

Now, these, my fellow Americans, are the principles on which I think we should base our efforts: security, simplicity, savings, choice, quality, and responsibility. These are guiding stars that we should follow on our journey toward health care reform.

Over the coming months you will be bombarded with information from all kinds of sources. There will be some who will stoutly disagree with what I have proposed, and with all other plans in the Congress for that matter. And some of the arguments will be genuinely sincere and enlightening; others may simply be scare tactics by those who are motivated by the self-interests they have in the waste the system now generates, because that waste is providing jobs, incomes, and money for some people.

I ask you only to think of this when you hear all these arguments: Ask yourself whether the cost of staying on this same course is not greater than the cost of change. And ask yourself when you hear the arguments whether the arguments are in your interests or someone else's.

This is something we have got to try to do together.

I want also to say to the Representatives in Congress you have a special duty to look beyond these arguments. I ask you instead to look into the eyes of the sick child who needs care, to think of the face of the woman who has been told not only that her condition is malignant, but not covered by her insurance, to look at the bottom lines of the businesses driven to bankruptcy by health-care costs, to look at the for-sale signs in front of the homes of families who have lost everything because of their health-care costs.

I ask you to remember the kind of people I have met for the last year and a half: the elderly couple in New Hampshire that broke down and cried because of their shame at having an empty refrigerator to pay for their drugs; a woman who list a \$50,000 job that she used to support her six children because her youngest child was so ill that she could not keep health insurance and the only way to get care for the child was to get public assistance; a young couple that had a sick child and could only get insurance from one of the parents' employers that was a nonprofit corporation with 20 employees, and so they had to face the question of whether to let this poor person with the sick child go or raise the premiums of every employee in the firm by \$200.

And on and on and on.

I know we have differences of opinion, but we are here tonight in a spirit that is animated by the problems of those people and by the sure knowledge that, if we can look into our hearts, we will not be able to say that the greatest Nation in the history of the world is powerless to confront this crisis.

Our history and our heritage tell us that we can meet this challenge. Everything about America's past tells us we will do it.

So I say to you, "Let us write that new chapter in the American story. Let us guarantee every American comprehensive health benefits that can never be taken away."

You know, in spite of all the work we have done together and all the progress we have made, there are still a lot of people who say it would be an outright miracle if we passed health care reform.

But, my fellow Americans, in a time of change you have to have miracles; and miracles do happen. I mean, just a few days ago we saw a simple handshake shatter decades of deadlock in the Middle East. We have seen the walls crumble in Berlin and South Africa. We see the ongoing brave struggle of the people of Russia to seize freedom and democracy. And now it is our turn to strike a blow for freedom in this country, the freedom of Americans to live without fear that their own Nation's health-care system will not be there for them when they need it.

It is hard to believe that there was once a time in this century when that kind of fear gripped old age, when retirement was nearly synonymous with poverty, and older Americans died in the street. That is unthinkable today because over a half century ago Americans had the courage to change, to create a Social Security system that ensures that no Americans will be forgotten in their later years.

Forty years from now our grandchildren will also find it unthinkable that there was a time in this country when hard-working families lost their homes, their savings, their businesses, lost everything simply because their children got sick or because they had to change jobs. Our grandchildren will find such things unthinkable tomorrow if we have the courage to change today.

This is our chance. This is our journey. And when our work is done, we will know that we have answered the call of history and met the challenge of our time.

Thank you very much and God bless you all.

At 10 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m., the President of the United States retired from the Hall of the House, followed by his Cabinet.

The ambassadors, ministers and charges d'affaires of foreign governments retired from the Hall of the House.

The SPEAKER, at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m., then declared the joint session of the two Houses dissolved.

The Vice President and Members of the Senate retired from the Hall of the House.

#### ¶104.21 REFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On motion of Mrs. KENNELLY, the message of the President, as delivered, together with the accompanying documents, was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 103-137).

And then,

#### ¶104.22 ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mrs. KENNELLY, at 10 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m., the House adjourned.

#### ¶104.23 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. STUDDS: Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. H.R. 2151. A bill to amend the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, to establish the Maritime Security Fleet program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. No. 103-251). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FROST: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 254. A resolution providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2401) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1994 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1994, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 103-252). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. FORD of Michigan: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 1036. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide that such act does not preempt certain State laws; with an amendment (Rept. No. 103-253). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. MURTHA: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 3116. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1994, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 103-254). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

#### ¶104.24 PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of rule X and clause 4 of rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. DREIER:

H.R. 3115. A bill to improve access, affordability, and competition in health care, through the implementation of flexible savings accounts and malpractice reform, and for other purposes; jointly, to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURTHA:

H.R. 3116. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1994, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BARLOW:

H.R. 3117. A bill to initiate planning and design for a replacement facility at Fort Campbell, KY for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for military personnel and their dependents; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. LEACH, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. SANGMEISTER):

H.R. 3118. A bill concerning treatment of the Centennial Bridge, Rock Island, IL, under title 23, United States Code; to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation.

By Mrs. LLOYD:

H.R. 3119. A bill to establish a coordinated strategy of health promotion and disease prevention activities through the Public Health Service; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCHALE (for himself, Mr. ANDREWS of New Jersey, Mr. BACHUS of Alabama, Mr. BAESLER, Mr. BARCIA of Michigan, Mr. BARLOW, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. BROWN