MIKE MORTON
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As an anagrammist I found the game of musical chairs for the House speakership in late 1998 too good to ignore. Newton Gingrich (the grinning cow) resigned shortly after the November elections, to be replaced by candidate Bob Livingston (glib bison on TV). He in turn removed himself from consideration after certain infidelities came to light, and was supplanted by Dennis Hastert (I hasten trends), another guy we've never heard of.

When the outgoing Speaker becomes a private citizen, he'll be just MISTER NEWT GINGRICH...

| IRS? Mightn't we cringe | I mightn't resign, crew |
| Grew stern; I'm itching | Entice Mrs. Right-wing |
| Night-time screw, grin  | Swing me right, cretin  |
| I mightn't screw reign   | Switch regiment, grin   |
| Right-wing men, etc., sir| Grim itch went; resign |

But when he becomes a political consultant, MISTER NEWTON GINGRICH may want to sound a little more formal...

| Consent? Mire right wing | Crime ring tightens now |
| Itch grown grim, intense | Intern crimes: wig, thong |
| Right-wing cretin, son? Me! | I'm right-wing Net censor |
| Nice right-wing monster | Got him screwing intern |
| Cretin won; might resign | Recent insight: I'm wrong! |

Meanwhile, the media will refer to EX-SPEAKER NEWT GINGRICH as...

| Eschew X-rating; keep grin | Experts nigh in wreckage |
| E.g.: expect win? Hark! Resign! | Cheer GNP. Exit, grin askew |
| We grin, expect shrinkage  | Think 'Expense'; cigar grew |
| Grin: 'Keen, wet, graphic sex' | Graphic: 'Resign next week' |
| Crash. Expire. Get new king | Sex? Cigar? GNP knew either |

And history may remember him as NEWTON LEROY GINGRICH...

| Growing incoherently | Hey, intern! Wrong logic! |
| We're clinging to 'horny' | Cry 'thong lingerie' now! |
| Why linger on to cringe? | I crow on lengthy reign |
| Grey relic; now nothing | New Right: nice, no glory |
| Yon right-winger clone | Why Clinton-Gore reign? |
He'll leave SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE vacant...

Hot sheep! Free USA--OK? Foe: 'Shake the poseur!'
Oh, upset fake heroes Free the USA spook, eh?
Use the hope; forsake Eureka! Host of sheep!
See the fear, shook up USA: seek the proof, eh?
Oh, seek Orpheus' fate Shoo! He kept USA free!

So, Bob Livingston stepped up to the plate. But within a day of my finishing the list below, SPEAKER BOB LIVINGSTON bowed out...

GOP rants, invokes Bible Ask big probe: 'Insolvent?'
Rabble: 'Invent gossip--OK?' Sink vast ignoble probe
Vigilant probe boss, Ken Proven genital-kiss, Bob?
GOP? OK! Sensible! Vibrant! Veteran GOP boss: 'I blink'

Bob's reason for this sudden departure? MARITAL INDISCRETIONS...

Damn, I restrict liaison Amid intolerant crisis
Monica is strident liar Starr in action? I'd smile
Doctrinaire sans limit Insist: 'Real dirt, Monica!'
Cardinal sin? I'm so trite DNA is similar. Contrite?
America lost in dirt, sin Liaison? Indict me, Starr!

So Bob's out and we get Dennis Hastert. SPEAKER DENNIS HASTERT shows real promise, anagrammatically speaking, in several areas...

She'd stake errant penis Senate: 'Repent hard kiss'
Sane spin: head 'Star Trek' Seek sharp DNA interest
Hark! Senate's president! Shake a stern president
The risk: Senate panders I spark, harness detente
He'd resist Senate prank Hark! See persistent DNA!

SPEAKER DENNIS HASTERT relates well to that infamous blue dress...

Ah, peek at intern's dress He kept intern, as a dress
Hesitant: 'Keep dress? RNA?'
Intern keeps dress, a hat...
Keen partisan: 'The dress!'
Stain ran? Keep the dress

He kept intern, as a dress
Shake a pertinent dress
Santa kept dress in here
The intern? A dress? Speak!
Aha, intern kept dresses

And SPEAKER DENNIS HASTERT also relates to Ken Starr...

Kenneth's a dress-pirate
Ken Starr stained sheep
Heed inept ass Ken Starr
Ken Starr: 'Dispense hate'
Ken trashes a president

This dense ape, Ken Starr
Ken Starr: haste in speed
See Ken Starr death-spin
Steep in Hades, Ken Starr!
He'd eat Ken Starr's penis