

and Delinquency Prevention, vice Robert H. Maxwell, of Mississippi.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) as a member of the National Council on the Arts.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-244, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Web-Based Education Commission: Patti S. Abraham, of Mississippi; and George Bailey, of Montana.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the First Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission: Charles W. Calomiris, of New York; and Edwin J. Feulner, Jr., of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-255, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development: Judy L. Johnson, of Mississippi; and Elaine M. Mendoza, of Texas.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 104-293, as amended by Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission to Assess the Organization of the Federal Government to Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: M.D.B. Carlisle, of Washington, D.C.; and Henry D. Sokolski, of Virginia.

NORTH KOREA'S LAUNCH OF TAEPO DONG MISSILE A WAKE-UP CALL

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, last year I and many of my colleagues expressed our concerns over the growing missile threat to the United States.

Chief among those concerns was the administration's lack of resolve to deploy a National Missile Defense system.

Surprisingly, though, the North Korean launch of a Taepo Dong missile in August of last year was a wake-up call for this administration and for America as well, because portions of this missile landed off the coast of Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, the threat is here and it must be countered. I applaud the dedication of \$6.6 billion in the administration's budget and the commitment to deploy viable National Missile Defense.

I am proud to be a part of this effort and, based on my own experience in the Gulf War with these terror weapons, I will fight to ensure that no American citizen will ever be confronted with a Taepo Dong missile or any other terror missile.

Mr. Speaker, with all the uncertainties in our world, for our children, for our grandchildren, we must strengthen our national security and protect our precious country.

I encourage all Members to help protect America. Let us pass H.R. 4, because a national missile defense is something we cannot live without.

IT IS TIME FOR AN ACROSS THE BOARD INCOME TAX CUT

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, on January 6, I introduced a bill to cut Federal income taxes by 10 percent across the board.

Taxes are at an all time high. When State and local taxes are added to the Federal tax bite, the average American family ends up paying more in taxes than it spends on housing, food and clothing combined.

I believe that is outrageous. With the Federal Government expected to run a surplus of \$4.4 trillion over the next 15 years, there is no excuse for taxing the American people at a higher level than what was needed to win World War II.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to cut taxes for every American. A 10 percent across the board tax cut is the fairest and simplest way to provide the American people with the tax relief that they deserve. Instead of picking winners and losers, this proposal benefits every American who earns a paycheck.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this common sense tax relief plan.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington DC, February 4, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
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 February 4, 1999 at 12:30 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the Economic Report of the President.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-2)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to report that the American economy today is healthy and strong. Our Nation is enjoying the longest peacetime economic expansion in its history, with almost 18 million new jobs since 1993, wages rising at twice the rate of inflation, the highest home ownership ever, the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years, and unemployment and inflation at their lowest levels in three decades.

This expansion, unlike recent previous ones, is both wide and deep. All income groups, from the richest to the poorest, have seen their incomes rise since 1993. The typical family income is up more than \$3,500, adjusted for inflation. African-American and Hispanic households, who were left behind during the last expansion, have also seen substantial increases in income.

Our Nation's budget is balanced, for the first time in a generation, and we are entering the second year of an era of surpluses: our projections show that we will close out the 1999 fiscal year with a surplus of \$79 billion, the largest in the history of the United States. We are on course for budget surpluses for many years to come.

These economic successes are not accidental. They are the result of an economic strategy that we have pursued since 1993. It is a strategy that rests on three pillars: fiscal discipline, investments in education and technology, and expanding exports to the growing world market. Continuing with this proven strategy is the best way to maintain our prosperity and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC AGENDA

Our new economic strategy was rooted first and foremost in fiscal discipline. We made hard fiscal choices in