

help them build our economic prosperity tomorrow.

The "Middle-Class Bill of Rights Tax Relief Act of 1995" includes three of the four elements of my Middle Class Bill of Rights. First, it offers middle-income families a \$500 tax credit for each child under 13. Second, it includes a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 a year to help middle-income Americans pay for post-secondary education expenses and training expenses. Third, it lets more middle-income Americans make tax-deductible contributions to Individual Retirement Accounts and withdraw from them, penalty-free, for the costs of education and training, health care, first-time home-buying, long periods of unemployment, or the care of an ill parent.

The fourth element of my Middle Class Bill of Rights—not included in this legislation—is the GI Bill for America's Workers, which consolidates 70 Federal training programs and creates a more effective system for learning new skills and finding better jobs for adults and youth. Legislation for this proposal is being developed in cooperation with the Congress.

If enacted, the Middle Class Bill of Rights will help keep the American Dream alive for everyone willing to take responsibility for themselves, their families, and their futures. And it will not burden our children with more debt. In my fiscal 1996 budget, we have found enough savings not only to pay for this tax bill, but also to provide another \$81 billion in deficit reduction between 1996 and 2000.

This legislation will restore fairness to our tax system, let middle-income families share in our economic prosperity, encourage Americans to prepare for the future, and help ensure that the United States moves into the 21st Century still the strongest nation in the world. I urge the Congress to take prompt and favorable action on this legislation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 13, 1995.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 104-34).

¶25.23 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—  
WORKING WAGE INCREASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BONILLA, 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 for your immediate consideration and enactment the "Working Wage Increase Act of 1995."

This draft bill would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to increase the minimum wage in two 45 cents steps—from the current rate of \$4.25 an hour to \$4.70 an hour on July 4, 1995, and to \$5.15 an hour after July 3, 1996. The pattern of the proposed increase is identical to that of the last increase, which

passed the Congress with a broad bipartisan majority and was signed by President Bush in 1989. The first increment of the proposal simply restores the minimum wage to its real value following the change enacted in 1989.

If the Congress does not act now, the minimum wage will fall to its lowest real level in 40 years. That would dishonor one of the great promises of American life—that everyone who works hard can earn a living wage. More than 11 million workers would benefit under this proposal, and a full-time, year-round worker at the minimum wage would get a \$1,800 raise—the equivalent of 7 months of groceries for the average family.

To reform the Nation's welfare system, we should make work pay, and this legislation would help achieve that result. It would offer a raise to families that are working hard, but struggling to make ends meet. Most individuals earning the minimum wage are adults, and the average worker affected by this proposal brings home half of the family's earnings. Numerous empirical studies indicate that an increase in the minimum wage of the magnitude proposed would not have a significant impact on employment. The legislation would ensure that those who work hard and play by the rules can live with the dignity they have earned.

I urge the Congress to take prompt and favorable action on this legislation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 13, 1995.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 104-33).

¶25.24 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—  
NEW ECONOMIC STRATEGY

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

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Two years ago I took office determined to improve the lives of average American families. I proposed, and the Congress enacted, a new economic strategy to restore the American dream. Two years later, that strategy has begun to pay off.

Together we have created an environment in which America's private sector has been able to produce more than 5 million new jobs. Manufacturing employment grew during each month of 1994—the first time that has happened since 1978. We have cut the deficit in the Federal budget for 3 years running, we have kept inflation in check, and based on actions I have already taken, the Federal bureaucracy will soon be the smallest it has been in more than 3 decades. We have opened up more new trade opportunities in just 2 years than in any similar period in a generation. And we have embarked on a new partnership with American industry to pre-

pare the American people to compete and win in the new global economy.

In short, America's economic prospects have improved considerably in the last 2 years. And the economy will continue to move forward in 1995, with rising output, falling deficits, and increasing employment. Today there is no country in the world with an economy as strong as ours, as full opportunity, as full of hope.

Still, living standards for many Americans have not improved as the economy has expanded. For the last 15 years, those Americans with the most education and the greatest flexibility to seek new opportunities have seen their incomes grow. But the rest of our work force have seen their incomes either stagnate or fall. An America that, in our finest moments, have always grown together, now grows apart.

I am resolved to keep the American dream alive in this new economy. We must make it possible for the American people to invest in the education of their children and in their own training and skills. This is the essence of the New Covenant I have called for—economic opportunity provided in return for people assuming personal responsibility. This is the commitment my Administration made to the American people 2 years ago, and it remains our commitment to them today.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC  
STRATEGY

Our economic strategy has been straightforward. First, we have pursued deficit reduction to increase the share of the Nation's economic resources available for private investment. At the same time we have reoriented the government's public investment portfolio with an eye toward preparing our people and our economy for the 21st century. We have cut yesterday's government to help solve tomorrow's problems, shrinking departments, cutting unnecessary regulations, and ending programs that have outlived their usefulness. We have also worked to expand trade and to boost American sales to foreign markets, so that the American people can enjoy the better jobs and higher wages that should result from their own high-quality, high-productivity labor. Having fixed the fundamentals, we are now proposing what I call the Middle Class Bill of Rights, an effort to build on the progress we have made in controlling the deficit while providing tax relief that is focused on the people who need it most.

PUTTING OUR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER

The first task my Administration faced upon taking office in January 1993 was to put our own economic house in order. For more than a decade, the Federal Government had spent much more than it took in, borrowing the difference. As a consequence, by 1992 the Federal deficit had increased to 4.9 percent of gross domestic product—and our country had gone from being the world's largest creditor Nation to being its largest debtor.

As a result of my Administration's deficit reduction package, passed and signed into law in August 1993, the deficit in fiscal 1994 was \$50 billion lower than it had been the previous year. In fact, it was about \$100 billion lower than had been forecast before our budget plan was enacted. Between fiscal 1993 and fiscal 1998, our budget plan will reduce the deficit by \$616 billion. Our fiscal 1996 budget proposal includes an additional \$81 billion in deficit reduction through fiscal 2000.

#### PREPARING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO COMPETE AND WIN

As we were taking the necessary steps to restore fiscal discipline to the Federal Government, we were also working to reorient the government's investment portfolio to prepare our people and our economy for 21st-century competition.

*Training and Education.* In our new information-age economy, learning must become a way of life. Learning begins in childhood, and the opportunity to learn must be available to every American child—that is why we have worked hard to expand Head Start.

With the enactment of Goals 2000 we have established worldclass standards for our Nation's schools. Through the School-to-Work Opportunities Act we have created new partnerships with schools and businesses to make sure that young people make a successful transition to the world of work. We have also dramatically reformed the college loan program. Americans who aspire to a college degree need no longer fear that taking out a student loan will one day leave them overburdened by debt.

Finally, we are proposing to take the billions of dollars that the government now spends on dozens of training programs and make that money directly available to working Americans. We want to leave it up to *them* to decide what new skills they need to learn—and when—to get a new or better job.

*New Technology.*—Technological innovation is the engine driving the new global economy. This Administration is committed to fostering innovation in the private sector. We have reoriented the Federal Government's investment portfolio to support fundamental science and industry-led technology partnerships, the rapid deployment and commercialization of civilian technologies, and funding for technology infrastructure in transportation, communications, and manufacturing.

*A Middle Class Bill of Rights.* Fifty years ago the GI Bill of Rights helped transform an economy geared for war into one of the most successful peacetime economies in history. Today, after a peaceful resolution of the cold war, middle-class Americans have a right to move into the 21st century with the same opportunity to achieve the American dream.

People ought to be able to deduct the cost of education and training after high school from their taxable in-

comes. If a family makes less than \$120,000 a year, the tuition that family pays for college, community college, graduate school, professional school, vocational education, or worker training should be fully deductible, up to \$10,000 a year. If a family makes \$75,000 a year or less, that family should receive a tax cut, up to \$500, for every child under the age of 13. If a family makes less than \$100,000 a year, that family should be able to put \$2,000 a year, tax free, into an individual retirement account from which it can withdraw, tax free, money to pay for education, health care, a first home, or the care of an elderly parent.

#### EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY AT HOME THROUGH FREE AND FAIR TRADE

Our efforts to prepare the American people to compete and win in the new global economy cannot succeed unless we succeed in expanding trade and boosting exports of American products and services to the rest of the world. That is why we have worked so hard to create the global opportunities that will lead to more and better jobs at home. We won the fight for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Our commitment to free and fair trade goes beyond NAFTA and the GATT. Last December's Summit of the Americas set the stage for open markets throughout the Western Hemisphere. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group is working to expand investment and sales opportunities in the Far East. We firmly believe that economic expansion and a rising standard of living will result in both regions, and the United States is well positioned both economically and geographically to participate in those benefits.

This Administration has also worked to promote American products and services to overseas customers. When foreign government contracts have been at stake, we have made sure that our exporters had an equal chance. Billions of dollars in new export sales have been the result, from Latin America to Asia. And these sales have created and safeguarded tens of thousands of American jobs.

#### HEALTH CARE AND WELFARE REFORM: THE UNFINISHED AGENDA

In this era of rapid change, Americans must be able to embrace new economic opportunities without sacrificing their personal economic security. My Administration remains committed to providing health insurance coverage for every American and containing health care costs for families, businesses, and governments. The Congress can and should take the first steps toward achieving these goals. I have asked the Congress to work with me to reform the health insurance market, to make coverage affordable for and available to children, to help workers who lose their jobs keep their

health insurance, to level the playing field for the self-employed by giving them the same tax treatment as other businesses, and to help families provide long-term care for a sick parent or a disabled child. We simply must make health care coverage more secure and more affordable for America's working families and their children.

This should also be the year that we work together to end welfare as we know it. We have already helped to boost the earning power of 15 million low-income families who work by expanding the earned income tax credit. With a more robust economy, many more American families should also be able to escape dependence on welfare. Indeed, we want to make sure that people can move from welfare to work by giving them the tools they need to return to the economic mainstream. Reform must include steps to prevent the conditions that lead to welfare dependency, such as teen pregnancy and poor education, while also helping low-income parents find jobs with wages high enough to lift their families out of poverty. At the same time, we must ensure that welfare reform does not increase the Federal deficit, and that the States retain the flexibility they need to experiment with innovative programs that aim to increase self-sufficiency. But we must also ensure that our reform does not punish people for being poor and does not punish children for the mistakes of their parents.

#### REINVENTING GOVERNMENT

Taking power away from Federal bureaucracies and giving it back to communities and individuals is something everyone should be able to support. We need to get government closer to the people it is meant to serve. But as we continue to reinvent the Federal Government by cutting regulations and departments, and moving programs to the States and communities where citizens in the private sector can do a better job, let us not overlook the benefits that have come from national action in the national interest; safer foods for our families, safer toys for our children, safer nursing homes for our elderly parents, safer cars and highways, and safer workplaces, cleaner air and cleaner water. We can provide more flexibility to the States while continuing to protect the national interest and to give relief where it is needed.

The New Covenant approach to governing unites us behind a common vision of what is best for our country. It seeks to shift resources and decision-making from bureaucrats to citizens, injecting choice and competition and individual responsibility into national policy. In the second round of reinventing government, we propose to cut \$130 billion in spending by streamlining departments, extending our freeze on domestic spending, cutting 60 public housing programs down to 3, and getting rid of over 100 programs we do not need. Our job here is to expand opportunity, but bureaucracy—to empower people to make the most of their own

lives. Government should be leaner, not meaner.

#### THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

As 1995 begins, our economy is in many ways as strong as it has ever been. Growth in 1994 was robust, powered by strong investment spending, and the unemployment rate fell by more than a full percentage point. Exports soared, consumer confidence rebounded, and Federal discretionary spending as a percentage of gross domestic product hit a 30-year low. Consumer spending should remain healthy and investment spending will remain strong through 1995. The Administration forecasts that the economy will continue to grow in 1995 and that we will remain on track to create 8 million jobs over 4 years.

We know, nevertheless, that there is a lot more to be done. More than half the adult work force in America is working harder today for lower wages than they were making 10 years ago. Millions of Americans worry about their health insurance and whether their retirement is still secure. While maintaining our momentum toward deficit reduction, increased exports, essential public investments, and a government that works better and costs less, we are committed to providing tax relief for the middle-class Americans who need it the most, for the investments they most need to make.

We live in an increasingly global economy in which people, products, ideas, and money travel across national borders at lightning speed. During the last 2 years, we have worked hard to help our workers take advantage of this new economy. We have worked to put our own economic house in order, to expand opportunities for education and training, and to expand the frontiers of free and fair trade. Our goal is to create an economy in which all Americans have a chance to develop their talents, have access to better jobs and higher incomes, and have the capacity to build the kind of life for themselves and their children that is the heart of the American dream.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 13, 1995.*

By unanimous consent, the message, together with the accompanying papers, was referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 104-32).

And then,

#### 125.25 ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mrs. MINK, at 11 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m., the House adjourned.

#### 125.26 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII,

Mr. SOLOMON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 83, Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7) to revitalize the national security of the United States (Rept. No. 104-31). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### 125.27 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. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HERGER, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COOLEY, Mr. EMERSON, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. KLUG, Mr. WILSON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. HAYES, Ms. FURSE, Mr. CHAPMAN, Mr. BAKER of Louisiana, and Mr. STUPAK):

H.R. 902. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the application of the passive loss limitations to timber activities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 903. A bill to substitute evaluations of educational quality for cohort default rates in eligibility determinations for proprietary institutions of higher education under the Federal student assistance programs; to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

H.R. 904. A bill to prohibit the Department of Defense from contracting with foreign contractors for ship repair until a certification is made to Congress; to the Committee on National Security.

H.R. 905. A bill to provide for congressional approval of a nuclear aircraft carrier waste disposal plan before the construction of CVN-76, and for other purposes; to the Committee on National Security.

H.R. 906. A bill to reform the child support enforcement system in order to maximize collections of child support payments on behalf of poor children in the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Banking and Financial Services, 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 Mr. BROWDER (for himself and Mr. BENTSEN):

H.R. 907. A bill to amend certain provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to the treatment of Members of Congress and congressional employees for retirement purposes; to the Committee on House Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, 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 Mr. DE LA GARZA:

H.R. 908. A bill to authorize appropriations for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2000 for the provision of grants for construction of wastewater treatment works to serve U.S. colonias and for connecting residents to sewer collection systems and making any necessary plumbing improvements to enable residences to meet existing county or city code requirements; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DORNAN (for himself, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. WOLF, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. KING, Mr. PORTER, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM):

H.R. 909. A bill to encourage liberty inside the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. SCHROEDER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. FROST, Mr. MCHALE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. GUTIERREZ,

Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. OLVER, Mr. VENTO, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Mr. SANDERS):

H.R. 910. A bill to require the Secretary of State to establish a set of voluntary guidelines to promote socially responsible business practices for United States; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. PORTER (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BAKER of California, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BARTLETT of Nebraska, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. BEVILL, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BONO, Mr. BROWDER, Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CANADY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. COX, Mr. DAVIS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOOLEY, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. EMERSON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FALDOMAEGA, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FAWELL, Mr. FIELDS of Texas, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FLANAGAN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FOX, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FROST, Ms. FURSE, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. GUNDERSON, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. HANCOCK, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. JACOBS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. KLUG, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. LEACH, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. LIGHTFOOT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. LOWEY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCHALE, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas, Mr. Miller of Florida, Ms. MOLINARI, Mr. MONTGOMERY, Mr. MOORHEAD, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. PARKER, Mr. PAXON, Mr. PAYNE of Virginia, Mr. PETRI, Ms. PRYCE, Mr. QUINN, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SCHAEFER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SEASTRAND, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SKEEN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. STARK, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. STUMP, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. TORKILDSEN, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. UPTON, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mrs. VUCANOVICH, Mrs. WALDHOLTZ, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WELLER, Mr. WILSON, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ZELIFF, and Mr. ZIMMER):

H.R. 911. A bill to encourage the States to enact legislation to grant immunity from personal civil liability, under certain circumstances, to volunteers working on behalf of nonprofit organizations and governmental entities; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Mr. GILLMOR (for himself, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. FIELDS of Texas, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HASTERT, and Mr. TAUZIN):

H.R. 912. A bill to permit registered utility holding companies to participate in the provision of telecommunications services; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. GOSS:

H.R. 913. A bill to repeal the provisions of law commonly referred to as the Ramspeck