NOT VOTING—41

Aspin	Feighan	Olin
AuCoin	Frank (MA)	Ortiz
Bustamante	Hastert	Owens (UT)
Campbell (CO)	Hochbrueckner	Porter
Coleman (TX)	Jefferson	Sabo
Cunningham	Lancaster	Scheuer
Dannemeyer	Lantos	Schiff
de la Garza	Lent	Swett
Dellums	Levine (CA)	Tauzin
Donnelly	McCurdy	Torricelli
Dooley	McDade	Wise
Dymally	Miller (WA)	Wolf
Edwards (OK)	Mrazek	Young (AK)
English	Oakar	

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said amendment was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

¶4.28 SENATE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

Bills and a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 36. An Act entitled the ''New York City Zebra Mussel Monitoring Act of 1991''; jointly, to the Committees on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and Public Works and Transportation.

S. 2131. An Act to repeal section 618 of the Resolution Trust Corporation, Refinancing, Restructuring and Improvement Act of 1991; to the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs.

S. Con. Res. 43. Concurrent resolution concerning the emancipation of the Baha'i community of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

¶4.29 RECESS—5:31 P.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. DERRICK, pursuant to the special order heretofore agreed to, declared the House in recess at 5 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

¶4.30 AFTER RECESS—8:39 P.M.

The SPEAKER called the House to order.

¶4.31 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK—MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 28, 1992.

Hon. THOMAS S. FOLEY,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received at 6:42 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 1992, the following message from the Secretary of the Senate: That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 267 without amendment.

With great respect, I am
Sincerely yours,
DONNALD K. ANDERSON,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

¶4.32 JOINT SESSION TO RECEIVE THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

The Doorkeeper announced the Vice President and Members of the Senate, who entered the Hall of the House and took seats assigned them, the Vice President taking the Chair to the right of the Speaker.

Whereupon, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 267, the SPEAKER called the joint session of the two Houses to order.

The SPEAKER announced the appointment of Messrs. GEPHARDT, BONIOR, HOYER, FAZIO, BROOKS, MICHEL, GINGRICH, LEWIS of California, EDWARDS of Oklahoma, and ARCHER as members of the Committee on the part of the House to escort the President into the Hall of the House.

The Vice President announced the appointment of Messrs. MITCHELL, FORD, PRYOR, DIXON, ROBB, FOWLER, DASCHLE, DOLE, SIMPSON, COCHRAN, NICKLES, KASTAN, GRAMM and THURMOND as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President into the Hall of the House.

The Doorkeeper announced the ambassadors, ministers, and charges d'affaires of foreign governments, who entered the Hall of the House and took seats assigned them.

The Doorkeeper announced the Chief Justice of the United States and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, who entered the Hall of the House and took seats assigned to them.

The Doorkeeper announced the Members of the President's Cabinet, who entered the Hall of the House and took seats assigned to them.

The President of the United States at 9 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m., escorted by the committees of the two Houses, entered the Hall of the House and, at the Clerk's desk, delivered the following message:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, distinguished Members of Congress, honored guests, and fellow citizens: Thank you very much for that warm reception. You know, with the big buildup this address has had, I wanted to make sure it would be a big hit, but I couldn't convince Barbara to deliver it for me.

I see the Speaker and the Vice President are laughing. They saw what I did in Japan and they are just happy they are sitting behind me.

I mean to speak tonight of big things; of big changes and the promises they hold, and of some big problems and how together we can solve them and move our country forward as the undisputed leader of the age.

We gather tonight at a dramatic and deeply promising time in our history, and in the history of man on earth.

For in the past twelve months the world has known changes of almost biblical proportions. And even now, months after the failed coup that doomed a failed system, I am not sure we have absorbed the full impact, the full import of what happened. But communism died this year.

Even as President, with the most fascinating possible vantage point, there were times when I was so busy managing progress and helping to lead change, that I didn't always show the joy that was in my heart.

But the biggest thing that has happened in the world in my life—in our lives—is this: By the grace of God, America won the Cold War.

I mean to speak this evening of the changes that can take place in our country now that we can stop making the sacrifices we had to make when we had an avowed enemy that was a Superpower. Now we can look homeward even more, and move to set right what needs to be set right.

I will speak of those things. But let me tell you something I've been thinking these past few months. It's a kind of rollcall of honor. For the Cold War didn't ''end''—it was won.

And I think of those who won it, in places like Korea, and Vietnam. And some of them didn't come back. Back then they were heroes, but this year they were: victors.

The long rollcall—all the G.I. Joes and Janes, all the ones who fought faithfully for freedom, who hit the ground and sucked the dust and knew their share of horror.

This may seem frivolous—I don't mean it so—but it's moving to me how the world saw them.

The world saw not only their special valor but their special style—their rambunctious, optimistic bravery, their do-or-die unity unhampered by class or race or region. What a group we've put forth, for generations now—from the ones who wrote ''Kilroy was Here'' on the walls of German stalags, to those who left signs in the Iraqi desert that said, ''I Saw Elvis.'' What a group of kids we've sent out into the world.

And there's another to be singled out—though it may seem inelegant. I mean a mass of people called The American Taxpayer. No one ever thinks to thank the people who pay a country's bills, or an alliance's bills. But for half a century now the American people have shouldered the burden, and paid taxes that were higher than they would have been to support a defense that was bigger than it would have been if imperial communism had never existed.

But it did.

It doesn't anymore.

And here is a fact I wouldn't mind the world acknowledging: The American taxpayer bore the brunt of the burden, and deserves a hunk of the glory.

And so, now, for the first time in 35 years, our strategic bombers stand down. No longer are they on 'round-the-clock alert. Tomorrow our children will go to school and study history and how plants grow. And they won't have, as my children did, air raid drills in which they crawl under their desks and cover their heads in case of nuclear war. My grandchildren don't have to do that, and won't have the bad dreams

children had once, in decades past. There are still threats. But the long, drawn out dread is over.

A year ago tonight I spoke to you at a moment of high peril. American forces has just unleashed Operation Desert Storm. And after forty days in the desert skies, and four days on the ground, the men and women of America's Armed Forces, and our allies, accomplished the goals that I declared, and that you endorsed: We liberated Kuwait.

Soon after, the Arab world and Israel sat down to talk seriously, and comprehensively, about peace—an historic first. And soon after that, at Christmas, the last American hostages came home. Our policies were vindicated.

Much good can come from the prudent use of power. And much good can come of this: A world once divided into two armed camps now recognizes one sole and pre-eminent power: the United States of America.

And they regard this with no dread. For the world trusts us with power—and the world is right. They trust us to be fair, and restrained, they trust us to be on the side of decency. They trust us to do what's right.

And I use those words advisedly. A few days after the war began I received a telegram from Joanne Speicher, the wife of the first pilot killed in the Gulf, Lt. Commander Scott Speicher. Even in her grief she wanted me to know that some day, when her children were old enough, she would tell them ''* * * that their father went away to war because it was the right thing to do.''

She said it all. It was the right thing to do.

And we did it together. There were honest differences right here, in this Chamber. But when the war began, you put partisanship aside, and supported our troops.

This is still a time for pride—but this is no time to boast. For problems face us, and we must stand together once again and solve them—and not let our country down.

Two years ago I began planning cuts in military spending that reflected the changes of the new era. But now, this year, with imperial communism gone, that process can be accelerated.

Tonight I can tell you of dramatic changes in our strategic nuclear force. These are actions we are taking on our own—because they are the right thing to do.

After completing 20 planes for which we have begun procurement, we will shut down further production of the B–2 bomber. We will cancel the small I.C.B.M. program. We will cease production of new warheads for our sea-based ballistic missiles. We will stop all new production of the Peacekeeper missile. And we will not purchase any more advanced cruise missiles.

This weekend I will meet at Camp David with Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation. I have informed President Yeltsin that if the Commonwealth—the former Soviet Union—will eliminate all land-based multiple warhead ballistic missiles, I will do the following:

We will eliminate all Peacekeeper missiles. We will reduce the number of warheads on Minuteman missiles to one, and reduce the number of warheads on our sea-based missiles by about one-third. And we will convert a substantial portion of our strategic bombers to primarily conventional use.

President Yeltsin's early response has been very positive, and I expect our talks at Camp David to be fruitful.

I want you to know that for half a century, American presidents have longed to make such decisions and say such words. But even in the midst of celebration, we must keep caution as a friend.

For the world is still a dangerous place. Only the dead have seen the end of conflict. And though yesterday's challenges are behind us, tomorrow's are being born.

The Secretary of Defense recommended these cuts after consultation with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And I make them with confidence. But do not misunderstand me:

The reductions I have approved will save us an additional 50 billion dollars over the next five years. By 1997 we will have cut defense by 30 percent since I took office. These cuts are deep, and you must know my resolve: This deep, and no deeper.

To do less would be insensible to progress—but to do more would be ignorant of history.

We must not go back to the days of ''the hollow army''. We cannot repeat the mistakes made twice in this century, when armistice was followed by recklessness, and defense was purged as if the world were permanently safe.

I remind you this evening that I have asked for your support in funding a program to protect our country from limited nuclear missile attack. We must have this protection because too many people in too many countries have access to nuclear arms, and I urge you again to pass the Strategic Defense Initiative, SDI.

There are those who say that now we can turn away from the world, that we have no special role, no special place.

But we are the United States of America, the leader of the west that has become the leader of the world, and as long as I am President I will continue to lead in support of freedom everywhere—not out of arrogance, not out of altruism, but for the safety and security of our children.

This is a fact: Strength in the pursuit of peace is no vice; isolationism in the pursuit of security is no virtue. Now to our troubles at home. They are not all economic, but the primary problem is our economy. There are some good signs: Inflation, that thief, is down; and interest rates are down. But unemployment is too high, some industries are in trouble, and growth is not what it should be.

Let me tell you right from the start and right from the heart: I know we're in hard times, but I know something else: This will not stand.

My friends in this Chamber: We can bring the same courage and sense of common purpose to the economy that we brought to Desert Storm. And we can defeat hard times together.

I believe you will help. One reason is that you're patriots, and you want the best for your country. And I believe that in your hearts you want to put partisanship aside and get the job done—because it's the right thing to do.

The power of America rests in a stirring but simple idea: That people will do great things if only you set them free.

Well, we're going to set the economy free, for if this age of miracles and wonders has taught us anything, it's that if we can change the world, we can change America.

We must encourage investment. We must make it easier for people to invest money and create new products, new industries, and new jobs. We must clear away the obstacles to growth—high taxes, high regulation, red tape, and yes, wasteful government spending.

None of this will happen with a snap of the fingers—but it will happen. And the test of a plan isn't whether it's called new or dazzling. The American people aren't impressed by gimmicks; they're smarter on this score than all of us in this room. The only test of a plan is: Is it sound and will it work?

We must have a short term plan to address our immediate needs, and heat up the economy.

And then we need a longer term plan to keep the combustion going, and to guarantee our place in the world economy.

There are certain things that a President can do without Congress—And I am going to do them.

I have this evening asked major cabinet departments and federal agencies to institute a 90-day moratorium on any new federal regulations that could hinder growth. In those 90 days major departments and agencies will carry out a top to bottom review of all regulations, old and new—to stop the ones that will hurt growth, and speed up those that will help growth.

Further, for the untold number of hard working, responsible American workers and businessmen and women, who've been forced to go without needed bank loans: The banking credit crunch must end. I won't neglect my responsibility for sound regulations that serve the public good, but regulatory overkill must be stopped.

And I have instructed our government regulators to stop it.

I have directed cabinet departments, and federal agencies, to speed up progrowth expenditures as quickly as possible. This should put an extra 10 billion dollars into the economy in the next 6 months. And our new transportation bill provides more than 150 billion dollars for construction and maintenance projects that are vital to our growth and well being. That means jobs building roads, jobs building bridges, and jobs building railways.

I have this evening directed the Secretary of the Treasury to change the federal tax withholding tables. With this change, millions of Americans from whom the government withholds more than necessary can now choose to have the government withhold less from their paychecks. Something tells me a number of taxpayers may take us up on this one.

This initiative could return about 25 billion dollars back into our economy over the next 12 months—money people can use to help pay for clothing, college, or to get a new car.

Finally, working with the Federal Reserve, we will continue to support monetary policy that keeps both interest rates and inflation down.

Now, these are the things I can do. And now, members of Congress, let me tell you what you can do for your country. You must pass the other elements of my plan to meet our economic needs.

Everyone knows that investment spurs recovery.

I am proposing this evening a change in the alternative minimum tax, and the creation of a new 15 percent investment tax allowance. This will encourage businesses to accelerate investment and bring people back to work.

Real estate has led our economy out of almost all the tough times we've ever had. Once building starts, carpenters and plumbers work and people buy homes and take out mortgages.

My plan would modify the Passive Loss Rule for active real estate developers. And it would make it easier for pension plans to purchase real estate.

For those Americans who dream of buying a first home, but who can't quite afford it, my plan would allow first time home buyers to withdraw savings from I.R.A.'s without penalty—and provide a five thousand dollar tax credit for the first purchase of that home.

And finally, my immediate plan calls on Congress to give crucial help to people who own a home, to everyone who has a business, or a farm, or a single investment.

This time, at this hour, I cannot take No for an answer: You must cut the capital gains tax on the people of our country.

Never has an issue been more demagogued by its opponents. But the demagogues are wrong, they are wrong, and they know it.

Sixty percent of the people who benefit from lower capital gains have incomes under 50 thousand dollars. A cut in the capital gains tax increases jobs and helps just about everyone in our country.

And so I am asking you to cut the capital gains tax to a maximum of 15.4 percent.

And I'll tell you, those of you who say, ''Oh no, someone who's comfortable may benefit from that.'' You kind of remind me of the old definition of the Puritan, who couldn't sleep at night worrying that somehow someone somewhere was out having a good time.

The opponents of this measure—and those who've authored various so called soak-the-rich bills that are floating around this chamber—should be reminded of something: When they aim at the big guy they usually hit the little guy. And maybe it's time that stopped.

This then is my short term plan. Your part, members of Congress, requires enactment of these common sense proposals that will have a strong effect on the economy—without breaking the budget agreement and without raising tax rates.

While my plan is being passed and kicking in, we've got to care for those in trouble today. I have provided up to 4.4 billion dollars in my budget to extend federal unemployment benefits. I ask for Congressional action right away, and I thank the committees.

And let's be frank. Let me level with you.

I know, and you know, that my plan is unveiled in a political season. I know, and you know, that everything I propose will be viewed by some in merely partisan terms. But I ask you to know what is in my heart: My aim is to increase our nation's good. I am doing what I think is right; I am proposing what I know will help.

I pride myself that I am a prudent man. I believe that patience is a virtue, but I understand that politics is, for some, a game—and that sometimes the game is to stop all progress and then decry the lack of improvement.

But let me tell you: far more important than my political future—and far more important than yours—is the well being of our country. Members of this Chamber are practical people, and I know you won't resent some practical advice: When people put their party's fortunes—whatever the party, whatever side of the aisle—before the public good, they court defeat not only for their country, but for themselves. And they will certainly deserve it.

I submit my plan tomorrow. I am asking you to pass it by March 20th. And I ask the American people to let you know they want this action by March 20th.

From the day after that, if it must be: the battle is joined.

And you know, when principle is at stake I relish a good fair fight.

I said my plan has two parts, and it does. And it is the second part that is the heart of the matter. For it's not enough to get an immediate burst—we need long term improvement in our economic position.

We all know that the key to our economic future is to ensure that America continues as the economic leader of the world. We have that in our power.

Here, then, is my long term plan to guarantee our future.

First, trade: We will work to break down the walls that stop world trade. We will work to open markets everywhere.

In our major trade negotiations I will continue pushing to eliminate tariffs and subsidies that damage America's farmers and workers. And we'll get more good American jobs within our own hemisphere through the North American Free Trade Agreement, and through the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative.

But changes are here, and more are coming. The workplace of the future will demand more highly skilled workers than ever—more people who are computer literate, and highly educated.

We must be the world's leader in education. We must revolutionize America's schools.

My America 2000 strategy will help us reach that goal. My plan will give parents more choice, give teachers more flexibility, and help communities create New American Schools.

Thirty states across the nation have established America 2000 programs. Hundreds of cities and towns have joined in.

Now Congress must join this great movement: Pass my proposals for New American Schools.

That was my second long term proposal, and here is my third:

We must make common sense investments that will help us compete, long term, in the marketplace.

We must encourage research and development. My plan is to make the R and D tax credit permanent, and to provide record levels of support—over 76 billion dollars this year alone—for people who will explore the promise of emerging technologies.

Fourth, we must do something about crime, and drugs.

It is time for a major, renewed investment in fighting violent street crime. It saps our strength and hurts our faith in our society, and in our future together.

Surely a tired woman on her way to work at 6 in the morning on a subway deserves the right to get there safely. Surely it's true that everyone who changes his or her life because of crime—from those afraid to go out at night to those afraid to walk in the parks they pay for—surely these people have been denied a basic civil right.

It is time to restore it. Congress, pass my comprehensive crime bill. It is tough on criminals and supportive of police—and it has been languishing in these hallowed halls for years now.

Pass it. Help your country.

Fifth, I ask you tonight to fund our H.O.P.E. housing proposal—and to pass my Enterprise Zone legislation, which will get businesses into the inner city. We must empower the poor with the pride that comes from owning a home, getting a job, becoming a part of things.

My plan would encourage real estate construction by extending tax incentives for mortgage revenue bonds and low income housing.

And I ask tonight for record expenditures for the program that helps children born into want move into excellence: Head Start.

Step six—we must reform our health care system. For this too bears on

whether or not we can compete in the world.

American health costs have been exploding. This year America will spend over 800 billion dollars on health. And that's expected to grow to 1.6 trillion by the end of the decade. We simply cannot afford this.

The cost of health care shows up not only in your family budget, but in the price of everything we buy and everything we sell. When health coverage for a fellow on an assembly line costs thousands of dollars, the cost goes into the products he makes—and you pay the bill.

We must make a choice.

Now, some pretend we can have it both ways. They call it Play or Pay—but that expensive approach is unstable. It will mean higher taxes, fewer jobs and, eventually, a system under complete government control.

Really, there are only two options: We can move toward a nationalized system—which will restrict patient choice in picking a doctor and force the government to ration services arbitrarily. And what we'll get is patients in long lines, indifferent service, and a huge new tax burden.

Or we can reform our own private health care system—which still gives us, for all its flaws, the best quality health care in the world.

Well, let's build on our strengths.

My plan provides insurance security for all Americans—while preserving and increasing the idea of choice. We make basic health insurance affordable for all low income people not now covered. We do it by providing a health insurance tax credit of up to $3,750 for each low income family. The middle class gets help too. And, by reforming the health insurance market, my plan assures that Americans will have access to basic health insurance even if they change jobs or develop serious health problems.

We must bring costs under control, preserve quality, preserve choice, and reduce the people's nagging daily worry about health insurance. My plan, the details of which I will announce very shortly, does just that.

Seventh, we must get the federal deficit under control.

We now have in law enforceable spending caps, a requirement that we pay for the programs we create.

There are those in Congress who would ease that discipline now. But I cannot let them do it—and I won't.

My plan would freeze all domestic discretionary budget authority—which means ''No more next year than this year.'' I will not tamper with Social Security, but I would put real caps on the growth of uncontrolled spending. I would also freeze federal domestic government employment.

With the help of Congress, my plan will get rid of 246 programs that don't deserve federal funding. Some of them have noble titles, but none of them is indispensable. We can get rid of each and every one of them.

You know, it's time we rediscovered a ''home truth;'' the American people have never forgotten: This government is too big and spends too much.

I call upon Congress to adopt a measure that will help put an end to the annual ritual of filling the budget with pork-barrel appropriations. Every year, the press has a field day making fun of outrageous examples—a Lawrence Welk museum, a research grant for Belgian Endive.

We all know how these things get into the budget. Maybe you need someone to help you say No. I know how to say it. And I know what I need to make it stick. Give me the same thing 43 Governors have: The line item veto, and let me help you control the spending.

We must put an end to unfinanced federal government mandates. These are the requirements Congress puts on our cities, counties and states—without supplying the money. If Congress passes a mandate, it should be forced to pay for it, and to balance the cost with savings elsewhere. After all, a mandate just increases someone else's burden—and that means higher taxes at the state and local level.

Step Eight: Congress should enact the bold reform proposals that are still awaiting Congressional action—bank reform, civil justice reform, tort reform, and my national energy strategy.

Finally: We must strengthen the family—because it is the family that has the greatest bearing on our future. When Barbara holds an AIDS baby in her arms, and reads to children, she's saying to every person in this country ''Family matters.''

I am announcing tonight a new Commission on America's Urban Families.

I have asked Missouri's Governor John Ashcroft, to be Chairman, a former Dallas Mayor in Dallas, Annette Strauss, to be co-chair. You know, I had Mayors, leading Mayors from the League of Cities in the other day at the White House and they told me something striking. They said that every one of them, Republican or Democrat, agreed on one thing: That the major cause of the problems of the cities is the dissolution of the family.

They asked for this Commission, and they were right to ask, because it's time to determine what we can do to keep families together, strong and sound.

There's one thing we can do right away: ease the burden of rearing a child. I ask you tonight to raise the personal exemption by five hundred dollars per child for every family. For a family with four kids, that's an increase of two thousand dollars. This is a good start, in the right direction, and it's what we can afford.

It's time to allow families to deduct the interest they pay on student loans. I am asking you to do just that. And I'm asking you to allow people to use money from their I.R.A.'s to pay medical and education expenses—all without penalties.

And I'm asking for more. Ask American parents what they dislike about how things are going in our country, and chances are good that pretty soon they'll get to welfare.

Americans are the most generous people on earth. But we have to go back to the insight of Franklin Roosevelt who, when he spoke of what became the welfare program, warned that is must not become ''a narcotic'' and a ''subtle destroyer'' of the spirit.

Welfare was never meant to be a lifestyle; it was never meant to be a habit; it was never supposed to be passed from generation to generation like a legacy.

It's time to replace the assumptions of the welfare state, and help reform the welfare system.

States throughout the country are beginning to operate with new assumptions: That when able-bodied people receive government assistance, they have responsibilities to the taxpayer. A responsibility to seek work, education, or job training—a responsibility to get their lives in order—a responsibility to hold their families together and refrain from having children out of wedlock—and a responsibility to obey the law.

We are going to help this movement. Often, state reform requires waiving certain federal regulations. I will act to make that process easier and quicker for every state that asks our help.

And I want to add, as we make these changes and work together to improve the system, that our intention isn't scapegoating or finger pointing. If you read the papers or watch TV you know there's been a rise these days in a certain kind of ugliness, racist comments, anti-semitism, an increased sense of division.

Really, this is not us. This is not who we are. And this is not acceptable.

And so you have my plan for America. I am asking for big things—but I believe in my heart you will do what's right.

You know, it's kind of an American tradition to show a certain skepticism toward our democratic institutions. I myself have sometimes thought the aging process could be delayed if it had to make its way through Congress.

You will deliberate, and you will discuss, and that is fine.

But, my friends: the people cannot wait. They need help now.

There is a mood among us. People are worried, there has been talk of decline. Someone even said our workers are lazy and uninspired.

And I thought, really. Go tell Neil Armstrong standing on the moon. Tell the men and women who put him there. Tell the American farmer who feeds his country and the world. Tell the men and women of Desert Storm.

Moods come and go, but greatness endures.

Ours does.

And maybe for a moment it's good to remember what, in the dailyness of our lives, we forget:

We are still and ever the freest Nation on Earth—the kindest Nation on Earth—the strongest Nation on Earth—

And we have always risen to the occasion.

We are going to lift this nation out of hard times inch by inch and day by day, and those who would stop us had better step aside. Because I look at hard times and I make this vow: This will not stand.

And so we move on, together, a rising nation, the once and future miracle that is still, this night, the hope of the world.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless our beloved country

At 9 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m., the President of the United States retired from the Hall of the House, followed by his Cabinet.

The Chief Justice of the United States and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court retired from the Hall of the House.

The ambassadors, ministers and charges d'affaires of foreign governments retired from the Hall of the House.

The SPEAKER, at 10 o'clock p.m., then declared the joint session of the two Houses dissolved.

The Vice President and Members of the Senate retired from the Hall of the House.

¶4.33 REFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On motion of Mr. MCCURDY, the message of the President, as delivered, together with the accompanying documents, was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 102–126).

And then,

¶4.34 ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. MCCURDY, at 10 o'clock and 1 minute p.m., the House adjourned.

¶4.35 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. JONES of North Carolina: Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. House Concurrent Resolution 229. Resolution to insure that full restitution and reimbursement is made to the United States Coast Guard for its costs in the response to the oilspill in the Arabian Gulf; and to instruct the United Nations to earmark a percentage of the moneys collected for the United Nations Compensation Fund toward Arabian Gulf oilspill and Kuwaiti oil well spill cleanup and environmental restoration; with an amendment (Rept. No. 102–425, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CLAY: Committee on Post Office and Civil Services. H.R. 3209. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to ensure that the level of compensation for a Federal employee ordered to military duty during the Persian Gulf conflict is not less than the level of civilian pay last received; to allow Federal employees to make up any Thrift Savings contributions forgone during military service; to preserve the recertification rights of senior executives ordered to military duty; and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. No. 102–426). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

¶4.36 PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of rule X and clause 4 of rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

[Introduced January 3, 1992]

By Mr. CONDIT:

H.R. 4086. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the deduction for interest on indebtedness incurred to acquire a new American-made automobile; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 4087. A bill to authorize the adjustment of the boundaries of the South Dakota portion of the Sioux Ranger District of Custer National Forest, and for other purposes; jointly, to the Committees on Agriculture and Interior and Insular Affairs.

By Mr. MONTGOMERY:

H.R. 4088. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program with respect to concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 4089. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the provisions permitting tax-exempt treatment for certain qualified small issue bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TRAFICANT:

H.R. 4090. A bill to require that Government-held information pertaining to the assassination of John F. Kennedy be made available to the general public; jointly, to the Committees on Government Operations, House Administration, and the Judiciary.

H.R. 4091. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to provide protections to pensions and other employee benefits in bankruptcy cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4092. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a credit against income tax for State sales taxes and interest paid in connection with the purchase of a new American-made passenger vehicle; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MATSUI:

H.J. Res. 388. Joint resolution designating the month of May 1992 as ''National Foster Care Month''; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. DYMALLY, Mr. HORTON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. LENT, Mr. ANDREWS of Maine, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. JONTZ, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MINK, Mr. DE LUGO, Mr. SCHAEFER, Ms. HORN, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. KOSTMAYER):

H.J. Res. 389. Joint resolution to designate February 6, 1992, as ''National Women in Sports Day''; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

By Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. BROOMFIELD, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. GILMAN, and Mr. SWETT):

H. Con. Res. 264. Concurrent resolution to express the sense of the Congress that the president should recognize the independence of the Republic of Kosova and extend full United States diplomatic recognition; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PENNY:

H. Res. 323. Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should take steps to reduce worldwide military expenditures, to reduce international arms transfers, and to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction in order to promote peace and security and to ensure that more funds are available for social programs and economic development; jointly, to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TRAFICANT:

H. Res. 324. Resolution directing the Committee on the Judiciary to investigate the conduct of the Department of Justice in the case of John Demjanjuk, Sr.; to the Committee on Rules.

[Introduced January 22, 1992]

By Mr. BUNNING (for himself and Mr. EMERSON):

H.R. 4093. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to provide that a single Federal agency shall be responsible for making technical determinations with respect to wetland or converted wetland on agricultural lands; jointly, to the Committees on Agriculture and Public Works and Transportation.

By Mr. GILMAN:

H.R. 4094. A bill to establish a schedule of preventive health care services and to provide for coverage of such services in accordance with such schedule under the Medicare Program, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and the health programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; jointly, to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, and Post Office and Civil Service.

By Mr. ROSTENKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. DOWNEY, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. PICKLE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. STARK, Mr. FORD of Tennessee, Mr. GUARINI, Mr. RUSSO, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. DORGAN of North Dakota, Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. COYNE, Mr. ANDREWS of Texas, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. MOODY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. OBEY, Mr. MAZZOLI, Mr. STUDDS, Mr. AUCOIN, Mr. WISE and Mr. BORSKI):

H.R. 4095. A bill to increase the number of weeks for which benefits are payable under the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 1991, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DELLUMS:

H.R. 4096. A bill to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to increase the maximum amount in controversy permitted for cases under the jurisdiction of the Small Claims and Conciliation Branch of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and to authorize the Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia to conduct criminal prosecutions of certain juvenile defendants; to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

By Mr. GREEN of New York (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. MCGRATH):

H.R. 4097. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the treatment of cooperative housing corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 4098. A bill regarding the importation of Japanese motor vehicles into the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MARLENEE (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 4099. A bill to minimize the impact of Federal acquisition of private lands on units of local governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Operations.

By Mr. GEPHARDT (for himself, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. FORD of Michigan, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. TRAXLER, Mr. APPLEGATE, Mr. BEVILL, Mr. CARR, Mr. SMITH of Florida, Mr. HAYES of Louisiana, Mr. HERTEL, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. WOLPE, Mr. HAYES of Illinois, Mr. JONTZ, Mr. NOWAK, Ms. COLLINS of Michigan, Mr. OWENS of New