

THIRD REPORT ON OPERATION OF
ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE
ACT—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, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 203(f) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) of 1991, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.), I transmit herewith the third report to the Congress on the Operation of the Andean Trade Preference Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 5, 2001.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

□ 1415

RECOGNIZING 90TH BIRTHDAY OF
RONALD REAGAN

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 7) recognizing the 90th birthday of Ronald Reagan.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 7

Whereas February 6, 2001, is the 90th birthday of Ronald Wilson Reagan;

Whereas both Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan have distinguished records of public service to the United States, the American people, and the international community;

Whereas Ronald Reagan was twice elected by overwhelming margins as President of the United States;

Whereas Ronald Reagan fulfilled his pledge to help restore "the great, confident roar of American progress, growth, and optimism" and ensure renewed economic prosperity;

Whereas Ronald Reagan's leadership was instrumental in extending freedom and democracy around the globe and uniting a world divided by the Cold War;

Whereas Ronald Reagan is loved and admired by millions of Americans, and by countless others around the world;

Whereas Ronald Reagan's eloquence united Americans in times of triumph and tragedy;

Whereas Nancy Reagan not only served as a gracious First Lady but also led a national crusade against illegal drug use;

Whereas together Ronald and Nancy Reagan dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and to bettering the quality of

life in the United States and throughout the world; and

Whereas the thoughts and prayers of the Congress and the country are with Ronald Reagan in his courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress, on behalf of the American people, extends its birthday greetings and best wishes to Ronald Reagan on his 90th birthday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS).

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to have the House consider House Joint Resolution 7, important legislation introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

This resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives in recognition of President Ronald Reagan's 90th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor Ronald Reagan, our Nation's 40th President, who joins only John Adams and Herbert Hoover as former presidents to reach the age of 90.

President Reagan moved into the White House in 1981, 7 years after America lost confidence in the presidency due to Watergate, 6 years after the end of the Vietnam War, which ripped America apart and, during dire economic times, including high inflation, high unemployment, and high interest rates. Across the country, morale was low. America was embarrassed in Iran with the hostage crisis, and our standing abroad had been greatly diminished.

And then came Ronald Reagan, riding into Washington to save the American spirit.

From the moment he placed his hand on the Bible to take the oath as President on January 20, 1981, it was clear that America would once again stand tall. In his inaugural address, Ronald Reagan said that we had every right to dream heroic dreams. After all, he said, "Why not? We are Americans."

Ronald Reagan came to office disdained by many so-called wise men and women. They called him an "amiable dunce" and an actor reading a script. They twisted his belief in a strong defense and staunch anticommunism into a caricature of a war-monger unable to deal constructively with the Soviet Union. They were aghast at his common-sense characterization of the Soviet Union as an "evil empire," and his prediction that it was headed for the "ash heap of history."

But President Reagan was a man of character and a man of conviction. He was a leader, a man not mesmerized by polls and focus groups, but one with

the courage to stand up for what was right.

With the strength of his beliefs and his faith in the ideals in the Founders and the inherent talent, energy and character of the American people, Ronald Reagan transformed our country and our world.

He brought the world closer to peace and ended the nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union. Thanks to President Reagan's determination and leadership, the Berlin Wall fell, and then the Soviet Union fell, and with it, all the statues and monuments to Lenin, Stalin, and other former Soviet Union leaders. President Reagan had brought the Cold War to an end. The world was finally at peace.

Ronald Reagan lead our economy out of an economic abyss and into years of prosperity with low interest rates, low unemployment, and low inflation. He rebuilt the hollow military force that he inherited into a fighting force second to none. America stands tall today, thanks to the leadership of Ronald Reagan. He is a giant among presidents and remains a larger-than-life figure who changed the world for the better.

Ronald Reagan was a President with class, dignity and respect for the high office to which he was elected. Future historians will recognize him as one of America's truly great Presidents. For all that he did, for all that he said, and for all that he stood for, President Reagan deserves our admiration, our respect, and our gratitude. On behalf of all Americans, we in the Congress proclaim: Happy 90th birthday, President Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand up here to honor the man, Ronald Reagan, today. My father was born only 6 days after Ronald Reagan. He passed away early last year and shared, as a World War II veteran as Ronald Reagan was, my father shared the same values and the same patriotism that my friends talk about with Ronald Reagan.

I hope that we learned something from the Reagan years. We all watched this country in 1981. This country went down the course of tax cuts for the wealthiest citizens, big increases in military spending, the beginning of Star Wars, and the beginning of the most persistent, obscene budget deficits that this country had ever seen, to the point that by 1992, when President Clinton was elected, we were running up the budget deficit; we were spending \$1 billion a day more than we were bringing in. We ran a deficit which was \$1 billion in 1981 when President Reagan took office, a debt of \$1 trillion that went to \$5 trillion in those 12 years.