

INFORMATION KIT



Congressman
DOC
Hastings

Twenty Years of Turmoil

C. MARK SMITH

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **Congressman Doc Hastings
*Twenty Years of Turmoil***

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Publication Date: April, 2018
Price: \$32.95
Marketing Plan: Personal Appearances, Internet, Social Networking, Historical Societies, Libraries, Educational Institutions
Marketing Contact: Lara Hastings, dochastingsbook@gmail.com
Audience/Markets: History, Politics, Government, Congress, Washington, D.C., Washington State, Central Washington, Yakima, Tri-Cities
Binding: 6 x 9 Full Color Adhesive Hard Cover
Features: Appendices, Photographs, Endnotes, Bibliography, Index
ISBN: 978-1-945271-78-6
LCCN: 2017912638
Pages: 544
Publisher: Book Publishers Network, sheryn@bookpublishersnetwork.com
Distributor: EDK Distribution, edkbooksanddistribution@gmail.com
Wholesalers: Baker & Taylor, American West, Readerlink, Quality Books
Website: www.cms-author.com, www.dochastingsbook.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CMS-Author-218591854970150
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SYNOPSIS

Creating the Great Divide

Congressman Doc Hastings: Twenty Years of Turmoil traces the causes and growth of our nation's political divide during the twenty years that Richard "Doc" Hastings represented his Eastern Washington district in Congress. A trusted ally of Republican House Speakers, Doc was rarely in the public spotlight yet helped create the nuclear cleanup caucus, insured funding for the Hanford Site, protected Northwest dams, backed water storage solutions, and championed the development of public lands. Voters elected him nine times by an average margin of 63 percent.

During his tenure, Doc was a witness and active participant in the nation's most controversial events, including the 1994 "Contract with America," Clinton impeachment, 9/11, multiple wars, massive increases in the national debt, the Great Recession, multiple budget battles, Obamacare, and the 2013 fiscal cliff. A party loyalist, Doc and his fellow Republicans engaged the Democrats in battles that rarely led to compromise on key legislation. Frustrated, voters changed the political composition of Congress three times. Yet, after each wave election, the new majority continued to push through its agenda – because it could—and the cycle continues.

Thoroughly researched and based on hundreds of interviews, Congressman Doc Hastings: Twenty Years of Turmoil combines biography, history, and commentary to demonstrate how the past influences our political future.

EXCERPT

...At the Speaker's rostrum Gephardt and Gingrich stood side by side. Grasping the gavel, Gephardt spoke:

Then it was Tuesday, January 3, 1995, the day of the swearing-in of the 104th Congress. After a reception at the Capitol, the Clerk of the previous Congress called the House to order and asked all members in attendance to acknowledge their presence by inserting their voting cards into the electronic voting machines located throughout the chamber.

After a quorum had been established, the two party conference chairmen nominated their candidates for Speaker of the House. John Boehner of Ohio nominated Newt Gingrich of Georgia. Vic Fazio of California nominated Richard Gephardt of Missouri, the majority leader in the former Congress and now the highest-ranking Democrat after the defeat of the previous Speaker, Tom Foley, for House minority leader. After the nominations were closed, it was time to vote. The Clerk called the Roll of the House members in alphabetical order.

Ms. Harmon. The California Democrat responded, "Mr. Gephardt." Mr. Hastert. The future Republican Speaker from Illinois declared, "Mr. Gingrich." Mr. Hastings of Florida. "Mr. Gephardt." Mr. Hastings of Washington. "Mr. Gingrich."

As a result of the Republican landslide, the result of the vote was a foregone conclusion. Newt Gingrich was the newly-elected Speaker of the House. The senior member of the Congress, John Dingell of Michigan rose from his accustomed seat in the second row and went to the well to swear in the new Speaker.

At the Speaker's rostrum Gephardt and Gingrich stood side by side. Grasping the gavel, Gephardt spoke:

PUBLISHER

P.O. Box 2256, Bothell, WA 98041

(425) 483-3040

www.bookpublishersnetwork.com

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... So with partnership but with purpose, I pass this great gavel of our government, with resignation but resolve, I hereby end forty years of Democratic rule of this House.

Gingrich then asked the newly elected members to stand, raise their right hand, and affirm the Oath of Office, which he read aloud.

I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

Richard "Doc" Hastings, the newly elected representative to Congress from Washington's Fourth Congressional District, responded, "I do."

As he took in the magnificent scene around him, he looked up at the Speaker's rostrum and set a personal goal. Someday he would sit there and preside over the Congress as Speaker Pro Tempore, just as he had done when he had served in the Washington State Legislature. As he observed the other members around him and to their friends and families in the packed gallery, he thought, "There are 265 million people in the United States, and only 435 of them are elected to serve in Congress at any one time. I'm one of them. Not too bad for a kid from Pasco."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

C. Mark Smith Bio



A native of Tacoma, Washington, C. Mark Smith spent forty years managing economic development organizations at the local, state, and federal level. He is a Fellow Member and Honorary Life Member of the International Economic Development Council and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Washington Governor Gary Locke in 2004.

Smith's other interests revolve around history, politics, and community service. A self-proclaimed "political junkie," he is an avid observer of the national political scene.

In 2011 he published his first book, *Raising Cain*, a biography of former Washington Senator Harry P. Cain. His second book, *Community Godfather: How Sam Volpentest shaped the history of Hanford and the Tri-Cities*, was published in 2013. *In The Wake of Lewis and Clark*, was published in 2015 by the American Queen Steamship Company.

Smith is a 1961 graduate of the University of Puget Sound with degrees in history and political science. He is a former member of the UPS Board of Trustees in the mid-1980s, and was awarded the UPS Alumni Association's Lifetime Professional Achievement Award in 2012.

He and his wife, Elsa, live in Richland, Washington.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT

Congressman Doc Hastings

“ I think Doc stayed around as long as he did because the people at home felt like he was there for the right reasons. He wasn't there for Doc. This wasn't about making him look good; this was about trying to change the government in a way he and they thought it needed to be changed. All of that is laid out in Mark Smith's excellent narrative. It's a first-class biography. ”

Lindsey Graham

Member of Congress (R-SC) (1995-2003)
US Senator (R-SC) (2003 to present)

“ Mark Smith's book about Doc Hastings provides an in-depth look at Congress during the exciting but difficult years between 1995 and 2015...although he rarely sought the spotlight, his colleagues considered him a true legislator who thought government should be the servant of the people, and not its master, and who could be counted on to carry out difficult assignments when asked. ”

John Boehner

Member of Congress (R-OH) (1991-2015)
Speaker of the House of Representatives (2011 to 2015)

“ Mark Smith's compelling, insightful biography of Doc Hastings introduces a statewide audience to an underrated Eastern Washington conservative with a conscience. ”

John C. Hughes

Legacy Washington Historian

“ *Mark Smith has already written excellent biographies of former Tacoma mayor and U.S. Senator Harry Cain and Tri-Cities community icon Sam Volpentest. Now he has written a very readable and interesting biography of former 4th District congressman Doc Hastings and the times in which he served.*

Doc and I served together for much of our congressional careers, and while we often disagreed on policy matters, we worked closely together on Hanford and other important statewide issues. We often saw the political turmoil Smith describes from different viewpoints but his description of it holds true. ”

Norm Dicks

Member of Congress (D-WA) (1977-2013)

“ *Mark Smith's new book about Doc Hastings is a welcome addition on two counts.*

First, it recognizes the often unappreciated contributions of Doc Hastings, one of our state's longest-serving congressmen, to his district, his state, his Party, and to his country. Doc and I were close when we served together in Congress. His personal values and his solid, conservative principles drove his politics and he never wavered from either.

Smith's book also describes the divisive political events that occurred during Doc's twenty years in Congress. Republican activists entered from stage right. They became the establishment, overreached, struggled to recover, and then were threatened again from the right because they were no longer conservative enough for the next group of activists. The Democratic Party was the mirror image of the process, only from the left.

Smith is a fine storyteller and his book is a valuable primer on how we came to be where we are. ”

Slade Gorton

U.S. Senator (R-WA) (1981-1987)
(1989 to 2001)