

fast-paced technological change creates ever greater demand for skilled workers. That is why, even as we balanced the budget, we substantially increased our annual investment in education and training. We have opened the doors of college to all Americans, with tax credits and more affordable student loans, with more work-study grants and more Pell grants, with education IRAs and the new HOPE Scholarship tax credit that more than 5 million Americans will receive this year. Even as we closed the budget gap, we have expanded the earned income tax credit for almost 20 million low-income working families, giving them hope and helping lift them out of poverty. Even as we cut government spending, we have raised investments in a welfare-to-work jobs initiative and invested \$24 billion in our children's health initiative.

Third, to build the American economy, we have focused on opening foreign markets and expanding exports to our trading partners around the world. Until recently, fully one-third of the strong economic growth America has enjoyed in the 1990s has come from exports. That trade has been aided by 270 trade agreements we have signed in the past 6 years.

ADDRESSING OUR NATION'S ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

We have created a strong, healthy, and truly global economy—an economy that is a leader for growth in the world. But common sense, experience, and the example of our competitors abroad show us that we cannot afford to be complacent. Now, at this moment of great plenty, is precisely the time to face the challenges of the next century.

We must maintain our fiscal discipline by saving Social Security for the 21st century—thereby laying the foundations for future economic growth.

By 2030, the number of elderly Americans will double. This is a seismic demographic shift with great consequences for our Nation. We must keep Social Security a rock-solid guarantee. That is why I proposed in my State of the Union address that we invest the surplus to save Social Security. I proposed that we commit 62 percent of the budget surplus for the next 15 years to Social Security. I also proposed investing a small portion in the private sector. This will allow the trust fund to earn a higher return and keep Social Security sound until 2055.

But we must aim higher. We should put Social Security on a sound footing for the next 75 years. We should reduce poverty among elderly women, who are nearly twice as likely to be poor as other seniors. And we should eliminate the limits on what seniors on Social Security can earn. These changes will require difficult but fully achievable choices over and above the dedication of the surplus.

Once we have saved Social Security, we must fulfill our obligation to save and improve Medicare and invest in long-term health care. That is why I have called for broader, bipartisan reforms that keep Medicare secure until 2020 through additional savings and modernizing the program with market-oriented purchasing tools, while also providing a long-overdue prescription drug benefit.

By saving the money we will need to save Social Security and Medicare, over the next 15 years we will achieve the lowest ratio of publicly held debt to gross domestic product since 1917. This debt reduction will help keep future interest rates low or drive them even lower, fueling economic growth well into the 21st century.

To spur future growth, we must also encourage private retirement saving. In my State of the Union address I proposed that we use about 12 percent of the surplus to establish new Universal Savings Accounts—USA accounts. These will ensure that all Americans have the means to save. Americans could receive a flat tax credit to contribute to their USA accounts and additional tax credits to match a portion of their savings—with more help for lower income Americans. This is the right way to provide tax relief to the American people.

Education is also key to our Nation's future prosperity. That is why I proposed in my State of the Union address a plan to create 21st-century schools through greater investment and more accountability. Under my plan, States and school districts that accept Federal resources will be required to end social promotion, turn around or close failing schools, support high-quality teachers, and promote innovation, competition, and discipline. My plan also proposes increasing Federal investments to help States and school districts take responsibility for failing schools, to recruit and train new teachers, to expand after school and summer school programs, and to build or fix 5,000 schools.

At this time of continued turmoil in the international economy, we must do more to help create stability and open markets around the world. We must press forward with open trade. It would be a terrible mistake, at this time of economic fragility in so many regions, for the United States to build new walls of protectionism that could set off a chain reaction around the world, imperiling the growth upon which we depend. At the same time, we must do more to make sure that working people are lifted up by trade. We must do more to ensure that spirited economic competition among nations never becomes a race to the bottom in the area of environmental protections or labor standards.

Strengthening the foundations of trade means strengthening the archi-

ture of international finance. The United States must continue to lead in stabilizing the world financial system. When nations around the world descend into economic disruption, consigning populations to poverty, it hurts them and it hurts us. These nations are our trading partners; they buy our products and can ship low-cost products to American consumers.

The U.S. proposal for containing financial contagion has been taken up around the world: interest rates are being cut here and abroad, America is meeting its obligations to the International Monetary Fund, and a new facility has been created at the World Bank to strengthen the social safety net in Asia. And agreement has been reached to establish a new precautionary line of credit, so nations with strong economic policies can quickly get the help they need before financial problems mushroom from concerns to crises.

We must do more to renew our cities and distressed rural areas. My Administration has pursued a new strategy, based on empowerment and investment, and we have seen its success. With the critical assistance of Empowerment Zones, unemployment rates in cities across the country have dropped dramatically. But we have more work to do to bring the spark of private enterprise to neighborhoods that have too long been without hope. That is why my budget includes an innovative "New Markets" initiative to spur \$15 billion in new private sector capital investment in businesses in underserved areas through a package of tax credits and guarantees.

GOING FORWARD TOGETHER IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Now, on the verge of another American Century, our economy is at the pinnacle of power and success, but challenges remain. Technology and trade and the spread of information have transformed our economy, offering great opportunities but also posing great challenges. All Americans must be equipped with the skills to succeed and prosper in the new economy. America must have the courage to move forward and renew its ideas and institutions to meet new challenges. There are no limits to the world we can create, together, in the century to come.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 4, 1999.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 68. An act to amend section 20 of the Small Business Act and make technical corrections in title III of the Small Business Investment Act.

H.R. 98. An act to amend chapter 443 of title 49, United States Code, to extend the aviation war risk insurance program and to amend the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act to make technical and other corrections.

H.R. 99. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend Federal Aviation Administration programs through September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

H.R. 432. An act to designate the North/South Center as the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 19. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 8002 of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, the Committee on Ways and Means designated the following Members of the House to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation for the 106th Congress: Mr. ARCHER, Mr. CRANE, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. STARK.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. SAXTON of New Jersey.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1374. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on three rescissions of budget authority dated February 1, 1999; transmitted jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1375. A communication from the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on loans and guarantees issued under the Arms Export Control Act as of September 30, 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1376. A communication from the Register of Copyrights, United States Copyright Office, Library of Congress, transmitting, pursuant to law, a schedule of proposed new copyright fees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1377. A communication from the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of a cost comparison of the Base Operating Support functions at Lockland Air Force Base, Texas; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1378. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, trans-

mitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Coverage of Ambulance Services and Vehicle and Staff Requirements" (RIN0938-AH13) received on January 26, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1379. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Weighted Average Interest Rate Update" (Notice 99-7) received on January 25, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1380. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) Taxation of Amounts Under Employee Benefit Plans" (RIN1545-AT27) received on January 28, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1381. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) Taxation of Amounts Under Employee Benefit Plans" (RIN1545-AT99) received on January 28, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1382. A communication from the Federal Register Certifying Officer, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acceptance of Bonds Secured By Government Obligations in Lieu of Bonds with Sureties" (RIN1510-AA36) received on January 27, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1383. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 1999-2000 Marketing Year" (Docket FV-99-985-1 FR) received on January 26, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1384. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Azoxytobin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (RIN2070-AB78) received on January 26, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1385. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Tolerances for Canceled Food Uses; Correction" (FRL6043-7) received on January 26, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1386. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lambda-cyhalothrin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6056-2) received on January 26, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1387. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Penbuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6054-3) received on January 26, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1388. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Cryolite Tolerance Revocations; Final Rule, Delay of Effective Date" (FRL6058-7) received on January 26, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1389. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists that disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1390. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bureau of Export Administration's report entitled "Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1999" and the "1999 Report to Congress on Foreign Policy Export Controls"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1391. A communication from the Vice Chair of the Import-Export Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of a financial guarantee to support the sale of certain Boeing aircraft to Ireland; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1392. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Import-Export Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's report on Sub-Saharan Africa and the Export-Import Bank of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1393. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of the Treasury, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to produce currency, postage stamps, and other security documents for foreign governments, and security documents for State governments and their political subdivisions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1394. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exports of High Performance Computers; Post-shipment Verification Reporting Procedures" (RIN0694-AB78) received on November 4, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1395. A communication from the Chief Counsel of the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding the procedure for requests for removal from the list of blocked persons, groups, and vessels received on January 29, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1396. A communication from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Sequestration Preview Report for Fiscal Year 2000; transmitted jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, to the Committee on the Budget and to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1397. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of an Agreement to extend the Mutual Fisheries Agreement to December 31, 2003; transmitted jointly, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1823(b), P.L. 94-265, to the