Our economic agenda seeks both to promote growth and to bring the fruits of that growth within reach of all Americans. Our overall strategy is straightforward:

—*Balancing the budget.* In the 12 years before I took office, the budget deficit skyrocketed and the national debt quadrupled. My Administration has already cut the budget deficit nearly in half. I am determined to finish the job of putting our fiscal house in order. I have proposed a plan that balances the budget in 7 years, without violating our fundamental values—without undercutting Medicare, Medicaid, education, or the environment and without raising taxes on working families. The plans put forth by my Administration and by the Republicans in the Congress contain enough spending cuts in common to balance the budget and still provide a modest tax cut. I am committed to giving the American people a balanced budget.

—*Preparing workers through education and training.* In the new economy, education is the key to opportunity—and the education obtained as a child in school will no longer last a lifetime. My Administration has put in place the elements of a lifetime-learning system to enable Americans to attend schools with high standards; get help going to college, or from school into the workplace; and receive training and education throughout their careers. We expanded Head Start for preschoolers; enacted Goals 2000, establishing high standards for schools; created a new direct student loan program that makes it easier for young people to borrow and repay college loans; gave 50,000 young people the opportunity to earn college tuition through community service; and enacted the School-to-Work Opportunities Act. Now we must continue to give our people the skills they need, by enacting my proposals to make the first $10,000 of college tuition tax deductible; to give the top 5 percent of students in each high school a $1,000 merit scholarship; and to enact the GI Bill for Workers, which would replace the existing worker training system with a flexible voucher that workers could use at community colleges or other training facilities.

—*Increasing economic security.* We must give Americans the security they need to thrive in the new economy. We can do this through health insurance reforms that will give Americans a chance to buy insurance when they change jobs or when someone in their family is sick. We can do this by encouraging firms to provide more extensive pension coverage, as I have done through my proposals for pension simplification. In addition, we should make work pay by increasing the minimum wage and preserving the full Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which cuts taxes for hard-pressed working families to make sure that no parents who work full-time have to raise their children in poverty.

—*Creating high-wage jobs through technology and exports.* We must continue to encourage the growth of high-wage industries, which will create the high-wage jobs of the future. We have reformed the decades-old telecommunications laws, to help spur the digital revolution that will continue to transform the way we live. We must continue to encourage exports, since jobs supported by goods exports pay on average 13 percent more than other jobs. My Administration has concluded over 200 trade agreements, including the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, seeking an open world marketplace and fair rules for exporters of American goods and services. As a result, merchandise exports have increased by 31 percent.

—*A government that is smaller, works better, and costs less.* A new economy demands a new kind of government. The era of big, centralized, one-size-fits-all government is over. But the answer is not the wholesale dismantling of government. Rather, we must strive to meet our problems using flexible, nonbureaucratic means—and working with businesses, religious groups, civic organizations, schools, and State and local governments. My Administration has reduced the size of government: as a percentage of civilian nonfarm employment, the Federal workforce is the smallest it has been since 1933, before the New Deal. We have conducted a top-to-bottom overhaul of Federal regulations, and are eliminating 16,000 pages of outdated or burdensome rules altogether. We have reformed environmental, workplace safety, and pharmaceutical regulation to cut red tape without hurting public protection. And we will continue to find new, market-based ways to protect the public.

THE NEED TO CONTINUE WITH WHAT WORKS

As *The Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers* makes clear, this is a moment of great possibility for our country. Ours is the healthiest of any major economy. No nation on earth is better positioned to reap the rewards of the new era. Our strategy of deficit reduction and investment in our people has begun to work. It would be a grave error to turn back.

Our Nation must reject the temptation to shrink from its responsibilities or to turn to narrow, shortsighted solutions for long-term problems. If we continue to invest for the long term, we will pass on to the next generation a Nation in which opportunity is even more plentiful than it is today.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 14, 1996.*

The message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 104–161).

¶15.5 ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1718. An Act to designate the United States Courthouse located at 197 South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, as the ''Max Rosenn United States Courthouse.''

And then,

¶15.6 ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. MORELLA, by unanimous consent and pursuant to the special order agreed to on February 6, 1996, at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m., the House adjourned until 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 1996.

¶15.7 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. HERGER:

H.R. 2966. A bill to authorize law enforcement agencies to make arrangements for the compensation of officers in their canine units; to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

By Mr. HAYES:

H.J. Res. 160. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide that Federal judges be reconfirmed by the Senate every 6 years; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

¶15.8 ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 863: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2137: Mr. SOLOMON.

H.R. 2306: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GOSS, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. FRAZER, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. LEACH, and Mr. GUNDERSON.

H.R. 2697: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. SCHROEDER, and Mr. FARR.

H.J. Res. 10: Mr. BATEMAN.

H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1996 (16)

The House was called to order by the SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. MORELLA.

¶16.1 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. MORELLA, announced she had examined and approved the Journal of the proceedings of Friday, February 16, 1996.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal was approved.