

# Reversal of Fortune

## Republicans recapture Senate after 8 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans captured control of the Senate Tuesday, toppling Democratic incumbents in Tennessee and Pennsylvania and taking away seats in all regions of the country. GOP candidates chorused support for lower taxes and less government.

Republican Oliver North lost his costly, conservative crusade in Virginia in one of the nation's most closely watched races, falling to Sen. Charles Robb.

Sen. Jim Sasser, a Democratic committee chairman and ally of President Clinton, fell to Republican Bill Frist, a physician and political newcomer who ran the classic anti-incumbent's campaign in a year of voter anger with the status quo.

And freshman Democrat Harris Wofford lost to 36-year-old GOP Rep. Rick Santorum in Pennsylvania.

Eight years out of power, Republicans added Democratic seats in Ohio, Maine, Oklahoma, Arizona, Michigan and a second Tennessee contest, part of an impressive sweep of nine races without incumbents on the ballot.

The restored Republican majority is virtually certain to install Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas to the powerful post of majority leader for the final two years of President Clinton's term.

In an interview with C-Span, he said the strong Republican tide amounted to a "vote of no confidence in the Clinton agenda." He said a GOP majority would move to address voter concerns over "big government,

big taxes, big regulation."

"The burden of government is now on them," White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said at midnight as the scope of Democratic losses became clear. Already, the impact on the administration was clear, as White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Clinton would propose only "an incremental change" in health care next year, rather than the top-to-bottom overhaul that died earlier this year.

The new Republican majority will mean a sharp turn rightward at key committee chairmanships: Sen. Jesse Helms of Foreign Relations; Strom Thurmond at Armed Services and Orrin Hatch at Judiciary.

One likely early legislative proposal: a Constitutional amendment to balance the budget, atop the list of measures that GOP candidates embraced at a campaign rally held in the shadow of the Capitol in early fall.

In one bright spot for Democrats, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the embodiment of liberal incumbency, won a sixth term handily.

## House majority gives GOP control of Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans, propelled by voter anger over Democratic management of Congress, won more House seats Tuesday than in any year since 1956 and drove toward outright control of the chamber for the first time in four decades.

The tide swept out former Ways and Means Committee chairman Dan Rostenkowski, a 36-year veteran indicted in May on federal corruption charges, and Judiciary Chairman Jack Brooks, at 21 terms the longest-serving lawmaker who sought re-election.

Rostenkowski was defeated by Republican Michael Flanagan, an unknown lawyer whose name had recently been in a trivia contest on a Chicago radio station.

Another symbol of Democratic power, Speaker Tom Foley, was fighting for political survival as voters took their anger over business as usual in Washington. He trailed in 11 of 12 counties in his eastern Wash-

ington district. Republicans captured 38 previously Democratic seats, 18 of them in southern and border states. By contrast, Democrats managed to pick up just two GOP-held seats, in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. To win control of the House, Republicans needed a 40-seat pickup.

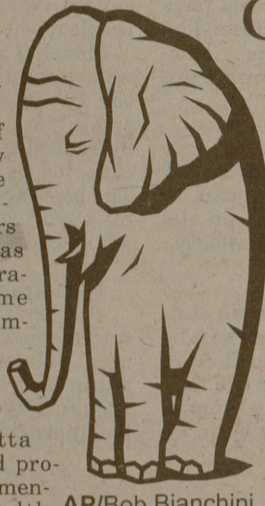
Republicans had won 199 seats and were leading in 34 others, a trend which would give them 233, more than enough to control the 435-seat House. The 199 victories were more than the party had won since they held 201 in the 85th Congress.

National exit polls conducted by Voter News Service showed that Republicans would seize control of the chamber, a goal that had eluded the party for 40 years. The polling also showed about three-quarters of those surveyed disapproved of Congress' performance.

The last time voters turned out a sitting speaker was before the Civil War.

Foley, who has represented eastern Washington in the House for 30 years, was challenged by George Nethercutt, a GOP opponent with little experience but independent backing from interest groups like the National Rifle Association and advocates of term limits for politicians.

Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Kan., an 18-year veteran and chairman of the Intelligence Committee, was ambushed by Todd Tiahrt, a state senator who got support from gun owners and right-to-life groups.



AP/Bob Bianchini



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The poll was based on 1,594 interviews Tuesday outside voting places around the state conducted by Voter News Service, a cooperative of four television networks and The Associated Press.

Among low-income voters, Hispanics and blacks, Fisher appeared to run better than Hutchison. Fisher, a one-time adviser to presidential candidate Ross Perot, didn't appear to energize the independent vote. Of those who said they voted for Perot in 1992, less than one-third backed Fisher.

Preliminary results showed honesty was the issue most often mentioned as mattering most to voters, followed by health care and President Clinton.

Hutchison, who earlier this year was acquitted of charges she misused the state treasurer's office, appeared to do slightly better among voters who listed honesty as key. She and Fisher appeared to split the vote among those who cited health care, and a near three-to-one lead among those who mentioned Clinton.

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An exit poll showed Hutchison dominated Fisher throughout the state by tying together a strong coalition of Republicans and independents.

"I'll be happy with either outcome. The point is that we can't count on the polls. We have to count on the voters. The voters of Texas make this decision," he said.

Fisher and former Attorney General Jim Mattox edged Congressman Mike Andrews in the Democratic primary in March, then Fisher beat Mattox in a bruising primary runoff in April.

Both Hutchison and Fisher have encountered obstacles in life that they have turned to their advantages.

Rejected by Houston law firms because of her gender after earning a law degree from the University of Texas in 1967, Hutchison simply changed professions. She was hired as a reporter for a Houston television station, often covering the Texas Legislature.

In 1972, she became the first Republican woman elected to the Texas House. She lost the race for a U.S. House seat in 1982, but returned to politics in 1990, becoming state treasurer.

She held that post until becoming the first woman senator from Texas.

Fisher is the son of immigrant parents. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis from 1967-69, leaving for Harvard, where he graduated in 1971 with an economics degree.

In 1975, he earned a master's of business administration from Stanford. During the Carter administration, Fisher served as executive assistant to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

He then worked for the Wall Street investment firm of Brown Brothers Harriman. In 1987, he formed Fisher Capital Management, which manages more than \$300 million in assets.

Hutchison, a fiscal conservative, campaigned on a platform of implementing meaningful health-care reform, protecting the national defense, controlling immigration and reigning in the national deficit.

## Hutchinson

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sounds."

He thanked supporters for their efforts and told them that Tuesday's showing still was cause for celebration. He wished Hutchison well, but warned her and her GOP colleagues to deliver on their promises of fiscal responsibility and fair representation of all Texans.

"If they fail to do so and they fall short, we'll rise up and not fall short the next time," he said.

Hutchison said her re-election was a mandate for her to return to Washington to fight for a balanced budget amendment, tax breaks for homemakers, fewer regulations for small-business owners, term limitations and a strong national defense.

She also acknowledged that she was savoring the victory.

"Well, after four elections in 18 months, you know, it's been a marathon and I am having a great time. You see the crowd here — everybody that has been with me through really some pretty tough times in politics," she said. "We knew that Texas was rough and tumble, but it was real rough and tumble. And now we're enjoying the victory and ready to go to work."

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