

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: This is to inform you that I am resigning my position as Clerk of the House effective midnight on February 14, 2007. Thank you for the honor of nominating me to serve in the position of Clerk of the House in the 110th Congress.

It has been an honor to serve the House of Representatives and to work with so many dedicated individuals. I will especially miss those hardworking men and women in the Office of the Clerk. Our Nation is a stronger place because of their efforts.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 6, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI, M.C.,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: This is to inform you that I am resigning my position as Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives effective at midnight on February 14, 2007. Thank you for the honor of nominating me to serve in the position of Chief Administrative Officer in the 110th Congress.

Sincerely,

JAY EAGEN,
Chief Administrative Officer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTING OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 129) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 129

Resolved, That Lorraine C. Miller of the State of Texas, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives, effective February 15, 2007; and

That Daniel P. Beard of the State of Maryland be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, effective February 15, 2007.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have an opportunity to speak on the resolution before its immediate adoption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will distribute the time.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we will not take, certainly, the hour that is allotted; but I first of all want to say something about the two individuals who have just resigned their appointments as Clerk and as Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to serve from 1987 to 2000 on the House Administration Committee and worked with my friend, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. THOMAS, and others. I was a member of the House Administration Committee on which Vic Fazio, our former colleague from California, was the ranking member. He and Mr. THOMAS came together and selected Jay Eagen to be the Chief Administrative Officer.

I think it would be inappropriate if I did not rise and congratulate Mr. Eagen on the job that he has done. I believe that Jay Eagen has brought a degree of professional management to this House of Representatives, which has been a credit to the institution and a credit to all of the Members, and a credit, I might say, to my colleagues on the Republican side, to the Republican leadership on this issue, and I congratulate them for that.

Mr. Eagen is someone who has worked on this Hill for many years. He will be leaving the Hill and leaving this city and moving his family to the west, and we wish him the very, very best.

Mr. Speaker, Karen Haas, who has been the Clerk and who submitted her resignation is, as well, someone who has worked for this institution, cares deeply about the House, and has comported herself, although for a relatively short period of time as the Clerk of our House, in a way that brought honor to the Office of Clerk and brought credit to the House of Representatives.

I know from my perspective personally and from Speaker PELOSI, and I both want to, on behalf of our caucus, extend to them our deepest thanks and gratitude for the service that they have rendered to the House of Representatives and to our country. Both of them, I know, have very exciting things to come. They are both young, they both have much to offer, and we wish them the very best.

Mr. Speaker, I will reserve the balance of my comments on Ms. Miller and Mr. Beard and would certainly yield now to Mr. EHLERS, who may also want to say something.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I would join my colleague from Maryland in commending Jay Eagen and Karen Haas for the tremendous job they have done, and, before Karen, Jeff Trandahl, who served temporarily as CAO during the bridge time before the selection of Mr. Eagen, and who also served as the Clerk of the House very ably.

They both, Jay Eagen and Karen Haas, have done a great job in that office. The House has run very, very well as a result, and I commend them and wish them well in the future. I am cer-

tain that they have bright futures based on the excellent work that they did here.

I also would like to comment about the appointments that have been made. The new appointment for the Clerk, Ms. Miller, from everything I see, is an outstanding appointment. We recognize that as traditionally the appointment of the Speaker and can be made solely by the Speaker and has been in the past.

I look forward to good things from her. She is obviously very capable, has an outstanding record in working in the House, the Senate, and various other places. I look forward to good work from her.

In regard to the selected candidate for Chief Administrative Officer for the House, Mr. Beard, I do not object to his appointment. He is, I think, of relatively good background and should be able to manage the job, at least I seriously hope so.

But I have serious concerns about the lack of transparency and the selection process that resulted in his appointment. Just to give a better history, when I first arrived here, it was shortly before the Republicans took over the majority, and there had been considerable confusion in the House. We had the bank scandal, the post office scandal and so forth. A position was created, I forget the precise title, but something along the line of the director of the nonlegislative and financial functions of the House of Representatives.

The Speaker at that time, who was a Democrat, since they were in the majority, appointed a person to fill that post. It was General Wishart, I believe, and he resigned after several months saying basically he could not do the job, given the parameters that were imposed upon it.

When the Republicans took over the House of Representatives, they also appointed, and it was largely a Speaker's appointment at that time, appointed someone to serve as the Chief Administrative Officer of the House. That position was created and described by the new majority.

Mr. Faulkner had a good resume and had a lot of good ideas, but, frankly, did not really meet the needs that we had for that position at that time. We then decided, and I believe Mr. HOYER was on the committee at the same time with me, and we simply decided that we had to make this as nonpartisan a position as possible.

So we formed a group, two Republicans, two Democrats, and they conducted a nationwide search with a search firm to find the best person for the Chief Administrative Officer position.

They ended up selecting someone from the House of Representatives, someone who was familiar with it, but also someone with extensive administrative background who did a tremendous job of operating this institution since that time.