

strict Council's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents. The budget also does not reflect the effect of my proposed Fiscal Year 1998 District of Columbia revitalization plan.

The Authority is required to transmit separately to the Mayor, the Council, the President, and the Congress a financial plan and budget. The Authority sent its financial plan and budget to the Congress on June 15.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 11, 1997.

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 105-103).

¶78.22 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—
NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. CHABOT, laid before the House a message from the President, which was read as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the Study on the Operation and Effect of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), as required by section 512 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (Public Law 103-182; 107 Stat. 2155; 19 U.S.C. 3462). The Congress and the Administration are right to be proud of this historic agreement. This report provides solid evidence that NAFTA has already proved its worth to the United States during the 3 years it has been in effect. We can look forward to realizing NAFTA's full benefits in the years ahead.

NAFTA has also contributed to the prosperity and stability of our closest neighbors and two of our most important trading partners. NAFTA aided Mexico's rapid recovery from a severe economic recession, even as that country carried forward a democratic transformation of historic proportions.

NAFTA is an integral part of a broader growth strategy that has produced the strongest U.S. economy in a generation. This strategy rests on three mutually supportive pillars: deficit reduction, investing in our people through education and training, and opening foreign markets to allow America to compete in the global economy. The success of that strategy can be seen in the strength of the American economy, which continues to experience strong investment, low unemployment, healthy job creation, and subdued inflation.

Export growth has been central to America's economic expansion. NAFTA, together with the Uruguay Round Agreement, the Information Technology Agreement, the WTO Telecommunications Agreement, 22 sectoral trade agreements with Japan, and over 170 other trade agreements, has contributed to overall U.S. real export growth of 37 percent since 1993. Exports have contributed nearly one-third of our economic growth—and have grown three times faster than overall income.

Workers, business executives, small business owners, and farmers across America have contributed to the resurgence in American competitiveness. The ability and determination of working people across America to rise to the challenges of rapidly changing technologies and global economic competition is a great source of strength for this Nation.

Cooperation between the Administration and the Congress on a bipartisan basis has been critical in our efforts to reduce the deficit, to conclude trade agreements that level the global playing field for America, to secure peace and prosperity along America's borders, and to help prepare all Americans to benefit from expanded economic opportunities. I hope we can continue working together to advance these vital goals in the years to come.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 11, 1997.

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

¶78.23 ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1901. An Act to clarify that the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act apply to the members and personnel of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission.

¶78.24 SENATE ENROLLED JOINT
RESOLUTION SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S.J. Res. 29. A joint resolution to direct the Secretary of the Interior to design and construct a permanent addition to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C., and for other purposes.

¶78.25 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to Mr. UNDERWOOD, for today.

And then,

¶78.26 ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. GUTKNECHT, pursuant to the special order heretofore agreed to, at 3 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m., the House adjourned until 3:00 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 1997.

¶78.27 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. LEWIS of California: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2158. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-175).

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X Committee on Rules discharged from further consideration. H.R. 856 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

¶78.28 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. ACKERMAN:

H.R. 2151. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to correct the tariff treatment of costumes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2152. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for annual screening mammography for any class of covered individuals if the coverage or plans include coverage for diagnostic mammography for such class, and to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of annual screening mammography; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the 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.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 2153. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under part B of the Medicare program of paramedic intercept services provided in support of public, volunteer, or nonprofit providers of ambulance services; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

By Mrs. MEEK of Florida:

H.R. 2154. A bill to provide for food stamp eligibility for aliens who were receiving supplemental security income benefits on August 22, 1996, or aliens who are eligible for supplemental security income benefits; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. NEUMANN:

H.R. 2155. A bill to authorize continuation of a nationwide permit for discharges of dredged or fill materials into headwaters and isolated waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. REGULA:

H.R. 2156. A bill to provide financial assistance, directly and through States, to support jointly with government entities, educational institutions, businesses, and nonprofit public and private entities, opportunities for the people of the United States to participate in the arts and the humanities; and to increase understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of the United States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. YATES:

H.R. 2157. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the use of public transportation systems by allowing individuals a credit against income tax for expenses paid to commute to and from work using public transportation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.