

Perhaps the biggest test of our foresight and courage will be reforming Medicare and Social Security.

Medicare's finances are strained, and its coverage is outdated. Ninety-nine percent of employer-provided health plans offer some form of prescription drug coverage. Medicare does not. The framework for reform has been developed by Senators FRIST and BREAUX and Congressman THOMAS; and now is the time to act. Medicare must be modernized. And we must make sure that every senior on Medicare can choose a health care plan that offers prescription drugs.

Seven years from now, the baby boom generation will begin to claim Social Security benefits. Everyone in this Chamber knows that Social Security is not prepared to fully fund their retirement. And we only have a couple of years to get prepared. Without reform, this country will one day awaken to a stark choice: either a drastic rise in payroll taxes or a radical cut in retirement benefits. There is a better way.

This spring I will form a Presidential commission to reform Social Security. The commission will make its recommendations by next fall. Reform should be based on these principles: It must preserve the benefits of all current retirees and those nearing retirement. It must return Social Security to sound financial footing, and it must offer personal savings accounts to younger workers who want them.

Social Security now offers workers a return of less than 2 percent on the money they pay into the system. To save the system, we must increase that by allowing younger workers to make safe, sound investments at a higher rate of return.

Ownership, access to wealth, and independence should not be the privilege of a few. They are the hope of every American, and we must make them the foundation of Social Security.

By confronting the tough challenge of reform, by being responsible with our budget, we can earn the trust of the American people. And we can add to that trust by enacting fair and balanced election and campaign reforms.

The agenda I have set before you tonight is worthy of a great Nation. America is a Nation at peace, but not a Nation at rest. Much has been given to us, and much is expected.

Let us agree to bridge old divides. But let us also agree that our goodwill must be dedicated to great goals. Bipartisanship is more than minding our manners, it is doing our duty.

No one can speak in this Capitol and not be awed by its history. At so many turning points, debates in these chambers have reflected the collected or divided conscience of our country. And when we walk through Statuary Hall and see those men and women of mar-

ble, we are reminded of their courage and achievement.

Yet America's purpose is never found only in statues or history. America's purpose always stands before us.

Our generation must show courage in a time of blessing as our Nation has always shown in times of crisis. And our courage, issue by issue, can gather to greatness and serve our country. This is the privilege and responsibility we share. And if we work together, we can prove that public service is noble.

We all came here for a reason. We all have things we want to accomplish and promises to keep. Juntos podemos, together we can. We can make Americans proud of their government. Together we can share in the credit of making our country more prosperous and generous and just, and earn from our conscience and from our fellow citizens, the highest possible praise: well done, good and faithful servants.

Thank you all. Good night. And God bless.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 9 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m. the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet;

An Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

#### JOINT SESSION DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

#### MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

#### PRINTING OF A REVISED EDITION OF BLACK AMERICANS IN CONGRESS, 1870-1989

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, with the co-sponsorship of 44 of our colleagues, I have today

introduced a concurrent resolution providing for the printing of a revised edition of the House document entitled *Black Americans in Congress, 1870-1989*.

The latest edition of this handsome work, published in 1990, contains brief biographies, photographs or sketches, and other important historical information about the 66 distinguished African-Americans who had served in either house of Congress as of January 23, 1990. An analysis of the membership of the six subsequent Congresses reveals that, as of today, an additional 40 distinguished African-Americans have served since the last edition. Moreover, several of the distinguished Members depicted in the last edition continued to serve in this House, and their biographies require appropriate updates. Clearly, the time has come to revise and reprint this important historical work.

My concurrent resolution directs the Library of Congress to revise the volume under the direction of the Committee on House Administration. The resolution provides for the printing of a number of copies of the volume, in a suitable binding, for distribution to Members of both houses as determined by the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. Speaker, the 1976 and 1990 editions of *Black Americans in Congress* have been a tremendous source of historical information for Members, scholars, students, and others about the distinguished African-Americans who have served their countrymen in the halls of the Senate and House of Representatives. The next edition will doubtless similarly become a tremendous resource, and a treasured addition to libraries across this land. I urge the Members to support my concurrent resolution.

#### PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 107TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, I submit for printing in the RECORD the Rules of the Committee on International Relations which were adopted by the committee on this date.

#### RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, 107TH CONGRESS

(Adopted February 14, 2001)

#### RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Rules of the House of Representatives, and in particular, the committee rules enumerated in clause 2 of Rule XI, are the rules of the Committee on International Relations (hereafter referred to as the "Committee"), to the extent applicable. A motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, is a privileged non-debatable motion in Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee on International Relations (hereinafter referred to as the "Chairman") shall consult the Ranking Minority Member to the extent possible with respect to the business of the Committee.