

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 80. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the distinguished majority leader, the schedule for the remainder of the week and next week?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have completed legislative business for the week. There will be no recorded votes in the House on Friday.

The House will next meet for legislative business on Monday, February 14, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour debate and at 2 o'clock p.m. for legislative business. We will consider a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices tomorrow. On Monday, we do not expect recorded votes until 6 o'clock p.m.

On Tuesday, February 15, through Thursday, February 17, the House will consider the following measures:

H.R. 2086, the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act, under an open rule;

H.R. 2366, the Small Business Liability Reform Act, subject to a rule; and

H.R. 1987, the Fair Access to Indemnity and Reimbursement Act, also subject to a rule.

Mr. Speaker, we also expect to consider a motion to go to conference next week on the digital signatures legislation that has passed both the House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 18, no votes are expected.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the information, and I wish him a good weekend.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3308

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3308.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on February 2, I was tending to my ill mother and missed rollcall No. 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on final passage.

RE-REFERRAL OF S. 1809 TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate bill, S. 1809, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, be re-referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Mr. Speaker, today S. 1809 was re-referred to the Committee on Commerce and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Titles I and III have been traditionally in the sole jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce and Title II, Family Support, has been traditionally in the sole jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Title II, Family Support, would authorize a program that was originally created in Section 315 of P.L. 103-382, Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, which created a new Part I in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In 1997, Part I, Family Support of IDEA was repealed by Section 203(a), Repealers, of P.L. 105-17, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997, see H.R. 5, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2000

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF SENATE FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2000, OR FEBRUARY 11, 2000 TO FEBRUARY 22, 2000, AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2000, FEBRUARY 17, 2000 OR FEBRUARY 18, 2000 TO FEBRUARY 29, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 80) providing for recess or adjournment of the Senate from February 10 or 11, 2000, to February 22, 2000, and adjournment of the House from February 16, 17, or 18, 2000, to February 29, 2000.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 80

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, February 10, 2000, or Friday, February 11, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Tuesday, February 22, 2000, or until such time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, February 16, 2000, Thursday, February 17, 2000, or Friday, February 18, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, for morning-hour debate, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 1987, FAIR ACCESS TO INDEMNITY AND REIMBURSEMENT ACT

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon a "Dear Colleague" letter will be sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of February 14 to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 1987, the Fair Access to Indemnity and Reimbursement Act.

The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this case, amendments must be preprinted prior to their consideration on the floor.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Today, the American economy is stronger than ever. We are on the brink of marking the longest economic expansion in our Nation's history. More than 20 million new jobs have been created since Vice President Gore and I took office in January 1993. We now have the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years—even as core inflation has reached its lowest level since 1965.

This expansion has been both deep and broad, reaching Americans of all races, ethnicities, and income levels. African American unemployment and poverty are at their lowest levels on record. Hispanic unemployment is likewise the lowest on record, and poverty among Hispanics is at its lowest level since 1979. A long-running trend of rising income inequality has been halted in the last 7 years. From 1993 to 1998, families at the bottom of the income distribution have enjoyed the same strong income growth as workers at the top.

In 1999 we had the largest dollar surplus in the Federal budget on record and the largest in proportion to our economy since 1951. We are on course to achieve more budget surpluses for many years to come. We have used this unique opportunity to make the right choices for the future: over the past 2 years, America has paid down \$140 billion in debt held by the public. With my plan to continue to pay down the debt, we are now on track to eliminate the Nation's publicly held debt by 2013. Our fiscal discipline has paid off in lower interest rates, higher private investment, and stronger productivity growth.

These economic successes have not been achieved by accident. They rest on the three pillars of the economic strategy that the Vice President and I laid out when we took office: fiscal discipline to help reduce interest rates and spur business investment; invest-

ing in education, health care, and science and technology to meet the challenges of the 21st century; and opening foreign markets so that American workers have a fair chance to compete abroad. As a result, the American economy is not only strong today; it is well positioned to continue to expand and to widen the circle of opportunity for more Americans.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Our economic strategy was based on a commitment, first, to fiscal discipline. When the Vice President and I took office, the U.S. Government had a budget deficit of \$290 billion. Today we have a surplus of \$124 billion. This fiscal discipline has helped us launch a virtuous circle of strong investment, increasing productivity, low inflation, and low unemployment.

Second, we have remained true to our commitment to invest in our people. Because success in the global economy depends more than ever on highly skilled workers, we have taken concerted steps to make sure all Americans have the education, skills, and opportunities they need to succeed. That is why, even as we maintained fiscal responsibility, we expanded our investments in education, technology, and training. We have opened the doors of college to all Americans, with tax credits, more affordable student loans, education IRAs, and the HOPE Scholarship tax credits. So that working families will have the means to support themselves, we have increased the minimum wage, expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), provided access to health insurance for people with disabilities, and invested in making health insurance coverage available to millions of children.

Third, we have continued to pursue a policy of opening markets. We have achieved historic trade pacts such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Uruguay Round agreements, which led to the creation of the World Trade Organization. Negotiations in the wake of the Uruguay Round have yielded market access commitments covering information technology, basic telecommunications, and financial services. We have engaged in bilateral initiatives with Japan and in regional initiatives in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Western Hemisphere, and the Middle East. We have also actively protected our rights under existing trade agreements through the World Trade Organization and helped maintain the Internet as a tax-free zone.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE

Despite the economy's extraordinary performance, we must continue working to meet the challenges of the future. Those challenges include educating our children, improving the health and well-being of all our citizens, providing for our senior citizens, and extending the benefits of the eco-

nomie expansion to all communities and all parts of this Nation.

We must help our children prepare for life in a global, information-driven economy. Success in this new environment requires that children have a high-quality education. That means safe, modern schools. It means making sure our children have well-trained teachers who demand high standards. It means making sure all schools are equipped with the best new technologies, so that children can harness the tools of the 21st century.

First and foremost, our children cannot continue trying to learn in schools that are so old they are falling apart. One-third of all public schools need extensive repair or replacement. By 2003 we will need an additional 2,400 schools nationwide to accommodate these rising enrollments. That is why, in my State of the Union address, I proposed \$24.8 billion in tax credit bonds over 2 years to modernize up to 6,000 schools, and a \$1.3 billion school emergency loan and grant proposal to help renovate schools in high-poverty, high-need school districts.

Second, if our children are to succeed in the new digital economy, they must know how to use the tools of the 21st century. That is why the Vice President and I have fought for initiatives like the E-rate, which is providing \$2 billion a year to help schools afford to network their classrooms and connect to the Internet. The E-rate and our other initiatives in education technology have gone a long way toward giving all children access to technology in their schools. But there is still a great "digital divide" when children go home. Children from wealthy families are far more likely to have access to a computer at home than children from poor or minority families. That is why, in my budget, I propose a new Digital Divide initiative that will expand support for community technology centers in low-income communities; a pilot project to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families; and grants and loan guarantees to accelerate the deployment of high-speed networks in underserved rural and urban communities.

Third, we must continue to make college affordable and accessible for all Americans. I have proposed a college opportunity tax cut, which would invest \$30 billion over 10 years in helping millions of families who now struggle to afford college for their children. When fully phased in, this initiative would give families the option to claim a tax deduction or a tax credit on up to \$10,000 of tuition and fees for any post-secondary education in which their members enroll, whether college, graduate study, or training courses. I have proposed increases in Pell grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Work Study. I have also