prescribed by law.

¶1.10 MEMBER-ELECT SWORN IN

Mr. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. of the 2nd District of Maryland, presented himself at the bar of the House and took the oath of office prescribed by law.

¶1.11 SELECTION OF MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma notified the House of the selection of the Republican Conference of Mr. ARMEY as Majority Leader.

Mr. FROST notified the House of the selection by the Democratic Caucus of Mr. GEPHARDT as Minority Leader.

¶1.12 SELECTION OF MAJORITY AND MINORITY WHIPS

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma notified the House of the selection of Mr. DELAY as Majority Whip.

Mr. FROST notified the House of the selection of Mr. BONIOR as Minority Whip.

¶1.13 ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION—ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma submitted the following privileged resolution (H. Res. 1):

Resolved, That Jeffrey J. Trandahl of the Commmonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Wilson S. Livingood of the Commmonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives;

That James M. Eagen III, of the Commmonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

That Reverend James David Ford of the Commmonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

When said resolution was considered.

Mr. FROST demanded that the resolution be divided for a separate vote on the nominee for Chaplain of the House.

The resolution was divided.

The Reverend James David Ford of the Commonwealth of Virginia was elected Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Mr. FROST then submitted the following substitute for the remainder of the resolution:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert:

That Dan Turton of the Commmonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Sharon Daniels of the State of Maryland be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That Steve Elmendorf of the District of Columbia be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

The substitute was not agreed to.

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House agree to the remainder of said resolution?

The SPEAKER announced that the yeas had it.

So the remainder of said resolution was agreed to.

Whereupon, Jeffrey J. Trandahl, Clerk; the Reverend James David Ford, Chaplain; and James M. Eagen, III,