

in almost a decade, and the benefits of that growth are being shared by all Americans: poverty is dropping and median family income has gone up nearly \$2,200 since 1993. We also saw the biggest drop in welfare rolls in history. Many challenges remain, but Americans are enjoying the fruits of an economy that is steady and strong.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY

From the beginning, this Administration's economic strategy has had three crucial elements: reducing the deficit, investing in people, and opening markets abroad.

**Deficit reduction.** In 1993 this Administration's deficit reduction plan set the Nation on a course of fiscal responsibility, while making critical investments in the skills and well-being of our people. When I took office, the deficit was \$290 billion and projected to go much higher. This year the deficit will fall to just \$10 billion and possibly lower still. That is a reduction of more than 95 percent, leaving the deficit today smaller in relation to the size of the economy than it has been since 1969. And this year I have proposed a budget that will eliminate the deficit entirely, achieving the first balanced budget in 30 years.

Beyond that, it is projected that the budget will show a sizable surplus in the years to come. I propose that we reserve 100 percent of the surplus until we have taken the necessary measures to strengthen the Social Security system for the 21st century. I am committed to addressing Social Security first, to ensure that all Americans are confident that it will be there when they need it.

**Investing in our people.** In the new economy, the most precious resource this Nation has is the skills and ingenuity of working Americans. Investing in the education and health of our people will help all Americans reap the rewards of a growing, changing economy. Those who are better educated, with the flexibility and the skills they need to move from one job to another and seize new opportunities, will succeed in the new economy; those who do not will fall behind.

That is why the historic balanced budget agreement I signed into law in 1997 included the largest increase in aid to education in 30 years, and the biggest increase to help people go to college since the G.I. Bill was passed 50 years ago. The agreement provided funds to ensure that we stay on track to help 1 million disadvantaged children prepare for success in school. It provided funding for the America Reads Challenge, with the goal of mobilizing a million volunteers to promote literacy, and it made new investments in our schools themselves, to help connect every classroom and library in this country to the Internet by the year 2000.

The balanced budget agreement created the HOPE scholarship program, to make completion of the 13th and 14th

years of formal education as widespread as a high school diploma is today. It offered other tuition tax credits for college and skills training. It created a new Individual Retirement Account that allows tax-free withdrawals to pay for education. It provided the biggest increase in Pell grants in two decades. Finally, it provided more funds so that aid to dislocated workers is more than double what it was in 1993, to help these workers get the skills they need to remain productive in a changing economy.

But we must do more to guarantee all Americans the quality education they need to succeed. That is why I have proposed a new initiative to improve the quality of education in our public schools—through high national standards and national tests, more charter schools to stimulate competition, greater accountability, higher quality teaching, smaller class sizes, and more classrooms.

To strengthen our Nation we must also strengthen our families. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which I signed into law in 1993, ensures that millions of people no longer have to choose between being good parents and being good workers. The Health Care Portability and Accountability Act, enacted in 1996, ensures that workers can keep their health insurance if they change jobs or suffer a family emergency. We have also increased the minimum wage, expanded the earned income tax credit, and provided for a new \$500-per-child tax credit for working families. To continue making progress toward strengthening families, the balanced budget agreement allocated \$24 billion to provide health insurance to up to 5 million uninsured children—the largest Federal investment in children's health care since Medicaid was created in 1965.

**Opening markets and expending exports.** To create more good jobs and increase wages, we must open markets abroad and expand U.S. exports. Trade has been key to the strength of this economic expansion—about a third of our economic growth in recent years has come from selling American goods and services overseas. The Information Technology Agreement signed in 1997 lowers tariff and other barriers to 90 percent of world trade in information technology services.

To continue opening new markets, creating new jobs, and increasing our prosperity, it is critically important to renew fast-track negotiation authority. This authority, which every President of either party has had for the last 20 years, enables the President to negotiate trade agreements and submit them to the Congress for an up-or-down vote, without modification. Renewing this traditional trade authority is essential to America's ability to shape the global economy of the 21st century.

SEIZING THE BENEFIT OF A GROWING, CHANGING ECONOMY

As we approach the 21st century the American economy is sound and strong, but challenges remain. We

know that information and technology and global commerce are rapidly transforming the economy, offering new opportunities but also posing new challenges. Our goal must be to ensure that all Americans are equipped with the skills to succeed in this growing, changing economy.

Our economic strategy—balancing the budget, investing in our people, opening markets—has set this Nation on the right course to meet the goal. This strategy will support and contribute to America's strength and providing our people with the skills, the flexibility, and the security to succeed. We must continue to maintain the fiscal discipline that is balancing the budget, to invest in our people and their skills, and to lead the world to greater prosperity in the 21st century.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 10, 1998.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 105-176).

¶6.10 RECESS—3:28 P.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, declared the House in recess at 3 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m., until approximately 4 o'clock p.m.

¶6.11 AFTER RECESS—4:04 P.M.

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

¶6.12 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SOLOMON, by direction of the Committee on Rules, called up the following resolution (H. Res. 352):

*Resolved,* That it shall be in order at any time on Wednesday, February 11, 1998, or on Thursday, February 12, 1998, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the minority leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this resolution.

When said resolution was considered. After debate,

On motion of Mr. SOLOMON, the previous question was ordered on the resolution to its adoption or rejection.

The question being put, *viva voce,*

Will the House agree to said resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, announced that the yeas had it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER 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. UPTON, by unanimous consent and pursuant to clause 5(b)(1) of rule I, announced that further proceedings on the resolution were postponed until approximately 5 o'clock p.m.

¶6.13 RECESS—4:32 P.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I,

declared the House in recess at 4 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m., until approximately 5 o'clock p.m.

¶6.14 AFTER RECESS—5:01 P.M.

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

¶6.15 H. RES. 352—UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, announced the unfinished business to be the question on agreeing to the resolution (H. Res. 352) providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules.

The question being put,  
Will the House agree to said resolution?

The vote was taken by electronic device.

It was decided in the { Yeas ..... 217  
affirmative ..... Nays ..... 191

¶6.16 [Roll No. 12]  
YEAS—217

Aderholt	Franks (NJ)	McIntosh
Archer	Frelinghuysen	McKeon
Armey	Gallegly	Metcalf
Bachus	Ganske	Mica
Baker	Gekas	Moran (KS)
Ballenger	Gibbons	Morella
Barr	Gilchrest	Nethercutt
Barrett (NE)	Gillmor	Neumann
Bartlett	Gilman	Ney
Barton	Goode	Northup
Bass	Goodlatte	Norwood
Bateman	Goodling	Nussle
Bereuter	Goss	Oxley
Billbray	Graham	Packard
Bilirakis	Granger	Pappas
Bliley	Greenwood	Parker
Blunt	Gutknecht	Paul
Boehkert	Hall (TX)	Paxon
Boehner	Hamilton	Pease
Bonilla	Hansen	Peterson (PA)
Brady	Hastert	Petri
Bryant	Hastings (WA)	Pickering
Bunning	Hayworth	Pitts
Burr	Hefley	Pombo
Burton	Herger	Porter
Buyer	Hill	Portman
Calvert	Hilleary	Pryce (OH)
Camp	Hobson	Quinn
Campbell	Hoekstra	Radanovich
Canady	Horn	Ramstad
Cannon	Hostettler	Redmond
Castle	Houghton	Regula
Chabot	Hulshof	Riggs
Chambliss	Hunter	Riley
Chenoweth	Hutchinson	Rogan
Christensen	Hyde	Rogers
Coble	Inglis	Rohrabacher
Coburn	Istook	Roukema
Collins	Jenkins	Royce
Combest	Johnson (CT)	Ryun
Cook	Johnson, Sam	Salmon
Cooksey	Jones	Sanford
Cox	Kasich	Saxton
Crane	Kelly	Scarborough
Crapo	Kim	Schaefer, Dan
Cubin	King (NY)	Schaffer, Bob
Cunningham	Kingston	Sessions
Davis (VA)	Klug	Shadegg
Deal	Knollenberg	Shaw
DeLay	Kolbe	Shays
Dickey	LaHood	Shimkus
Dreier	Largent	Shuster
Duncan	Latham	Skeen
Dunn	LaTourette	Smith (MI)
Ehlers	Lazio	Smith (NJ)
Ehrlich	Leach	Smith (TX)
Emerson	Lewis (CA)	Snowbarger
English	Lewis (KY)	Solomon
Ensign	Livingston	Souder
Everett	LoBiondo	Spence
Ewing	Lucas	Stump
Fawell	Manzullo	Sununu
Forbes	McCollum	Talent
Fossella	McCrery	Tauzin
Fowler	McDade	Taylor (NC)
Fox	McHugh	Thomas
	McInnis	Thornberry

Thune  
Tiahrt  
Traficant  
Upton  
Walsh  
Wamp

Watkins  
Watts (OK)  
Weldon (FL)  
Weldon (PA)  
Weller  
Whitfield

Wicker  
Wolf  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)

NAYS—191

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Allen  
Andrews  
Baesler  
Baldacci  
Barcia  
Barrett (WI)  
Becerra  
Bentsen  
Berman  
Berry  
Bishop  
Blagojevich  
Blumenauer  
Bonior  
Borski  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boyd  
Brown (CA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brown (OH)  
Cardin  
Carson  
Clay  
Clayton  
Clement  
Clyburn  
Condit  
Conyers  
Costello  
Coyne  
Cramer  
Cummings  
Danner  
Davis (FL)  
Davis (IL)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delahunt  
DeLauro  
Deutsch  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Dixon  
Doggett  
Dooley  
Doyle  
Edwards  
Engel  
Etheridge  
Evans  
Farr  
Fattah  
Fazio  
Filner  
Ford  
Frank (MA)  
Frost  
Furse  
Gejdenson  
Gephardt  
Gordon  
Green

Gutierrez  
Hall (OH)  
Hastings (FL)  
Hefner  
Hilliard  
Hinchev  
Hinojosa  
Holden  
Hooley  
Hoyer  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
John  
Johnson (WI)  
Johnson, E.B.  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kennedy (MA)  
Kennedy (RI)  
Kennelly  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind (WI)  
Kleczka  
Klink  
Kucinich  
LaFalce  
Lampson  
Levin  
Lewis (GA)  
Lipinski  
Lofgren  
Lowe  
Luther  
Maloney (CT)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manton  
Markey  
Martinez  
Mascara  
Matsui  
McCarthy (MO)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHale  
McIntyre  
McKinney  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Meeks (NY)  
Menendez  
Millender-  
McDonald  
Miller (CA)  
Minge  
Moakley  
Mollohan  
Moran (VA)  
Murtha  
Neal  
Oberstar

Obey  
Olver  
Ortiz  
Owens  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Pastor  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Peterson (MN)  
Pickett  
Pomeroy  
Price (NC)  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Reyes  
Rivers  
Rodriguez  
Roemer  
Rothman  
Roybal-Allard  
Rush  
Sabo  
Sanchez  
Sanders  
Sandlin  
Schumer  
Scott  
Serrano  
Sherman  
Sisisky  
Skaggs  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith, Adam  
Snyder  
Spratt  
Stabenow  
Stark  
Stenholm  
Stokes  
Strickland  
Stupak  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Taylor (MS)  
Thompson  
Thurman  
Tierney  
Torres  
Towns  
Turner  
Velazquez  
Vento  
Visclosky  
Watt (NC)  
Waxman  
Wexler  
Weygand  
Wise  
Woolsey  
Wynn  
Yates

NOT VOTING—22

Callahan  
Diaz-Balart  
Doolittle  
Eshoo  
Gonzalez  
Harman  
Lantos  
Linder

Miller (FL)  
Mink  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Poshard  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Sawyer  
Schiff

Sensenbrenner  
Smith (OR)  
Smith, Linda  
Stearns  
Waters  
White

So the resolution was agreed to.

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

¶6.17 DAYCARE FAIRNESS FOR STAY-AT-HOME PARENTS

Mr. GOODLING moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 202); as amended:

Whereas studies have found that quality child care, particularly for infants and young children, requires a sensitive, interactive, loving, and consistent caregiver;

Whereas most parents meet and exceed the aforementioned criteria, circumstances allowing, often parental care marks the best form of child care;

Whereas the recent National Institute for Child Health and Development study found that the greatest factor in the development of a young child is "what is happening at home and in families";

Whereas a child's interaction with his or her parents has the most significant impact on their development, any Federal child care policy should enable and encourage parents to spend more time with their children;

Whereas nearly 1/2 of preschool children have at-home mothers and only 1/3 of preschool children have mothers who are employed full time;

Whereas a large number of low- and middle-income families sacrifice a second full-time income so that the mother may be at home with her child;

Whereas the average income of 2-parent families with a single income is \$20,000 less than the average income of 2-parent families with two incomes;

Whereas only 30 percent of preschool children are in paid child care and the remaining 70 percent of preschool children are in families that do not pay for child care, many of which are low- to middle-income families struggling to provide child care at home;

Whereas child care proposals should not provide financial assistance solely to the 30 percent of families that pay for child care and should not discriminate against families in which children are cared for by an at-home parent; and

Whereas any congressional proposal that increases child care funding should provide financial relief to families that sacrifice an entire income in order that a mother or father may be at home for their young child:  
Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress recognizes that—*

(1) many American families make enormous sacrifices to forgo a second income in order to have a parent care for their child at home;

(2) there should be no bias against at-home parents;

(3) parents choose many legitimate forms of child care to meet their individual needs -- an at-home parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, neighbor, nanny, preschool, or child care center;

(4) child care needs of at-home parents and working parents should be given careful consideration by the Congress;

(5) any quality child care proposal should reflect careful consideration of providing financial relief for those families where there is an at-home parent; and

(6) mothers and fathers who have chosen and continue to choose to be at home should be applauded for their efforts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, recognized Mr. GOODLING and Mr. MARTINEZ, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,  
The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution, as amended?

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

Mr. GOODLING demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays,