TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1996 (30)

The House was called to order by the SPEAKER at 12:30 p.m.

¶30.1 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

¶30.2 ''MORNING HOUR'' DEBATES

The SPEAKER, pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, May 12, 1995, recognized Members for ''morning hour'' debates.

¶30.3 RECESS—1:21 P.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. NETHERCUTT, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, declared the House in recess until 2 o'clock p.m.

¶30.4 AFTER RECESS—2:00 P.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, called the House to order.

¶30.5 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, announced he had examined and approved the Journal of the proceedings of Monday, March 18, 1996.

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

¶30.6 COMMUNICATIONS

Executive and other communications, pursuant to clause 2, rule XXIV, were referred as follows:

2258. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting the quarterly reports in accordance with sections 36(a) and 26(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, the March 24, 1979 report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the seventh report by the Committee on Government Operations for the first quarter of fiscal year 1996, October 1, 1995—December 31, 1995, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

2259. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(e); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2260. A letter from the Director of Communications, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(e); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2261. A letter from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2262. A letter from the Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2263. A letter from the Acting Chairman, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2264. A letter from the President, National Park Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's annual report for fiscal year 1995, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 19n and 19dd(f); to the Committee on Resources.

2265. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's report entitled ''Southeast Alaska Public Lands Information Center, Hydaburg Branch'' report to Congress, April 1995, pursuant to Public Law 99–664, section 11(f) (100 Stat. 4309); to the Committee on Resources.

2266. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 1994 annual report on the activities and operations of the Department's Public Integrity Section, Criminal Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 529; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

¶30.7 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, laid before the House a communication, which was read as follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, March 19, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
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, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Monday, March 18th at 2:55 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits the text of a proposed agreement between the U.S. Government and the Government of the Argentine Republic Regarding the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

¶30.8 U.S.-ARGENTINA NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT

The Clerk then read the message from the President, as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Argentine Republic Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy with accompanying annex and agreed minute. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the agreement, and the memorandum of the Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency with the Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement concerning the agreement. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, which includes a summary of the provisions of the agreement and various other attachments, including agency views, is also enclosed.

The proposed agreement with the Argentine Republic has been negotiated in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 (NNPA) and as otherwise amended. In my judgment, the proposed agreement meets all statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States. The agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and Argentina under appropriate conditions and controls reflecting a strong common commitment to nuclear non-proliferation goals.

The proposed new agreement will replace an existing U.S.-Argentina agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation that entered into force on July 25, 1969, and by its terms would expire on July 25, 1999. The United States suspended cooperation with Argentina under the 1969 agreement in the late 1970's because Argentina did not satisfy a provision of section 128 of the Atomic Energy Act (added by the NNPA) that required full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards in nonnuclear weapon states such as Argentina as a condition for continued significant U.S. nuclear exports.

On December 13, 1991, Argentina, together with Brazil, the Argentine-Brazilian Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) and the IAEA signed a quadrilateral agreement calling for the application of full-scope IAEA safeguards in Argentina and Brazil. This safeguards agreement was brought into force in March 1994. Resumption of cooperation would be possible under the 1969 U.S.-Argentina agreement for cooperation. However, both the United States and Argentina believe it is preferable to launch a new era of cooperation with a new agreement that reflects, among other things:

—An updating of terms and conditions to take account of intervening changes in the respective domestic legal and regulatory frameworks of the parties in the area of peaceful nuclear cooperation;

—Reciprocity in the application of the terms and conditions of cooperation between the parties; and

—Additional international non-proliferation commitments entered into by the parties since 1969.

Over the past several years Argentina has made a definitive break with earlier ambivalent nuclear policies and has embraced wholeheartedly a series of important steps demonstrating its firm commitment to the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In addition to its full-scope safeguards agreement with the IAEA, Argentina has made the following major non-proliferation commitments:

—It brought the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) into force for itself on January 18, 1994;

—It became a full member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group in April 1994; and

—It acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on February 10, 1995.

Once Argentina's commitment to full-scope IAEA safeguards was clear, and in anticipation of the additional steps subsequently taken by Argentina to adopt responsible policies on nuclear non-proliferation, the United States entered into negotiations with Argentina on a new agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation and reached ad referendum agreement on a text on September 3, 1992. Further steps to conclude the agreement were interrupted, however, by delays (not all of them attributable to Argentina) in bringing the full-scope IAEA safeguards agreement into force, and by steps, recently completed, to resolve issues relating to Argentina's eligibility under section 129 of the U.S. Atomic Energy Act to receive U.S. nuclear exports. As the agreement text initialed with Argentina in 1992 continues to satisfy current U.S. legal and policy requirements, no revision has been necessary.

The proposed new agreement with Argentina permits the transfer of technology, material, equipment (including reactors), and components for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It provides for U.S. consent rights to retransfers, enrichment, and reprocessing as required by U.S. law. It does not permit transfers of any sensitive nuclear technology, restricted data, or sensitive nuclear facilities or major critical components thereof. In the event of termination, key conditions and controls continue with respect to material and equipment subject to the agreement.

From the U.S. perspective the proposed new agreement improves on the 1969 agreement by the addition of a number of important provisions. These include the provisions for full-scope safeguards; perpetuity of safeguards; a ban on ''peaceful'' nuclear explosives; a right to require the return of exported nuclear items in certain circumstances; a guarantee of adequate physical protection; and a consent right to enrichment of nuclear material subject to the agreement.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested agencies in reviewing the proposed agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

Because this agreement meets all applicable requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended, for agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation, I am transmitting it to the Congress without exempting it from any requirement contained in section 123 a. of that Act. This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act. The Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations and House International Relations Committees as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 b., the 60-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 18, 1996.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 104–188).

¶30.9 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—BUDGET, FY 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

The 1997 Budget, which I am transmitting to you with this message, builds on our strong economic record by balancing the budget in seven years while continuing to invest in the American people.

The budget cuts unnecessary and lower priority spending while protecting senior citizens, working families, and children. It reforms welfare to make work pay and provides tax relief to middle-income Americans and small business.

Three years ago, we inherited an economy that was suffering from short- and long-term problems—problems that were created or exacerbated by the economic and budgetary policies of the previous 12 years.

In the short term, economic growth was slow and job creation was weak. The budget deficit, which had first exploded in size in the early 1980s, was rising to unsustainable levels.

Over the longer term, the growth in productivity had slowed since the early 1970s and, as a result, living standards had stagnated or fallen for most Americans. At the same time, the gap between rich and poor had widened.

Over the last three years, we have put in place budgetary and other economic policies that have fundamentally changed the direction of the economy—for the better. We have produced stronger growth, lower interest rates, stable prices, millions of new jobs, record exports, lower personal and corporate debt burdens, and higher living standards.

Working with the last Congress in 1993, we enacted an economic program that has worked better than even we projected in spurring growth and reducing the deficit. We have cut the deficit nearly in half, from $290 billion in 1992 to $164 billion in 1995. As a share of the Gross Domestic Product, we have cut the deficit by more than half in three years, bringing the deficit to its lowest level since 1979.

While cutting overall discretionary spending, we also shifted resources to investments in our future. With wages increasingly linked to skills, we invested wisely in education and training to help Americans acquire the tools they need for the high-wage jobs of tomorrow. We also invested heavily in science and technology, which has been a strong engine of economic growth throughout the Nation's history.

For Americans struggling to raise their children and make ends meet, we have sought to make work pay. We expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit, providing tax relief for 15 million working families. And we have given 37 States the freedom to test ways to move people from welfare to work while protecting children.

As the economy has become increasingly global, prosperity at home depends heavily on opening foreign markets to American goods and services. With this in mind, we secured legislation to implement the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement, and we have completed over 80 other trade agreements. Under our leadership, U.S. exports have grown to an all-time high.

With these policies, we have helped pave the way for a future of sustained economic growth, low interest rates, stable prices, and more opportunity for Americans of all incomes. But our work is not done.

Looking ahead, as I said recently in my State of the Union address, we must answer three fundamental questions: First, how do we make the American dream of opportunity for all a reality for all Americans who are willing to work for it? Second, how do we preserve our old and enduring values as we move into the future? And, third, how do we meet these challenges together, as one America?

This budget addresses those questions.

CREATING AN AGE OF POSSIBILITY

I am committed to finishing the job that we began in 1993 and finally bringing the budget into balance. In our negotiations with congressional leaders, we have made great progress toward reaching an agreement. We have simply come too far to let this opportunity slip away.

A balanced budget would reduce interest rates for all Americans, including the young families across the land who are struggling to buy their first homes. It also would free up funds in the private markets with which businesses could invest in factories and equipment, or in training their workers.

But we have to balance the budget the right way—by cutting unnecessary and lower priority spending; investing in the future; protecting senior citizens, working families, children, and other vulnerable Americans; and providing tax relief for middle-income Americans and small businesses.

My budget does that. It strengthens Medicare and Medicaid, on which millions of senior citizens, people with disabilities, and low-income Americans rely. It reforms welfare. It cuts other