special working group, chaired by the Solicitor General, Kenneth W. Starr. The working group's recommendations, which were unanimously accepted by my Council on Competitiveness, are reflected in the bill. The legislation seeks to reduce wasteful and counterproductive litigation practices by encouraging voluntary dispute resolution, the improved use of litigation resources, and, where appropriate, modified, market-based fee arrangements. Additional reforms would permit the judicial system to operate more effectively.

The Access to Justice Act would accomplish reforms in significant areas of litigation:

—a prerequisite for Federal jurisdiction over certain types of lawsuits (the amount in controversy requirement) would be redefined to exclude vague, subjective claims;

—prevailing parties could be entitled to award of attorney's fees in certain lawsuits brought in Federal court;

—the Equal Access to Justice Act would be amended to clarify and limit litigation over the amount of attorney's fees;

—innovative ''multi-door courthouses'' would be established to encourage utilization of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms;

—award of reasonable attorney's fees in disputes involving the United States would be permitted in appropriate instances;

—prior notice would be required, subject to reasonable limits, as a prerequisite to bring suit in any United States District Court;

—flexible assignment of district court judges would be authorized;

—immunity of State judicial officers would be clarified and protected;

—the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act would be amended to encourage resolution of claims administratively; and

—improvements in case management in Federal courts would be effected.

I believe this proposed legislation would greatly reduce the burden of excessive, needless litigation while protecting and enhancing every American's ability to vindicate legal rights through our legal system. I recommend prompt and favorable consideration of the enclosed bill.

GEORGE BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 4, 1992.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 102–185).

¶8.18 FEDERAL FACILITIES COMPLIANCE

On motion of Mr. SWIFT, by unanimous consent, the bill (H.R. 2194) to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to clarify provisions concerning the application of certain requirements and sanctions to Federal facilities; together with the amendment of the Senate thereto, was taken from the Speaker's table.

When on motion of Mr. SWIFT, it was,

*Resolved,* That the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Thereupon, the SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MCDERMOTT, by unanimous consent, announced the appointment of the following Members as managers on the part of the House at said conference:

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of the House bill, and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. DINGELL, SWIFT, ECKART, SLATTERY, SIKORSKI, LENT, RITTER, and SCHAEFER.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of section 113 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. RAY, HOCHBRUECKNER, and SAXTON.

As additional conferees from the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of section 2(a) of the House bill, and section 103(a) of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BROOKS, FRANK, and GEKAS.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, for consideration of section 304(a) of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. JONES of North Carolina, STUDDS, and DAVIS.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, for consideration of sections 102, 109, and 115–19 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ROE, NOWAK, and HAMMERSCHMIDT.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, for consideration of title IV of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ROE, SAVAGE, Ms. NORTON, and Messrs. NOWAK, BORSKI, HAMMERSCHMIDT, SHUSTER, and INHOFE.

By unanimous consent, the Speaker reserved the authority to make additional appointments of conferees.

*Ordered,* That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

¶8.19 SENATE BILLS REFERRED

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

S. 1256. An Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and implement an information gathering system to permit the measurement, analysis, and reporting of welfare dependency rates; to the Committees on Ways and Means, Agriculture, and Education and Labor.

S. 1963. An Act to amend section 992 of title 28, United States Code, to provide a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission whose term has expired may continue to serve until a successor is appointed or until the expiration of the next session of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

¶8.20 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted—

To Mr. MCDADE, for today;

To Mr. CLEMENT, for today after 2:30 p.m.; and

To Mr. HUTTO, for today and the balance of the week.

And then,

¶8.21 ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mrs. BENTLEY, pursuant to the special order heretofore agreed to, at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m., the House adjourned until 1 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 1992.

¶8.22 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. DELLUMS: Committee on the District of Columbia. H.R. 3581. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act to eliminate congressional review of newly passed District laws, to provide the District of Columbia with autonomy over its budgets, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 102–429). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

¶8.23 REPORTED BILLS SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 5 of rule X, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

Mr. JONES of North Carolina: Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. H.R. 1558. A bill to amend the Panama Canal Act of 1979 to provide for a Chairman of the Board of the Panama Canal Commission, and for other purposes; with an amendment; referred to the Committee on Armed Services for a period ending not later than February 21, 1992, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule X (Rept. No. 102–428, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

¶8.24 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:

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 4148. A bill to designate the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

By Mr. BENNETT:

H.R. 4149. A bill to establish an employment program to make grants available to the States to provide employment to the unemployed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MICHEL (for himself, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. GINGRICH, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. EDWARDS of Oklahoma, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. WEBER) (by request):

H.R. 4150. A bill to create jobs, promote economic growth, assist families, and promote health, education, savings, and homeownership; jointly, to the Committees on Ways and Means; Agriculture; Armed Services; Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs; Education and Labor; Energy and Commerce; Foreign Affairs; Government Operations; House Administration; Interior and Insular