

¶12.9 RECESS—6:03 P.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MINGE, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, declared the House in recess at 6 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m., until approximately 8:45 p.m.

¶12.10 AFTER RECESS—8:43 P.M.

The SPEAKER called the House to order.

¶12.11 JOINT SESSION TO RECEIVE THE PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATION—"A NEW DIRECTION"

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 39, the SPEAKER called the joint session of the two Houses to order.

The SPEAKER announced the appointment of Messrs. GEPHARDT, BONIOR, HOYER, FAZIO, THORNTON, Ms. LAMBERT, Messrs. MICHEL, GINGRICH, ARMEY, HYDE, DICKEY, and HUTCHINSON 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. BYRD, MITCHELL, FORD, PRYOR, BREAU, Ms. MIKULSKI, Messrs. DASCHLE, GRAHAM, LEAHY, KRUEGER, DOLE, SIMPSON, COCHRAN, NICKLES, LOTT, 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 7 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. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House and the Senate, distinguished Americans here as visitors in this Chamber, as am I, when Presidents speak to Congress and the Nation from this podium, typically they comment on the full range of challenges and opportunities that face the United States. But this is not an ordinary time, and for all the many tasks that require our attention, I believe tonight that one calls on us to focus, to unite, and to act, and that is our economy. For more than anything else, our task tonight as Americans is to make our economy thrive again.

Let me begin by saying that it has been too long, at least three decades,

since a President has come and challenged Americans to join him on a great national journey, not merely to consume the bounty of today, but to invest for a much greater one tomorrow.

Like individuals, nations must ultimately decide how they wish to conduct themselves, how they wish to be thought of by those with whom they live, and, later, how they wish to be judged by history. Like every individual man and woman, nations must decide whether they are prepared to rise to the occasions history presents them.

We have always been a people of youthful energy and daring spirit. And at this historic moment, as communism has fallen, as freedom is spreading around the world, as a global economy is taking shape before our eyes, Americans have called for change. And now it is up to those of us in this room to deliver for them.

Our Nation needs a new direction. Tonight I present to you a comprehensive plan to set our Nation on that new course.

I believe we will find our new direction in the basic old values that brought us here over the last two centuries: a commitment to opportunity, to individual responsibility, to community, to work, to family, and to faith. We must now break the habits of both political parties and say there can be no more something for nothing, and admit, frankly, that we are all in this together.

The conditions which brought us as a Nation to this point are well known. Two decades of low productivity growth and stagnant wages; persistent unemployment and underemployment; years of huge government deficits and declining investment in our future; exploding health care costs and lack of coverage for millions of Americans; legions of poor children; education and job training opportunities inadequate to the demands of this tough global economy. For too long we have drifted without a strong sense of purpose, of responsibility, or of community. And our political system so often has seemed paralyzed by special interest groups, by partisan bickering, and by the sheer complexity of our problems.

I believe we can do better, because we remain the greatest nation of Earth, the world's strongest economy, the world's only military superpower. If we have the vision, the will, and the heart to make the changes we must, we can enter the 21st century with possibilities our parents could not even have imagined, and enter it having secured the American dream for ourselves and for future generations.

I well remember 12 years ago President Reagan stood at this very podium and told you and the American people that if our national debt were stacked in thousand-dollar bills, the stack would reach 67 miles into space. Well, today that stack would reach 267 miles.

I tell you this not to assign blame for this problem. There is plenty of blame to go around, in both branches of the

Government and both parties. The time has come for the blame to end. I did not seek this office to place blame. I come here tonight to accept responsibility, and I want you to accept responsibility with me. And if we do right by this country, I do not care who gets the credit for it.

The plan I offer you has four fundamental components:

First, it shifts our emphasis in public and private spending from consumption to investment, initially by jump-starting the economy in the short term and investing in our people, their jobs, and their incomes, over the long run.

Second, it changes the rhetoric of the past into the actions of the present, by honoring work and families in every part of our public decisionmaking.

Third, it substantially reduces the Federal deficit, honestly and credibly, by using in the beginning the most conservative estimates of government revenues, not as the executive branch has done so often in the past, using the most optimistic ones.

Finally, it seeks to earn the trust of the American people by paying for these plans first with cuts in government waste and inefficiency. Second, with cuts, not gimmicks, in Government spending, and by fairness, for a change, in the way the burdens are borne.

Tonight I want to talk with you about what government can do, because I believe government must do more. But let me say first that the real engine of economic growth in this country is the private sector. And, second, that each of us must be an engine of growth and change. The truth is that as government creates more opportunity in this new and different time, we must also demand more responsibility in return.

Our immediate priority must be to create jobs, create jobs now. Some people say, well, we are in a recovery. We don't have to do that. Well, we all hope we are in a recovery, but we sure are not creating new jobs. And there is no recovery worth its salt that doesn't put the American people back to work.

To create jobs and guarantee a strong recovery, I call on Congress to enact an immediate package of jobs investments of over \$30 billion to put people to work now, to create a half-million jobs; jobs to rebuild our highways and airports, to renovate housing, to bring new life to rural communities, and to spread hope and opportunity among our Nation's youth. Especially I want to emphasize after the events of last year in Los Angeles and the countless stories of despair in our cities and in our poor rural communities, this proposal will create almost 700,000 new summer jobs for displaced unemployed young people alone this summer. And tonight I invite America's business leaders to join us in this effort, so that together we can provide over 1 million summer jobs in cities and poor rural areas for our young people.

Second, our plan looks beyond today's business cycle, because our aspi-