

six years are proof that we can have both. We have set tough new clean air standards for soot and smog that will prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year. We have set new food and water safety standards and have accelerated the pace of cleanups of toxic Superfund sites. We expanded our efforts to protect tens of millions of acres of public and private lands, including Yellowstone National Park and Florida's Everglades. Led by the Vice President, the Administration reached an international agreement in Kyoto that calls for cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. In my budget this year, I am proposing an historic interagency Lands Legacy initiative to both preserve the Nation's Great Places, and advance preservation of open spaces in every community. This initiative will give State and local governments the tools for orderly growth while protecting and enhancing green spaces, clean water, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation. I also propose a Livability Initiative with a new financing mechanism, Better America Bonds, to create more open spaces in urban and suburban areas, protect water quality, and clean up abandoned industrial sites. My budget continues to increase our investments in energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy to strengthen our economy while reducing greenhouse gases. And I am proposing a new Clean Air Partnership Fund to support State and local efforts to reduce both air pollution and greenhouse gases.

Law: Our anti-crime strategy is working. For more than six years, serious crime has fallen uninterrupted and the murder rate is down by more than 28 percent, its lowest point in three decades. But, because crime remains unacceptably high, we must go further. Building on our successful community policing (COPS) program, which in this, its final year, places 100,000 more police on the street, my budget launches the next step—the 21st Century Policing initiative. This initiative invests in additional police targeted especially to crime “hot spots,” in crime fighting technology, and in community based prosecutors and crime prevention. The budget also provides funds to prevent violence against women, and to address the growing law enforcement crisis on Indian lands. To boost our efforts to control illegal immigration, the budget provides the resources to strengthen border enforcement in the South and West, remove illegal aliens, and expand our efforts to verify whether newly hired non-citizens are eligible for jobs. To combat drug use, particularly among young people, my budget expands programs that stress treatment and prevention, law enforcement, international assistance, and interdiction.

ENTERING THE 21ST CENTURY

As we prepare to enter the next century, we must keep sight of the source of our great success. We enjoy an economy of unprecedented prosperity due, in large measure, to our commitment

to fiscal discipline. In the past six years, we have worked together as a Nation, facing the responsibility to correct the mistaken deficit-driven policies of the past. Balancing the budget has allowed our economy to prosper and has freed our children from a future in which mounting deficits threatened to limit options and sap the country's resources.

In the course of the next century, we will face new challenges for which we are now fully prepared. As the result of our fiscal policy, and the resources it has produced, we will enter this next century from a position of strength, confident that we have both the purpose and ability to meet the tasks ahead. If we keep our course, and maintain the important balance between fiscal discipline and investing wisely in priorities, our position of strength promises to last for many generations to come.

The great and immediate challenge before us is to save Social Security. It is time to move forward now.

We have already started the hard work of seeking to build consensus for Social Security's problems. Let us finish the job before the year ends. Let us enter the 21st Century knowing that the American people have met one more great challenge—that we have fulfilled the obligations we owe to each other as Americans.

If we can do this—and surely we can—then we will be able to look ahead with confidence, knowing that our strength, our resources, and our national purpose will help make the year 2000 the first in what promises to be the next American Century.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 1, 1999.*

□ 1615

REPORT CONCERNING EMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES OF ALBANIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-16)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) 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 and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Albania. The report indicates continued Albanian compliance with U.S. and international standards in the area of emigration. In fact, Albania has imposed no emigration restrictions, including exit visa requirements, on its population since 1991.

On December 5, 1997, I determined and reported to the Congress that Albania is not in violation of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, or paragraph (1), (2),

or (3) of subsection 409(a) that act. That action allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations status for Albania and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver. This semiannual report is submitted as required by law pursuant to the determination of December 5, 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 2, 1999.*

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. HOYER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PROGRESS OF LIVABLE COMMUNITIES MOVEMENT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, we begin the new session on a note of optimism that has been sounded by Republican leaders, by our Democratic leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), and by the President of the United States in his recent appearance in this Chamber. This is important, because we have been consumed by the dark cloud hanging over this Capitol.

Over this past year, a few bright spots have indeed emerged. I am especially pleased with the progress and the attention given to the Livable Communities movement.

Recently highlighted by the administration in the President's State of the Union speech, elements were previewed a week earlier by the Vice President, who is a major architect of this work. The Vice President's address last September at the Brookings Institute was one of the best statements I have heard on the importance of Livable Communities and how to encourage them.

While I am pleased with their leadership, I want to caution that this is not just a partisan initiative of the Democratic administration. As an appointee over 25 years ago of Oregon's legendary Republican Governor Tom McCall to his Livable Oregon Committee, I know full well that making our communities livable does not have to be a partisan effort. Indeed, it should not be.

Oregon's achievements in land use, transportation and environmental protection have made it a beacon for the Livable Communities movement. Our efforts were marked by a spirit of bipartisan cooperation. Nationally, we have seen an example of Republican interest when Governor Christy Todd

Whitman made "Livable New Jersey" the theme of her second and final inaugural address.

The most important strength of the Livable Communities movement is that it transcends even bipartisan politics. Over 200 local and state ballot initiatives faced voters this November from around the country signaling a new era of grassroots pressure to create more livable communities and to have government become a better partner in that effort. I would note that an overwhelming majority of those initiatives passed.

For some it is too easy to discount the Federal role, citing local control, fear of regulation or simply misreading history. The fact is the Federal Government has been a partner with local government and the private sector in shaping the landscape and building communities since the Federal Government first started taking land away from the native Americans, who were largely hunters and gatherers, and gave it to European farmers, who cut and burned the forests for farms.

Now that President Clinton and Vice President GORE have made Livable Communities a priority, raising new levels of interest, it is more important than ever that the problems of dysfunctional communities be addressed by we in Congress.

This movement brings together communities, large and small, rural and urban, inner city and suburb. This Congress has an historic opportunity to rise above partisanship and business as usual to work together to improve the quality of life of all Americans.

These proposals will not end up costing great sums of money; indeed, by and large, they will save money and create wealth. They are not going to put people at risk. They will indeed strengthen the lives of our communities and enrich them.

It does not require picking winners and losers. Livable Communities do not discriminate against one another, they reach out to include people. There is something in it for everyone.

During the work of the last Congress, on the ISTEA reauthorization to create T-21, I used a scriptural reference found in Isaiah, 58:12. If anything, it is more applicable for the Livable Communities initiative.

Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall rise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

In the weeks ahead, I will be suggesting simple, inexpensive steps that we can all take to make our communities safe, economically secure and healthy; from not having our communities held hostage to the whims of billionaire sports franchise owners, to making the Post Office obey local land use, planning and zoning codes and work with local communities before they make decisions that have the potential of tearing the heart out of historic small town America; to reforming flood in-

surance, to make it more cost effective and efficient.

It is time for us in Congress to heed the Prophet Isaiah and to be about this important work of making our communities more livable.

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA'S LEADERS, PAST AND PRESENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to highlight tonight the accomplishments of Jennifer Valoppi, a woman who has served as a wonderful example for teenage girls in my community of South Florida, and at the same time she has committed herself to her profession, rising to excellence within her chosen field as a television anchor.

In 1997 Jennifer conceived, created and founded what is now a very successful program in South Florida called Women of Tomorrow. She convinced her employer, NBC 6, to sponsor this wonderful, ambitious program that has helped so many teens who otherwise might not have successful role models to look up to.

"Women of Tomorrow" is structured in such a way that it pairs professional women in our South Florida area with teenage girls in order to improve their self-esteem, and it also provides guidance and nurturing in their lives. This fantastic program is designed to show young women the endless possibilities ahead of them as they embark on the beginning of their adult lives.

Mentors meet with small groups, usually no larger than 10 girls in a group, to discuss the girls' ambitions, their motivations, their positive attitudes, the achievement of their dreams, in addition to sharing personal stories of triumph and, of course, temporary setbacks and obstacles.

In addition to launching this wonderful organization devoted to teenage girls, Jennifer Valoppi is a multi-E Emmy award winning journalist who has twice been named "Best TV News Anchor." She inspires us with her dedication and her drive to improve the world around us.

Madam Speaker, Jennifer Valoppi has made a tremendous mark on our community. I applaud all of her efforts, and I hope that more women of South Florida get in touch with Jennifer and also become part of this teen mentoring program, Women of Tomorrow.

THE DANTE FASCELL NORTH-SOUTH CENTER

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, another leading citizen of our community unfortunately is no longer with us, and I would like to say a few words about this very unique individual.

In Latin there is a phrase "sui generis" which refers to something unique and rare. I can think of no other way to describe our former South Florida colleague, Dante Fascell. Dante was a man of vision and of skill, whose intellect and political sense were instrumental in the passage of countless foreign policy measures throughout his tenure in this House, and in particular during the 14 years that he had the great privilege of chairing the Committee on International Relations which was then called the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Dante Fascell was a vital figure in the fight for democracy in my native homeland of Cuba, in all of Central America. He authored programs such as the Cuban Refugees Assistance Act, and he advocated the founding and was successful in establishing Radio and TV Marti. The freedom fighters throughout our Western Hemisphere always knew that they enjoyed the support of Chairman Dante Fascell because he not only fought to protect the national security interests of his country, our beloved United States, but he was unwavering in his efforts to help those who are struggling to regain their rights as freedom-loving human beings, as citizens of the world, and as brothers and sisters in the greater family of nations.

Dante Fascell understood the idiosyncracies, the internal political dynamics, the historical context, and the global developments which impacted our region, especially the North-South relations, and for this reason he spearheaded and was successful in the creation of the North-South Center in his hometown of Miami and his beloved university, the University of Miami. He did this in order to promote an even greater understanding of the issues, in order to move the discussions toward a proactive solution-based approach.

It is appropriate that the father of the North-South Center, the man whose vision and perseverance helped make this dream a reality, be honored by having the North-South Center carry his name and the University of Miami, and in this fashion the legacy of Dante Fascell will continue to inspire future generations of leaders.

So I am honored today to say some words of praise to a man who is no longer with us, Dante Fascell, but also to praise today's leaders who are very much with us, like Jennifer Valoppi,