

REPORT ON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ESTONIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 8

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to Public Law 94-265, 16 U.S.C. 1823(b), to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 4, 1997.*
To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Estonia Extending the Agreement of June 1, 1992, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with annex, as extended ("the 1992 Agreement"). The Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes at Tallinn on June 3 and 28, 1996, extends the 1992 Agreement to June 30, 1998.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Republic of Estonia, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 4, 1997.*

REPORT OF THE STATE OF THE UNION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 9

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was ordered to lie on the table.

The PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice-President, Members of the 105th Congress, distinguished guests, my fellow Americans:

I come before you tonight with a challenge as great as any in our peacetime history—and a plan of action to meet that challenge, to prepare our people for the bold new world of the 21st Century.

We have much to be thankful for. With four years of growth, we have won back the basic strength of our economy. With crime and welfare rolls declining, we are winning back our basic optimism, the enduring faith that we can master any difficulty. With the Cold War receding and global commerce at record levels, we are helping to win unrivaled peace and prosperity all across the world.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is strong, but now we must rise to the decisive moment, to make a nation and a world better than any we have ever known. The new promise of the global economy, the Information Age, unimagined new work, life-enhancing technology—all are ours to

seize. That is our honor and our challenge. We must be shapers of events, not observers. For if we do not act, the moment will pass—and we will lose the best possibilities of our future.

We face no imminent threat, but we do have an enemy: The enemy of our time is inaction.

So tonight, I issue a call to action—action by this Congress, by our states, by all our people, to prepare America for the 21st Century. Action to keep our economy and our democracy strong and working for all our people; action to strengthen education and harness the forces of technology and science; action to build stronger families and stronger communities and a safer environment; action to keep America the world's strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity. And above all, action to build a more perfect union here at home.

The spirit we bring to our work will determine its success. We must all be committed to the pursuit of opportunity for all Americans, and responsibility for all Americans, in a community of all Americans, and to a new kind of government—not to solve all our problems for us, but to give all our people the tools to make the most of their own lives.

And we must work together. The people of this nation elected us all. They want us to be partners, not partisans. They put us all here in the same boat, they gave us all oars, and they told us to row. Here's the direction I think we should take.

First, we must move quickly to complete the unfinished business of our country—to balance our budget, renew our democracy, and finish the job of welfare reform.

Over the last four years, we brought new economic growth by investing in our people, expanding our exports, cutting our deficits, creating over 11 million new jobs. Now we must keep our economy the strongest in the world.

We here tonight have an historic opportunity. Let this Congress be the Congress that finally balances the budget.

In two days, I will propose a detailed plan to balance the budget by 2002.

This plan will balance the budget and invest in our people while protecting Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment. It will balance the budget and build on the Vice President's efforts to make our government work better, even as it costs less. It will balance the budget and provide middle class tax relief to pay for education and health care, to help raise a child, to buy and sell a home.

Balancing the budget requires only your vote and my signature. It does not require us to rewrite our Constitution. I believe it is unnecessary and unwise to adopt a balanced budget amendment that could cripple our country in time of crisis later on, and force unwanted results such as judges halting Social Security checks or increasing taxes. Let us agree: We should not pass any

measure that threatens Social Security. We don't need a Constitutional amendment—we need action.

Whatever our differences, we should balance the budget now, and then, for the long-term health of our society, we must agree to a bipartisan process to preserve Social Security and reform Medicare, so that these fundamental programs will be as strong for our children as they are for our parents.

Our second piece of unfinished business requires us to commit ourselves tonight, before the eyes of America, to enacting bipartisan campaign finance reform.

Senators MCCAIN and FEINGOLD, Representatives SHAYS and MEEHAN, have reached across party lines to craft tough and fair campaign reform. Their proposal would curb spending, reduce the role of special interests, create a level playing field between challengers and incumbents and ban contributions from noncitizens and all corporate sources, and the other large soft money contributions that both parties receive.

You know and I know that delay will mean the death of reform. So let's set our own deadline. Let's work together to write bipartisan campaign finance reform into law, and pass McCain-Feingold by the day we celebrate the birth of our democracy—July the 4th.

There is a third piece of unfinished business: Over the last four years, we moved a record two and a quarter million people off the welfare rolls. Then last year we enacted landmark welfare reform, demanding that able-bodied recipients assume the responsibility of moving from welfare to work.

Now each and every one of us has to fulfill our responsibility—indeed, our moral obligation—to make sure that people who must work, can work. Now we must act to meet a new goal: two million more people off the welfare rolls by the Year 2000.

Here is my plan: Tax credits and other incentives to businesses that hire people off welfare. Incentives for job placement firms and for states to create more jobs for welfare recipients. Training, transportation and child care to help people go to work.

Now I challenge every state: turn those welfare checks into private sector paychecks. I challenge every religious congregation, every community non-profit, and every business: hire someone off welfare. And I say especially to every employer in this country who has ever criticized the old welfare system: You cannot blame that old system anymore. We have torn it down. Now do your part. Give someone on welfare the chance to work.

Tonight, I am pleased to announce that five major corporations—Sprint, Monsanto, UPS, Burger King, and United Airlines—will be the first to join in a new national effort to marshal America's businesses, large and small, to create jobs so people on welfare can move to work.

We passed welfare reform. We were right to do it. But no one can walk out

of this chamber with a clear conscience unless you are prepared to finish the job.

And we must join together to do something else too—something both Republican and Democratic governors have asked us to do—to restore basic health and disability benefits when misfortune strikes immigrants who came to this country legally, who work hard, pay taxes, and obey the law. To do otherwise is simply unworthy of a great nation of immigrants.

Next, the greatest step of all—the high threshold to the future we now must cross—and my number one priority as President for the next four years—is to ensure that Americans have the best education in the world.

Let's work together to meet these goals: Every 8 year old must be able to read; every 12 year old must be able to log on to the Internet; every 18 year old must be able to go to college, and every adult American must be able to keep on learning.

My balanced budget makes an unprecedented commitment to these goals—\$51 billion dollars next year. But far more than money is required.

I have a plan, a Call to Action for American Education, based on these ten principles.

First, a national crusade for education standards—not federal government standards, but national standards representing what all of our students must know to succeed in the knowledge economy of the 21st Century. Every state and school must shape the curriculum to reflect these standards, and train teachers to lift students up to meet them. To help schools meet the standards and measure their progress, we will lead an effort over the next two years to develop national tests of student achievement in reading and math.

Tonight, I issue a challenge to the nation: Every state should adopt high national standards, and by 1999, every state should test every 4th grader in reading and every 8th grader in math to make sure these standards are met.

Raising standards will not be easy, and some of our children will not be able to meet them at first. The point is not to put our children down, but to lift them up. Good tests will show us who needs help, what changes in teaching to make, and which schools to improve. They can help us to end social promotion. For no child should move from grade school to junior high, or junior high to high school until he or she is ready.

Last month, Secretary of Education Dick Riley and I visited Northern Illinois, where 8th grade students from 20 school districts, in a project called "First in the World," took the Third International Math and Science Study—a test that reflects the world-class standards our children must meet for the new era. And those students in Illinois tied for first in the world in science, and came in second in math. Two of them, Kristin Tanner, and Chris Getsla are here tonight, with their

teacher, Sue Winski. They prove that when we aim high and challenge our students, they will be the best in the world.

Second, to have the best schools, we must have the best teachers. Most of us would not be here tonight without the help of such teachers. I know I wouldn't be. For years, many educators, led by North Carolina's Governor Jim Hunt and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, have worked hard to establish nationally accepted credentials for excellence in teaching. Just 500 of these master teachers have been certified since 1995. My budget will enable 100,000 more to seek national certification as master teachers. We should reward our best teachers, quickly and fairly remove those few who don't measure up, and challenge our finest young people to consider teaching as a career.

Third: we must do more to help all our children read. 40% of our 8 year olds cannot read on their own. That's why we have just launched the America Reads initiative—to build a citizen army of one million volunteer tutors to make sure every child can read independently by the end of the 3rd grade. We will use thousands of AmeriCorps volunteers to mobilize this citizen army. We want at least 100,000 college students to help. And tonight, I am pleased that 60 college presidents have answered my call, pledging that thousands of their work study students will serve for one year as reading tutors.

This is also a challenge to every teacher and every principal: use these tutors to help students read. And it is especially a challenge to our parents: Read with your children every night.

This leads to the fourth principle: Learning begins in the first days of life. Scientists are now discovering how young children develop emotionally and intellectually from their first days, and, therefore, how important it is for parents to begin immediately talking, singing, even reading to their infants. The First Lady has spent years studying and writing about this issue. She and I will convene a White House Conference on Early Learning and the Brain this Spring, to explore how parents and educators can best use these startling new findings.

We already know we should start teaching children before they start schools. That's why my budget expands Head Start to one million children by 2002. And, in June, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore will host their annual family conference. This one will focus on the importance of parents' involvement throughout a child's education.

Fifth, every state should give parents the power to choose the right public school for their children. Their right to choose will foster the competition and innovation that can make our public schools better. We should also make it possible for more parents and teachers to start charter schools, schools that set and meet the highest standards, and survive only as long as they do.

Our plan will help America create 3,000 of these charter schools by the next century—nearly seven times as many as there are today—so that parents will have even more choices in sending their children to the best public schools.

Sixth: character education must be taught in our schools. We must teach our children to be good citizens. And we must continue to promote order and discipline, supporting communities that introduce school uniforms, impose curfews, enforce truancy laws, remove disruptive students from the classroom, and have zero tolerance for guns and drugs.

Seventh: we cannot expect our children to raise themselves up in schools that are literally falling down. With the student population at an all time high, and record numbers of school buildings falling into disrepair, this has now become a serious national concern. My budget includes a new initiative: \$5 billion to help communities finance \$20 billion in school construction over the next four years.

Eighth: We must make the 13th and 14th years of education—at least two years of college—just as universal in America as a high school education is today, and we must open the doors of college to all.

To do that, I propose America's HOPE scholarship, based on Georgia's pioneering program: two years of a \$1,500 tax credit for college tuition, enough to pay for the typical community college. I also propose a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 a year for all tuition after high school; an expanded IRA you can withdraw from tax free for education; and the largest increase in Pell Grant scholarships in 20 years. This plan will give most families the ability to pay no taxes on money saved for college tuition. I ask you to pass it—to give every American who works hard the chance to go to college.

Ninth: In the 21st Century, we must expand the frontiers of learning across a lifetime. All our people, of whatever age, must have a chance to learn new skills. Most Americans live near a community college. The roads that take them there can be paths to a better future. My G.I. Bill for Workers will transform the confusing tangle of federal training programs into a simple skill grant that will go directly into eligible workers' hands. For too long, this bill has been sitting on that desk down there without action—and I ask you to pass it now. Let's give more of our workers the ability to learn and to earn.

Tenth: we must bring the power of the Information Age into all our schools. Last year, I challenged America to connect every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000, so that, for the first time in history, a child in the most isolated rural town, the most comfortable suburb, the poorest inner city school, will have the same access to the same universe of knowledge. I ask your support to complete this historic mission.

That is my plan—a Call to Action for American Education.

We must understand the significance of this endeavor: One of the greatest sources of our strength throughout the Cold War was a bipartisan foreign policy; because our future was at stake, politics stopped at the water's edge. Now I ask you—I ask all our nation's governors—and I ask teachers, parents and citizens all across America—for a new nonpartisan commitment to education—because education is one of the critical national security issues for our future—and politics must stop at the classroom door.

I pledge to take this Call to Action to our country, so that together, we can make American education, like America itself, the envy of the world.

To prepare America for the 21st century, we must harness the powerful forces of science and technology to benefit all Americans.

This is the first State of the Union carried live over the Internet. But we have only begun to spread the benefits of a technology revolution that should be the modern birthright of every citizen.

Our effort to connect every classroom is just the beginning. Now, we should connect every hospital to the Internet, so doctors can instantly share data about their patients with the best specialists in the field. And I challenge the private sector to start by connecting every children's hospital as soon as possible, so that a child in bed can stay in touch with school, family and friends. A sick child need no longer be a child alone.

We must build the second generation of the Internet so our leading universities and national laboratories can communicate at speeds 1000 times faster than today, to develop new medical treatments, new sources of energy, and new ways of working together.

But we cannot stop there. As the Internet becomes our new town square, a computer in every home—a teacher of all subjects, a connection to all cultures—this will no longer be a dream, but a necessity. And over the next decade, that must be our goal.

We must continue to explore the heavens, pressing on with the Mars probes and the international space station, both of which will have practical applications for our everyday living.

We must speed the remarkable advances in medical science. The human genome project is now decoding the genetic mysteries of life. American scientists have discovered genes linked to breast cancer and ovarian cancer, and medication that stops a stroke in progress and begins to reverse its effects—and treatments that dramatically lengthen the lives of people with HIV and AIDS.

Since I took office, funding for AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health has increased dramatically, to \$1.5 billion. With new resources, NIH will now become the most powerful discovery engine for an AIDS vaccine,

working with other scientists to finally end the threat of AIDS. Every year we move up the discovery of an AIDS vaccine, we can save millions of lives around the world.

To prepare America for the 21st Century, we must build stronger families.

Over the past 4 years, the Family and Medical Leave Act has helped millions of Americans take time off to be with their families. With new pressures on people in the way they work and live, we should expand Family Leave so that workers can take time off for teacher conferences and a child's medical checkup. We should pass flextime so workers can choose to be paid for overtime in income, or trade it for time off to be with their families.

We must continue, step-by-step, to give more families access to affordable, quality health care. 40 million Americans still lack health insurance. 10 million children still lack health insurance. 80% of them have working parents who pay taxes. That is wrong. My balanced budget will extend health coverage to up to five million of those children. Since nearly half of all children who lose their insurance do so because their parents lose or change jobs, my budget will also ensure that people who temporarily lose their jobs can still afford to keep their health insurance. No child should be without a doctor just because a parent is without a job.

My Medicare plan modernizes Medicare, increases the life of the Trust Fund to 10 years, provides support for respite care for the many families with loved-ones afflicted with Alzheimers—and for the first time, it would fully pay for annual mammograms.

Just as we ended drive through deliveries of babies last year, we must now end the dangerous and demeaning practice of forcing women home from the hospital only hours after a mastectomy. I ask your support for bipartisan legislation to guarantee that women can stay in the hospital for 48 hours after a mastectomy. With us tonight is Dr. Kristen Zarfos, a Connecticut surgeon whose outrage at this practice spurred a national movement and inspired this legislation. We thank her for her efforts.

In the last four years, we have increased child support collections by 50%. Now, we should go further, and make it a felony for any parent to cross state lines in an attempt to flee from this, his or her most sacred obligation.

Finally, we must also protect our children by standing firm in our determination to ban the advertising and marketing of cigarettes that endanger their lives.

To prepare America for the 21st Century, we must build stronger communities.

We should start with safe streets. Serious crime has dropped five years in a row. The key has been community policing—and we must finish the job of putting 100,000 community police on

our streets. We should pass the Victims' Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

And I ask you to join me in mounting a full scale assault on juvenile crime, with legislation that: declares war on gangs, with new prosecutors and tougher penalties; extends the Brady Bill so violent teen criminals will never be able to buy handguns; requires child safety locks on handguns to prevent unauthorized use; and helps to keep our schools open after hours, on weekends, and in the summer, so young people will have someplace to go and something to say yes to.

My balanced budget includes the largest anti-drug effort ever: to stop drugs at their source, punish those who push them, and teach our young people that drugs are wrong, drugs are illegal, and drugs will kill them.

Our growing economy has helped to revive poor urban and rural neighborhoods. But we must do more, to empower them to create the conditions in which families can flourish, and to create jobs through investment by business and loans by banks.

We should double the number of empowerment zones. They have already brought hope to communities like Detroit, where the unemployment rate has been cut in half in four years. We should restore contaminated urban land and buildings to productive use. We should expand the network of community development banks.

And together, we must pledge tonight that we will use this empowerment approach—including private sector tax incentives—to renew our capital city, so that Washington is a great place to live and work, and is once again the proud face America shows to the world.

We must protect our environment in every community. In the last four years, we cleaned up 250 toxic waste sites, as many as in the previous twelve. Now we should clean up 500 more of them, so that our children grow up next to parks, not poison. Big polluters must live by this simple rule: If you pollute our environment, you pay to clean it up.

In the last four years, we strengthened the nation's safe food and clean drinking water laws. We protected some of America's rarest, most beautiful land in Utah's Red Rocks region, created three new national parks in the California desert, and began to restore Florida's Everglades. Now we must be as vigilant with our rivers as we are with our land. Tonight, I announce that this year I will designate 10 American Heritage Rivers, to help communities alongside them revitalize their waterfronts and clean up pollution in the rivers, proving once again that we can grow the economy as we protect the environment.

We must also protect our global environment, working to ban the worst toxic chemicals and to reduce the greenhouse gasses that challenge our health even as they change our climate.

We all know that in all of our communities, some of our children simply do not have what they need to grow and learn in their homes, or schools, or neighborhoods. The rest of us must do more, for they are our children too. That is why President Bush, General Colin Powell, and former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros will join Vice President GORE and me to lead the President's Summit of Service in Philadelphia in April.

Our national service program, Americorps, has already helped 70,000 young people work their way through college as they serve America. Now we intend to mobilize millions of Americans to serve in thousands of ways. Citizen service is an American responsibility, which all Americans should embrace.

I'd like to make one last point about our national community. Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our values and our soaring spirit. So instead of cutting back on our modest efforts to support the arts and humanities, I believe we should stand by them, and challenge our artists, musicians and writers, our museums, libraries and theaters, to join with all Americans to make the Year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community—a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in the new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon of liberty and creativity, long after the fireworks have faded.

To prepare America for the 21st Century, we must master the forces of change in the world and keep American leadership strong and sure for an uncharted time.

Fifty years ago, a farsighted America led in creating the institutions that secured victory in the Cold War and built a growing world economy. As a result, today more people than ever embrace our ideals and share our interests.

Already, we have dismantled many of the blocs and barriers that divided our parents' world. For the first time, more people live under democracy than dictatorship, including every nation in our hemisphere but one—and its day too will come.

Now, we stand at another moment of change and choice—and another time to be farsighted, to bring America 50 more years of security and prosperity.

Our first task is to help build, for the first time, an undivided, democratic Europe. When Europe is stable, prosperous and at peace, America is more secure.

To that end, we must expand NATO by 1999, so that countries that were once our adversaries can become our allies. At the special NATO summit this summer, that is what we will begin to do. We must strengthen NATO's Partnership for Peace with non-member allies. And we must build a stable partnership between NATO and a democratic Russia.

An expanded NATO is good for America. And a Europe in which all democracies define their future not in terms of what they can do to each other, but in terms of what they can do together for the good of all—that kind of Europe is good for America.

Second, America must look to the East no less than the West. Our security demands it: Americans have fought three wars in Asia this century. Our prosperity requires it: more than 2 million American jobs depend upon trade with Asia.

There, too, we are helping to shape an Asian Pacific community of cooperation, not conflict. But we must not let our progress there mask the peril that remains. Together with South Korea, we must advance peace talks with North Korea and bridge the Cold War's last divide. And I call on this Congress to fund our share of the agreement under which North Korea must continue to freeze and then dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

We must pursue a deeper dialogue with China—for the sake of our interests and our ideals. An isolated China is not good for America. A China playing its proper role in the world is. I will go to China and I have invited China's president to come here, not because we agree on everything, but because engaging China is the best way to work on common challenges like ending nuclear testing—and to deal frankly with fundamental differences like human rights.

Third, the American people must prosper in the global economy. We have worked hard to tear down trade barriers abroad, so that we can create good jobs at home. I am proud to say that today, America is once again the most competitive nation, and the number one exporter in the world.

Now, we must act to expand our exports, especially to Asia and Latin America, the two fastest growing regions on earth—or be left behind as these emerging economies forge new ties with other nations. That is why we need the authority now to conclude new trade agreements that open markets to our goods and services even as we preserve our values.

We need not shrink from the challenge of the global economy. We have the best workers and the best products. In a truly open market, and we can out-compete anyone in the world.

But this is about more than economics. By expanding trade, we can advance the cause of freedom and democracy around the world.

We should all be proud that America led the effort to rescue our neighbor Mexico from its economic crisis—and we should all be proud that last month, Mexico repaid the United States, three years ahead of schedule, with a half a billion dollars profit for us. And today our exports to Mexico are at an all time high.

Fourth, America must continue to be an unrelenting force for peace—from the Middle East to Haiti—from North-

ern Ireland to Africa. Taking reasonable risks for peace keeps us from being drawn into far more costly conflicts later.

With American leadership, the killing has stopped in Bosnia. Now, the habits of peace must take hold. The new NATO force will allow reconstruction and reconciliation to accelerate. Tonight, I ask Congress to continue its strong support for our troops there. They are doing a remarkable job for America—and America must do right by them.

Fifth, we must move strongly against new threats to our security. In the past four years, we agreed to ban nuclear testing. With Russia, we dramatically cut our nuclear arsenal; we stopped targeting each others citizens. We are acting to rid the world of landmines, and prevent nuclear materials from falling into the wrong hands. We are working with other nations, with renewed intensity, to stop terrorists and drug traffickers before they act, and to hold them fully accountable if they do.

Now, we must rise to a new test of leadership: ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention. It will make our troops safer from chemical attack. It will help us to fight terrorism. We have no more important obligations—especially in the wake of what we now know about the Gulf War. This treaty has been bipartisan from the beginning, supported by Republican and Democratic administrations alike—and Republican and Democratic Members of Congress alike—and already approved by 68 nations. If we do not act by April 29—when this Convention goes into force, with us or without us—we will lose the chance to have Americans leading and enforcing this effort. Together, we must make the Chemical Weapons Convention law, so that at last we can begin to outlaw poison gas from the earth.

Finally, we must have the tools to meet all these challenges.

We must maintain a strong and ready military. We must increase funding for weapons modernization by the Year 2000, and we must take good care of our men and women in uniform. They are the world's finest.

We must also renew our commitment to America's diplomacy—and pay our debts and dues to international financial institutions like the World Bank, and to a reforming United Nations. Every dollar we devote to preventing conflicts, to promoting democracy, to stopping the spread of disease and starvation, brings a sure return in security and savings. Yet international affairs spending today is just one percent of the federal budget—a tiny fraction of what America invested in diplomacy to choose leadership over escapism at the start of the Cold War. If America is to continue to lead the world, we here who lead America simply must find the will to pay our way.

A farsighted America moved the world to a better place over these last fifty years. And it can do so for another fifty years. But a shortsighted

America will soon find its words falling on deaf ears all around the world.

Almost exactly fifty years ago, in the first winter of the Cold War, President Harry Truman stood before a Republican Congress and called upon our country to meet its responsibilities of leadership. This was his warning: "If we falter, we may endanger the peace of the world—and we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation." That Congress, led by Republicans like Senator Arthur Vandenberg, answered President Truman's call. Together, they made the commitments that strengthened our country for fifty years. Now let us do the same. Let us do what it takes to remain the indispensable nation—to keep America strong, secure and prosperous for another fifty years.

In the end, more than anything else, our world leadership grows out of the power of our example here at home, out of our ability to remain strong as one America.

All over the world, people are being torn asunder by racial, ethnic, and religious conflicts that fuel fanaticism and terror. We are the world's most diverse democracy. And the world looks to us to show that it is possible to live and advance together across those kinds of differences.

America has always been a nation of immigrants. From the start, a steady stream of people, in search of freedom and opportunity, have left their own lands to make this land their home. We started as an experiment in democracy fueled by Europeans. We have grown into an experiment in democratic diversity fueled by openness and promise.

My fellow Americans, we must never believe that diversity is a weakness—it is our greatest strength. Americans speak every language, know every country. People on every continent can look to us and see the reflection of their own greatness, as long as we give all of our citizens, whatever their background, an opportunity to achieve their greatness.

We are not there yet. We still see evidence of abiding bigotry and intolerance, in ugly words and awful violence, in burned churches and bombed buildings. We must fight against this, in our country and in our hearts.

A few days before my second inauguration, one of America's best known pastors, Rev. Robert Schuller, suggested that I read Isaiah 58:12. It says: "Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations, and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in." I placed my hand on that verse when I took the oath of office, on behalf of all Americans. For no matter what our differences—in our faiths, our backgrounds, our politics—we must all be repairers of the breach. We may not share a common past, but surely we share a common future.

I want to say a word about two other Americans who show us the way to that common future. Congressman

FRANK TEJEDA was buried yesterday, a proud American whose family came from Mexico. He was only 51 years old. He earned the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart fighting for his country in Vietnam, and he went on to serve Texas and America fighting for our future in this chamber. We are grateful for his service and honored to have his mother, Lillie Tejeda, with us tonight.

Gary Locke, the newly elected Governor of Washington State, is our first Chinese-American Governor, the proud son of two of the millions of Asian-American immigrants who have strengthened America with their hard work, family values, and good citizenship.

Rev. Schuller, Congressman TEJEDA, Governor Locke, along with Kristin Tanner, Chris Getsla, Sue Winski and Dr. Kristen Zarfes—all Americans from different roots, whose lives reflect our shared values and the best of what we can become when we are one America.

Building that one America is our most important mission, "the foundation of many generations," of every other strength we must build for the new century. Money cannot buy it. Power cannot compel it. Technology cannot create it. It must rise from the human spirit.

America is far more than a place. It is an idea, the most powerful idea in the history of nations. We are now the bearers of that idea, leading a great people into a new world. A child born tonight will have almost no memory of the 20th Century. Everything that child will know of America, will be because of what we do now to build a new century.

We don't have a moment to waste. Tomorrow morning, there will be just over 1,000 days until the Year 2000. 1,000 days to prepare our people. 1,000 days to work together. My fellow Americans, we have work to do. Let us seize the days and the century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 35. That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Frank Tejeda, a Representative from the State of Texas.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 637(b) of Public Law 104-52, as amended by section 2904 of Public Law 104-134, the Speaker reappoints Mr. PORTMAN of Ohio to the National Commission of Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 637(b) of Public Law 104-52, the minority leader accepts the resignation of ROBERT T. MATSUI of California from the National Commis-

sion on Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service and hereby appoints Mr. WILLIAM J. COYNE of Pennsylvania to the Commission for the remainder of its term.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-942. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports of three deferrals of budget authority; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Finance, and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-943. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to financial reporting, received on January 29, 1997 to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-944. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on salary range structure and performance merit pay matrix for 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-945. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the fluid milk promotion program, received on January 27, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-946. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report concerning the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-947. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report a rule relative to home mortgage disclosure, received on January 28, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-948. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules including one rule relative to National Emission Standards, (FRL-5682-3, 5584-5), received on January 29, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-949. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the weighted average interest rate, received on January 29, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-950. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the alternative minimum tax, received on January 29, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-951. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue