problem of youth gangs. At the Federal level, we are leading the fight to stop drugs from entering the country and expand drug treatment efforts, and we are stepping up our efforts to secure the border against illegal immigration while we help to defray State costs for such immigration.

For many families, of course, the first challenge often is just to pay the bills. My budget proposes tax relief for middle-income Americans and small businesses. It provides an income tax credit for each dependent child under 13; a deduction for college tuition and fees; and expanded individual retirement accounts to help families save for future needs and more easily pay for college, buy a first home, pay the bills during times of unemployment, or pay medical or nursing home costs. For small business, it offers more tax benefits to invest, provides estate tax relief, and makes it easier to set up pensions for employees. It also would expand the tax deduction to make health insurance for the self-employed more affordable.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK

As we pursue these priorities, we will do so with a Government that is leaner, but not meaner, one that works efficiently, manages resources wisely, focuses on results rather than merely spending money, and provides better service to the American people. Through the National Performance Review, led by Vice President GORE, we are making real progress in creating a Government that ''works better and costs less.''

We have cut the size of the Federal workforce by over 200,000 people, creating the smallest Federal workforce in 30 years, and the smallest as a share of the total workforce since before the New Deal. We are ahead of schedule to cut the workforce by 272,900 positions, as required by the 1994 Federal Workforce Restructuring Act that I signed into law.

Just as important, the Government is working better. Agencies such as the Social Security Administration, the Customs Service, and the Veterans Affairs Department are providing much better service to their customers. Across the Government, agencies are using information technology to deliver services more efficiently to more people.

We are continuing to reduce the burden of Federal regulation, ensuring that our rules serve a purpose and do not unduly burden businesses or taxpayers. We are eliminating 16,000 pages of regulations across Government, and agencies are improving their rulemaking processes.

In addition, we continue to overhaul Federal procurement so that the Government can buy better products at cheaper prices from the private sector. No longer does the Government pay outrageous prices for hammers, ashtrays, and other small items that it can buy cheaper at local stores.

As we look ahead, we plan to work more closely with States and localities, with businesses and individuals, and with Federal workers to focus our efforts on improving services for the American people. Under the Vice President's leadership, agencies are setting higher and higher standards for delivering faster and better service.

CONCLUSION

Our agenda is working. We have significantly reduced the deficit, strengthened the economy, invested in our future, and cut the size of Government while making it work better for the American people.

Now, we have an opportunity to build on our success by balancing the budget the right way. It is an opportunity we should not miss.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

March 1996.

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 104–162).

¶30.10 COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT

On motion of Mr. SMITH of Texas, by unanimous consent, the following committees and their subcommittees were granted permission to sit today during the 5-minute rule: the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on National Security, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Science, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

¶30.11 LEGAL EXPENSES OF TRAVEL OFFICE EMPLOYEES

Mr. SMITH of Texas moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2937) for the reimbursement of legal expenses and related fees incurred by former employees of the White House Travel Office with respect to the termination of their employment in that Office on May 19, 1993; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, recognized Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SCHIFF demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶30.12 VERMONT-NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Mr. GEKAS moved to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 129) granting the consent of Congress to the Vermont-New Hampshire Interstate Public Water Supply Compact.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, recognized Mr. GEKAS and Mr. REED, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said joint resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said joint resolution was passed.

On motion of Mr. GEKAS, by unanimous consent, the Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution of the Senate (S.J. Res. 38) granting the consent of Congress to the Vermont-New Hampshire Interstate Public Water Supply Compact.

When said joint resolution was considered and read twice, ordered to be read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said joint resolution was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

By unanimous consent, H.J. Res. 129, a similar House joint resolution, was laid on the table.

¶30.13 DEFENSE OF TAIWAN

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 148); as amended:

Whereas the United States began its long, peaceful, and friendly relationship with the Republic of China on Taiwan in 1949;

Whereas since the enactment in 1979 of the Taiwan Relations Act, the policy of the United States has been based on the expectation that the future relationship between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means and by mutual agreement between the parties;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's intense efforts to intimidate Taiwan have reached a level that threatens to undermine stability throughout the region;

Whereas, since the beginning of 1996, the leaders of the People's Republic of China have frequently threatened to use military force against Taiwan;

Whereas for the past year the People's Republic of China has conducted military maneuvers designed to intimidate Taiwan both during its democratic legislative elections in 1995 and during the period preceding democratic presidential elections in March 1996;

Whereas these military maneuvers and tests have included the firing of 6 nuclear-capable missiles approximately 100 miles north of Taiwan in July 1995;

Whereas the firing of missiles near Taiwan and the interruption of international shipping and aviation lanes threaten both Taiwan and the political, military, and commer-