

and continued slavery. Martin Luther King could have stopped at Birmingham or at Selma, and achieved only half a victory over segregation. The United States could have accepted the permanent division of Europe, and been complicit in the oppression of others. Today, having come far in our own historical journey, we must decide: Will we turn back, or finish well?

Before history is written down in books, it is written in courage. Like Americans before us, we will show that courage and we will finish well. We will lead freedom's advance. We will compete and excel in the global economy. We will renew the defining moral commitments of this land. And so we move forward—optimistic about our country, faithful to its cause, and confident of victories to come.

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

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 31, 2006.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 650. A resolution informing the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 77: Concurrent resolution to provide for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President on the state of the Union.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2227. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to remove the 100 percent tariff imposed on roasted chicory and other roasted coffee substitutes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2228. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2404 Race Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas, as the "Hattie W. Caraway Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2229. A bill to provide quality, affordable health care for all Americans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2230. A bill to ensure that members of the Armed Forces have complete personal armored protection necessary for their duties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. Res. 359. A resolution concerning the Government of Romania's ban on inter-country adoptions and the welfare of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. Res. 360. A resolution designating the week of February 6 through February 10, 2006, as "National School Counseling Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. Res. 361. A resolution honoring professional surveyors and recognizing their contributions to society; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID,

Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 362. A resolution honoring the life of Coretta Scott King and expressing the condolences of the Senate on her passing; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 8

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 8, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 58

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 58, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to

permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to establish a Federal Youth Development Council to improve the administration and coordination of Federal programs serving youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1173

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1173, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure the right of employees to a secret-ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 2049

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2049, a bill to improve the security of the United States borders and for other purposes.

S. 2157

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2157, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the Purple Heart to be awarded to prisoners of war who die in captivity under circumstances not otherwise establishing eligibility for the Purple Heart.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2178, a bill to make the stealing and selling of telephone records a criminal offense.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2179, a bill to require openness in conference committee deliberations and full disclosure of the contents of conference reports and all other legislation.

S. 2197

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2197, a bill to improve the global competitiveness of the United States in science and energy technology, to strengthen basic research programs at the Department of

Energy, and to provide support for mathematics and science education at all levels through the resources available through the Department of Energy, including at the National Laboratories.

S. 2198

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2198, a bill to ensure the United States successfully competes in the 21st century global economy.

S. 2199

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives to promote research and development, innovation, and continuing education.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2201, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the mediation and implementation requirements of section 40122 regarding changes in the Federal Aviation Administration personnel management system, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 354

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 354, a resolution honoring the valuable contributions of Catholic schools in the United States.

S. RES. 355

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 355, a resolution honoring the service of the National Guard and requesting consultation by the Department of Defense with Congress and the chief executive officers of the States prior to offering proposals to change the National Guard force structure.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2229. A bill to provide quality, affordable health care for all Americans; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, in this century of the life sciences, medical miracles have the potential to improve the health and extend the lives of millions of Americans and millions more across the world.

But for too many of our citizens, quality affordable health care is a distant dream, and the promise of the century of the life sciences rings hollow.

Forty-six million Americans have no health insurance. Under the current

Administration, the number has climbed every year of this Administration, from 40 million in 2000 to 46 million today. That's equivalent to the population of 24 States and the District of Columbia—combined.

That's 46 million Americans who wonder whether a cough or fever will turn into a serious illness that brings financial ruin, and 46 million Americans who have to make the impossible choice between paying for a visit to the doctor or paying the rent to keep a roof over their heads.

Even these figures understate the problem. Over a two year period, 82 million Americans, one out of every three Americans under 65, will be uninsured for a period of at least two months.

The burden of lack of health insurance falls most heavily on minority populations. Less than 13 percent of white Americans are uninsured, but over 20 percent of African Americans lack health insurance. For Hispanic Americans, the figure is even more appalling—over a third of Hispanic Americans lack coverage.

Over 80 percent of the uninsured are members of working families. They work 40 hours a week, fifty-two weeks a year—but all their hard work can't buy them the health insurance they need to protect themselves and their families—because they can't afford it and their employers don't provide it.

In any given year, one third of the uninsured go without needed medical care. Eight million uninsured Americans fail to take the drugs their doctors prescribe—because they can't afford to fill the prescription. 270,000 children suffering from asthma never see a doctor. 27,000 uninsured women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. They are twice as likely as insured women not to receive medical treatment until their cancer has spread. As a result, they are 50 percent more likely to die of the disease.

The list of grim examples goes on and on.

Some argue that despite the lack of health care coverage, the uninsured get the care they need. But that's a myth. The facts prove otherwise.

Thirty five percent of the uninsured—over 15 million Americans—skip recommended treatment because of cost. Over a third of the uninsured need care but do not get it, and nearly half postpone care because of its cost. Millions of Americans are at risk of ignoring serious illnesses, because they can't afford to see a doctor for a needed test.

Whether the disease is AIDS or mental illness or cancer or heart disease or diabetes, the uninsured are left out and left behind. In hospital and out, young or old, black or white, they receive less care, suffer more, and are 25 percent more likely to die than those who are insured.

But the large and growing number of the uninsured is only part of the health care crisis. Costs are rising out of con-

trol, making health care coverage less affordable for businesses and individuals, and undercutting American industry in the global marketplace.

There is no doubt that America has the finest health care professionals, the best hospitals and the most creative medical researchers in the world. But having the best components is no guarantee of success for the health care system as a whole.

In the amount of money spent on health care per person, America is first in the world by a large margin. By that standard, we spend 49 percent more than the Swiss, 88 percent more than the Germans, 150 percent more than the British, and 160 more than the Japanese. Despite this enormous expenditure, America's health care system fails all too often to deliver quality health care. Among the world's leading industrialized countries, the United States ranks only 22nd in average life expectancy and 25th in infant mortality.

The most significant difference between the American health care system and those of our economic competitors is that these other nations regard health as a right, not a privilege. They make certain that their citizens have access to good health care. By establishing a national system of care, they have been able to hold down costs and keep quality high.

In the United States, we have refused to commit to quality health care for all Americans.

As a result, those who can afford the best care receive it, but millions of other Americans are left by the wayside.

Because of our fractured system of care, America's health care system is the most economically inefficient in the industrial world. The administrative costs alone of our system are nearly double those of Canada. Reducing our administrative costs to the low level of the Canadian system would save about \$250 billion every year.

The difference between the way health care is financed in Canada and the U.S. saves the Canadian auto industry \$4.00 an hour in worker compensation compared to the U.S. The Canadian branches of the big three automakers have released a joint letter with the Canadian Auto Workers Union stating that the Canadian system is a "strategic advantage for Canada" and "has been an important ingredient" in the success of Canada's "most important export industry."

Wise investments have helped contain health care costs here at home too. Since 1996, costs per patient in the Veterans medical system have actually decreased 7 percent, while private sector costs per patient have increased by 62 percent. The VA system did not achieve these savings by stinting on patient care or denying needed services. The VA has been widely praised for improving its quality of care through investments in information technology and a strong commitment to quality for all.