

House Resolution

No. 33

Introduced by Assembly Member Cardoza

January 17, 2002

House Resolution No. 33—Relative to Robert M. Hertzberg.

1 WHEREAS, Robert M. Hertzberg was chosen as Speaker of the
2 Assembly in January of 2000; and

3 WHEREAS, Speaker Hertzberg led the charge as California
4 made record investments to improve public schools, building
5 affordable housing, relieving traffic congestion and utilizing the
6 state’s community colleges as the classrooms for the New
7 Economy; and

8 WHEREAS, Speaker Hertzberg led the legislative response to
9 California’s energy crisis, promoting policies to keep the lights on
10 and control spiraling electricity prices; and

11 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of September 11th, Speaker
12 Hertzberg moved quickly to establish a statewide task force to
13 assess the impact of terrorism on California’s economy and to
14 recommend steps to improve public safety and restore public
15 confidence; and

16 WHEREAS, Speaker Hertzberg has championed efforts to tap
17 California’s unlimited potential by expanding opportunity for all
18 and, under his leadership, the Legislature enacted long-needed
19 reforms to the state’s foster care system, significantly expanded
20 access to low-cost health insurance for working families, and
21 adopted a historic expansion of Cal Grants to allow virtually every
22 needy high-school graduate to pursue a college education; and

1 WHEREAS, His personal legislative achievements include
2 passage of landmark measures to protect the rights of farm
3 workers, successful negotiations to rebuild Los Angeles County’s
4 largest public hospital and, after several years of work, passage of
5 the Woman’s Contraception Equity Act, which requires health
6 plans to provide coverage for birth control; and

7 WHEREAS, Speaker Hertzberg has worked to restore the
8 Legislature’s historic watchdog role over government operations,
9 establishing the Speaker’s Office of Oversight, which was widely
10 recognized for playing a key role in the series of hearings that led
11 to the resignation of the Insurance Commissioner; and

12 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Daily News noted that Speaker
13 Hertzberg “is emerging as one of the state’s brightest hopes for a
14 new generation of politicians.” The Civic Center News Source
15 termed Speaker Hertzberg “a major force to be reckoned with in
16 the state;” and

17 WHEREAS, Making government more responsive to the public
18 has been at the core of several measures authored by Speaker
19 Hertzberg, and accordingly, three times he has led successful
20 efforts to revise state law to give residents a greater voice in the
21 governance of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley, and his
22 legislation to reform the local government boundary formation
23 process gave communities new tools to rein in urban sprawl; and

24 WHEREAS, Providing police and prosecutors with the latest
25 techniques available has also been a hallmark of Speaker
26 Hertzberg’s efforts, including the creation of a statewide witness
27 protection program and the creation of a pilot program “311”
28 system to clear jammed police phone lines for true emergency
29 calls, and the development of a \$100 million state-of-the-art crime
30 lab in Los Angeles County; and

31 WHEREAS, Speaker Hertzberg is a member of the University
32 of California’s Board of Regents and serves as a trustee to the
33 California State University system; and

34 WHEREAS, Prior to his election as Speaker, Assembly
35 Member Hertzberg served as chairman of the Assembly Rules
36 Committee and, along with overseeing all day-to-day functions of
37 the house and presiding over the panel that reviews all legislation,
38 he also worked to modernize the Assembly by establishing
39 extensive new training courses for new members and legislative



1 staff, opening an on-site childcare center, and upgrading
2 technology throughout the Assembly; and

3 WHEREAS, First elected to the Assembly in 1996, Assembly
4 Member Hertzberg assumed a leading role in the Assembly from
5 the start of his tenure and was the first freshman ever named to
6 chair the Committee on Public Safety, which is responsible for
7 considering more than 500 bills each session relating to crime and
8 law enforcement; and

9 WHEREAS, Prior to his election, he served on the Los Angeles
10 County Quality and Productivity Commission, spearheading
11 efforts to increase government efficiency, and his other
12 contributions to government include serving as chair of the
13 California Advisory Commission on Youth (1978–79) and as a
14 member of the California State Board of Pharmacy (1984–88), and
15 serving on the board of directors of a variety of community
16 organizations, including CORO Associates, the Chinatown
17 Service Center and Mulholland Tomorrow, and from 1991–95, he
18 was chair of the Dean’s Council of Hebrew Union College and was
19 also vice president of the American Jewish Committee; and

20 WHEREAS, Speaker Hertzberg worked as a business and real
21 estate attorney after years of practicing as a constitutional lawyer,
22 and his legal accomplishments include briefing cases before the
23 U.S. Supreme Court and co-authoring a book on real estate law,
24 and he has also been involved in a number of business activities,
25 including residential and commercial development, mortgage
26 brokerage, light manufacturing and international trade; and

27 WHEREAS, A product of the K-12 public school system,
28 Speaker Hertzberg graduated Magna Cum Laude from the
29 University of Redlands in 1976, and from the University of
30 California, Hastings College of Law in 1979; and

31 WHEREAS, A resident of Sherman Oaks, Speaker Hertzberg
32 is married to Dr. Cynthia Telles-Hertzberg, a faculty member of
33 the UCLA School of Medicine, and together, they have three sons:
34 Daniel, David and Raymond; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
36 Assembly hereby thanks, congratulates, and extends its best
37 wishes to Robert M. Hertzberg on the close of his term as Speaker
38 of the Assembly; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Capitol Institute be renamed “The Robert M.
40 Hertzberg CAPITOL Institute;” and be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit
2 a copy of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.
3
4

O

