THE GRINNING COW AND HIS SUCCESSORS

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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
Grew stern; I'm itching
Night-time screw, grin
I mightn't screw reign
Right-wing men, etc., sir

I mightn't resign, crew
Entice Mrs. Right-wing
Swing me right, cretin
Switch regiment, grin
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
Itch grown grim, intense
Right-wing cretin, son? Me!
Nice right-wing monster
Cretin won; might resign

Crime ring tightens now
Intern crimes: wig, thong
I'm right-wing Net censor
Got him screwing intern
Recent insight: I'm wrong!

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

Eschew X-rating; keep grin
E.g.: expect win? Hark! Resign!
We grin, expect shrinkage
Grin: 'Keen, wet, graphic sex'
Crash. Expire. Get new king

Experts nigh in wreckage
Cheer GNP. Exit, grin askew
Think 'Expense'; cigar grew
Graphic: 'Resign next week'
Sex? Cigar? GNP knew either

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

Growing incoherently
We're clinging to 'horny'
Why linger on to cringe?
Grey relic; now nothing
Yon right-winger clone

Hey, intern! Wrong logic!
Cry 'thong lingerie' now!
I crow on lengthy reign
New Right: nice, no glory
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?'  Shake a pertinent dress
Intern keeps dress, a hat...  Santa kept dress in here
Keen partisan: 'The dress!'  The intern? A dress? Speak!
Stain ran? Keep the dress  Aha, intern kept dresses

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

Kenneth's a dress-pirate  This dense ape, Ken Starr
Ken Starr stained sheep  Ken Starr: haste in speed
Heed inept ass Ken Starr  See Ken Starr death-spin
Ken Starr: 'Dispense hate' Steep in Hades, Ken Starr!
Ken trashes a president  He'd eat Ken Starr's penis