

Plan, the Military Technical Agreement, and the Kosovo Liberation Army Undertaking.

I anticipate that Kosovo Force—and U.S. participation in it—will gradually reduce in size as public security conditions improve and Kosovars assume increasing responsibility for their own self-government.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 31, 2003.*

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, February 3, 2003.*

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on February 3, 2003 at 5:04 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits his Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2004.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,  
*Clerk of the House.*

#### BUDGET OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-3)

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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 Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

##### THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

The budget for 2004 meets the challenges posed by three national priorities: winning the war against terrorism, securing the homeland, and generating long-term economic growth. It restrains the growth in federal spending and addresses the long-term fiscal challenge presented by Medicare and Social Security's unfunded promises. This year's budget also helps America meet its goals both at home and overseas.

We remain at war with an enemy that seeks to use murder, stealth, and fear against all free nations. Yet our response has been resolute. The people of Afghanistan have been freed from the oppressive regime that sponsors the terrorists who planned and carried out the attacks of September 11, 2001. We are hunting down the terrorist leaders and their collaborators, one by one. And we continue to disrupt their plots, shut down their financing, and deny them safe haven.

We have moved to secure the nation's safety. Just 10 days ago, the new Department of Homeland Security began operations in the biggest reorganization of the Federal Government in a half-century. The cabinet-level department unifies the work of 22 programs and agencies and will move quickly to better protect Americans from threats here at home. We also have moved to defend America's interests abroad, and to confront danger wherever it emerges. Working with our allies and partners, we will face down regimes that govern by fear and deception, and we will devote the necessary resources to protect ourselves and our friends against the use of weapons of mass destruction.

We are strengthening our economy by allowing American families to keep more of their own money and encouraging businesses to save, spend, and grow. While the economy is growing, it is not growing fast enough. Too many Americans who want to work can't find a job, and too many American families are falling behind.

The growth and jobs plan I outlined earlier this year will provide critical momentum to our economic recovery. For every American paying income taxes, I propose speeding up the tax cuts already approved by the Congress, because Americans need that relief today. And for America's 84 million investors, and those who will become investors, I propose eliminating the double taxation of stock dividends. Double taxation is unfair and bad for our economy.

Government cannot manage or control the economy. But government can remove the barriers blocking stronger economic growth. My plan will give Americans more tools to achieve that growth.

A recession and a war we did not choose have led to the return of deficits. My Administration firmly believes in controlling the deficit and reducing it as the economy strengthens and our national security interests are met. Compared to the overall federal budget and the \$10.5 trillion national economy, our budget gap is small by historical standards. By protecting our vital national security interests and promoting economic growth, we will meet the challenges and concerns of the American people. We will not let them down.

I will also insist on spending discipline in Washington D.C., so we can meet our priorities. We must prepare for the future costs of Social Security and Medicare. My budget takes the first steps toward modernizing Medicare and includes prescription drug coverage.

We will continue to focus on getting results from federal spending. A federal program's measure of success is not its size, but the value it delivers. And my budget will focus on this goal in a new and important way. If federal programs cannot show results, they should be overhauled, or retired.

And while human compassion cannot be summarized in dollars and cents, this budget addresses the many challenges our society faces: bridging the gap for low-income families, so they can buy affordable homes; helping communities of faith pull the addicted from the grip of drugs; lifting children out of poverty and hopelessness by creating good schools and offering them caring adult mentors; and easing the pain and hardship of the global epidemic of AIDS.

Some of the challenges we face will endure for many years and require great resources. As we look down that path, we will not always get to choose which battles we fight. It is, however, our duty to fight them. History may not remember every single way we contributed to this nation's betterment, but it will remember if we failed to try. The courage to take on challenges, and the enterprise with which we have succeeded in meeting them, have always distinguished America. This same courage and enterprise will help America meet these challenges, and prevail once again.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
*February 3, 2003.*

#### APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL CONFEREES ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection and pursuant to clause 11 of rule I, the Chair appoints the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) as conferees on House Joint Resolution 2.

There was no objection.

The Clerk will notify the Senate of the change in conferees.

#### HOUR OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF VALIANT CREW MEMBERS OF SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn in memory of the valiant crew members of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### HONORING CREW MEMBERS OF SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

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

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the seven brave men and women of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*: Commander Rick Husband; Pilot William McCool; Payload Commander Michael Anderson; Specialist Kalpana Chawla; Specialist David Brown; Specialist Laurel Clark; and Specialist Ilan Ramon.

Today America and the entire world grieves with the families and victims of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. While there is no way one can adequately express in words the sense of sorrow that we all feel, know that our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of tragedy, and know their loss was part of a larger manifest destiny of human understanding, the continual exploration, the continual search for knowledge below our seas, in our heavens, around this Earth, and in planets beyond, a part of the continued tradition of American leadership in exploration, discovery, and technology.

We have lost seven brave individuals, men and women, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, husbands and wives. We will never forget their courage, bravery, and service to our Nation. Each of these individuals was a pioneer who gave their lives in the name of science and exploration.

□ 1615

They epitomized the best that America and mankind have to offer, and their efforts will not be lost or forgotten. We must finish the quest that they started, and we must continue on with our manned space exploration. I believe the crew of *Columbia* would expect nothing less.

While America mourned your tragic loss, we will never forget your heroism. You will forever be remembered in our hearts and in our minds as heroes.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1855

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) at 6 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 18, MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2003

Mrs. MYRICK, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-7) on the resolution (H. Res. 48) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 18) mak-

ing further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON BOSNIA AND U.S. FORCES IN NATO-LED STABILIZATION FORCE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-34)

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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 International Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by the Levin Amendment to the 1998 Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act (section 7(b) of Public Law 105-174) and section 1203(a) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress made toward achieving benchmarks for a sustainable peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This seventh report, which also includes supplemental reporting as required by section 1203(a) of Public Law 105-261, provides an updated assessment of progress on the benchmarks covering the period January 1 to December 31, 2002.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 4, 2003.*

#### PLAN COLOMBIA SEMI-ANNUAL OBLIGATION REPORT AND ANDEAN COUNTERDRUG INITIATIVE REPORT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-35)

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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 International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to Public Law 106-246, section 3204(e), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration detailing the progress of spending by the executive branch during the last two quarters of Fiscal Year 2002 in support of Plan Colombia.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 4, 2003.*

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PUTNAM) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

- Mr. PUTNAM, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, February 5.  
Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, February 5.  
Mrs. BIGGERT, for 5 minutes, February 5.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on January 31, 2003 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.J. Res. 3. Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 5, 2003, at 3 p.m. in memory of the valiant crew members of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

441. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Termination of Designation of the State of Maine with Respect to the Inspection of Meat and Meat Food Products and Poultry and Poultry Food Products [Docket No. 02-028F] received January 28, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

442. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Urea; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-2002-0277; FRL-7284-2] received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

443. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Urea; Revocation of Tolerance Exemptions [OPP-2 002-0276; FRL-7284-3] received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

444. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's decision to study certain functions performed by military and civilian personnel in the Department of the Navy for possible performance by private contractors, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

445. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on TRICARE reimbursement of Professional Providers, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1097