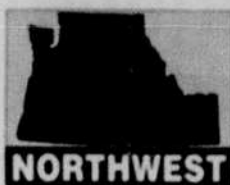


Freshmen Republicans aware of responsibility



WASHINGTON (AP) — Even before they were sworn in Wednesday, the eight freshmen Republicans from the Pacific Northwest said they were well aware of the public's high expectations for the new GOP-led Congress.

"I think the monkey is really on our backs," Rep. Jack Metcalf, R-Wash., said as he greeted supporters in his office early Wednesday.

"We have been given the confidence of the people not because they have become Republicans but because they are so disgusted with the way Congress has been run," Metcalf said.

"People are saying, 'We really don't trust you guys. You are politicians too. But we'll give you one chance,'" he said.

Metcalf and fellow freshmen Washington Republicans George Nethercutt, Linda Smith, Rick White, Doc Hastings and Randy Tate were sworn in for the 104th Congress Wednesday along with Oregon freshmen Republicans Wes Cooley and Jim Bunn.

"All across this country, Americans stood up to say that they want a swift and unmistakable end to business-as-usual, and we mean to end it quickly," said Cooley, a rancher and small businessman representing the eastern four-fifths of Oregon.

With a few specific exceptions, the freshmen are loud advocates of the GOP's "Contract With America," a 10-plank platform calling for a balanced budget, deficit reduction, welfare reform and term limits.

Republican leaders have pledged to move on that agenda in the first 100 days of the new Congress.

"The first big test is the first 100 days," Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., said Wednesday. "I know I ran on the 'Contract.' I feel that is something we have to carry out. I think we can."

Rep. Jennifer Dunn, R-Wash., now the dean of the Washington Republicans as a sophomore and a member of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, said it is important to act quickly on the GOP priorities.

"We've got to seize the moment," Dunn said. "We run into trouble when the new chairmen get used to be calling 'chairman.' We start to lose steam."

Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., said many of the new

Republicans' political careers will hinge on the success of the reforms they have promised.

"If Republicans fail to keep those promises, they will probably be defeated in two years," he said Wednesday.

"We've been looking forward to this day for two years," White said. "It's a bright sunny day. You can feel the emotion and the enthusiasm."

Smith said, "I go from so excited I can't stand it, to, oh my gosh, what have I gotten myself into?"

"What a responsibility, what an opportunity," said Smith, who has been named chairwoman of the House Small Business subcommittee on finance and taxation.

Nethercutt upset House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash. — the first time a sitting speaker has been defeated since the Civil War — and won a spot on the House Appropriations Committee. But he said Wednesday the biggest reward was being part of the first GOP-led House in 40 years.

"I'm struck by this moment in history, not just for me and my family, but for the nation," Nethercutt said.

"I'm very excited, very honored by this opportunity," he said. "Only about 10,000 people in history have gotten to do this."

Study: Minorities not taking top classes

SEATTLE (AP) — Minority high school students are significantly under-enrolled in important courses needed to get into college, a new state study concludes.

The low numbers of minority students in advanced calculus, chemistry and language arts classes are one reason those youths don't go to college or succeed at the same level as white students, the study said.

The study of eight school districts with high minority enrollments was conducted by the state Commission on African-American Affairs with the University of Washington. The districts were in Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Renton, Yakima, Richland, Kennewick and Pasco.

The commission said it could not explain the disparities. But commission executive director James Kelly and UW Professor

Eugene Edgar theorized the reasons could include students choosing or being steered by school officials into less-challenging classes, along with poverty and a lack of knowledge about the advanced courses.

"There were no big surprises for me, except that not many kids of any ethnicity (including whites) are taking these classes," Edgar said. The study showed that whites are taking the courses at a higher rate than minority students.

One problem the researchers found was a lack of uniform socioeconomic and race data collected by the districts, especially in Eastern Washington.

"How can school board members make education policies without that information?" Kelly asked.

The study found in Seattle Public Schools, for example,

that in 1992-93 the 190 high school students in gifted and honors programs were 59 percent white, 21 percent Asian, 16 percent black, 3 percent Hispanic and 1 percent American Indian.

By contrast, 40 percent of the total high school enrollment of 12,000 students was white, 28 percent Asian, 22 percent black, 7 percent Hispanic and 3 percent Indian.

Asians joined whites in pulling ahead of the overall percentages in some classes. In calculus, for example, whites made up 43 percent of the enrollment, Asians 47 percent, blacks 5 percent, Hispanics 3 percent and Indians 2 percent.

In some districts, attempts to improve minority student achievement have included weekend classes, tutoring and additional financial aid.

Oregon blues singer inspired by jail time

PORTLAND (AP) — Popular Oregon musician Paul deLay, who becomes an ex-convict this week after serving more than two years on drug charges, says prison has given him plenty of inspiration for blues songs, and he plans to inject a new message of sobriety and feminism into his music.

He'll move from the federal prison camp in Sheridan to a halfway house in Clackamas County on Thursday.

DeLay said he hopes he'll soon be allowed to begin playing and singing the blues in public again so that he can share his music along with the lessons he has learned as a

recovering addict.

"I hope my words can be inspirational enough to someone to get them to stop using," he told *The Oregonian* during an interview at the prison camp Tuesday. "That would make me very happy."

After playing in various Portland bands since the late 1960s, deLay was a highly regarded harmonica player and singer, leading his own band in the 1980s.

He has been at the prison camp since May 1992 after he pleaded guilty to participating in a 1988 conspiracy to sell more than seven pounds of cocaine as a go-between for a Portland drug dealer.

it a bar.

Met some people.
 Drank some beer.
 Got bored.
 Went to another bar.
 Met some other people.
 We didn't get bored.
 We drank some more beer.
 Jamey didn't.
Jamey drove.
 We didn't.
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