

throughout 1992. And tens of millions more have inadequate insurance or risk becoming uninsured should they lose their jobs. Meanwhile health care costs continue to climb, increasing premiums and medical bills for American families and aggravating budget crises at all levels of government. Both the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office have concluded that unless the system is reformed, rising health care costs will begin pushing the Federal budget deficit back upward as this century comes to a close.

Piecemeal approaches to solving our health care crisis will not work. If we simply squeeze harder on Federal health spending, without attempting systemwide reform, more of the costs of covering health services guaranteed by the government will be shifted to the private sector, and medical care for the elderly, the disadvantaged, and the disabled will be put at risk. Similarly, if we attempt to provide universal coverage without complementary measures to improve competition and sharpen incentives for cost-conscious decisions, costs will continue to escalate.

Our health care reform proposal, while bold and comprehensive, builds on the strengths of our current, market-based system. Our approach preserves consumer choice and our largely employer-based private insurance arrangements. It relies on market competition and private incentives, not price controls and bureaucracy, to provide health security for all Americans, to rein in health care costs, and to solve our long-run budget deficit problem.

OPENING FOREIGN MARKETS

Raising the living standards of all Americans is the fundamental economic goal of my Administration. That is why all of our initiatives in international trade share a common purpose: to open markets and promote American exports. This emphasis on exports is driven by two simple facts. First, America is part of an increasingly integrated world economy and must adapt to this new reality if we are to stay on top. There is simply no way to close our borders and return to the insular days of the 1950s. To try to do so would be an exercise in futility, doomed not only to fail but to lower living standards in the process. Second, export industries offer the kind of high-wage, high-skill jobs the country needs. By shifting production toward more exports, we will shift the composition of employment toward better jobs. In short, to realize our goal of higher living standards for all Americans, we must compete, not retreat.

The year just past will go down in the history books as a watershed for trade liberalization. With your help, we enacted the North American Free Trade Agreement, which links the United States, Canada, and Mexico together in the world's largest marketplace. We also successfully completed the Uruguay Round of the General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which promises to add as much as \$100 billion to \$200 billion to the Nation's output by the end of a decade. And we are now on a course of increasing trade and investment liberalization with the rapidly growing economies of East Asia and the Pacific, which will be a major source of new export opportunities for American products in the coming years. At home we have eliminated much of our export control system and have rationalized our export promotion activities to help our producers, workers, and farmers increase their sales around the world.

IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT

My Administration is committed to improving the Federal government's efficiency across the board. The National Performance Review (NPR), completed under the bold leadership of Vice President Gore, provides a road map for what must be done. The NPR's report shows how substantial budgetary savings can be realized by making existing programs more efficient and cutting those that are no longer necessary. As a result of our efforts to reinvent how the government performs, we will reduce the Federal bureaucracy by 252,000 positions, bringing it down to the lowest level in decades.

My Administration is also committed to reducing the burden of government regulations by improving the regulatory review process. My Executive Order on Regulatory Planning and Review requires that all new regulations carefully balance costs and benefits, that only those regulations whose benefits exceed their costs be adopted, and that in each case the most cost-effective regulations be chosen.

This year we will also work with the Congress to develop the new regulatory framework required to encourage the development of the national information superhighway. We must cooperate with the private sector to connect every classroom, every library, and every hospital in America to this highway by the year 2000. Rapid access to the most advanced information available will increase productivity and living standards, help to educate our children, and help health providers improve medical care for our citizens.

THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

An economic strategy built on long-run investments will not bear fruit overnight. But there are already signs that our policy initiatives are beginning to pay off. Prospects for sustained economic expansion look far brighter now than they did a year ago, when my Administration first asked for your support. Growth of real gross domestic product increased steadily over the course of 1993, and the economic expansion has continued into 1994. Consumer spending should remain healthy because of continued gains in employment and output, and investment spending should remain strong because of low long-term interest rates and in-

creasing levels of demand. Low interest rates will also continue to support the recent expansion in residential construction. The Administration forecasts that the economy will grow at 3 percent in 1994 and will remain on track to create 8 million jobs over 4 years.

As 1994 begins, our economy is strong and growing stronger. With continued deficit reduction, more public investment, a reformed health care system, increased exports, and a reinvented government, we can create the foundations for an even more prosperous America.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 14, 1994.*

By unanimous consent, the communication was referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered printed (H. Doc. 103-178).

¶12.19 ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. ROSE, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker.

H.R. 2339. An Act to revise and extend the programs of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988, and for other purposes.

¶12.20 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to Mr. BLACKWELL, for today before 2:30 p.m.

And then,

¶12.21 ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. JEFFERSON, pursuant to the special order heretofore agreed to, at 7 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m., the House adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m., Thursday, February 24, 1994.

¶12.22 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BEILENSEN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 366. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to extend for 6 years the authorizations of appropriations for the programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and for certain other purposes (Rept. No. 103-426). Referred to the House Calendar.

¶12.23 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. TAUZIN (for himself, Mr. FIELDS of Texas, Mr. HAYES, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MONTGOMERY, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. STUMP, Mr. POMBO, Mr. BREWSTER, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. HUTTO, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. LAUGHLIN, Mrs. BENTLEY, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Ms. DANNER, Mr. PICKETT, and Mr. PACKARD):