The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FILNER 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 gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FILNER 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 gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINTOSH 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 gentleman from Oregon [Mr. BLUMENAUER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LAST TWO YEARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am a little concerned that some of the politics of a political season, and that is certainly not unusual, will overshadow the accomplishments of the last two years in this body. I think it is important this evening that we go over a few of those accomplishments, because in my opinion what has been done in this Congress, in a lot of cases on a bipartisan basis, is the most significant changes that we have seen in this body in a long, long time.

Let me begin by addressing, first of all, the management of the House of Representatives. There are several critical issues that under the Republican leadership changed two years ago.

First of all, the United States Congress now must live under the same laws that the citizens of this country have to live under. It was amazing that the United States Congress, in the preceding years, would put laws on the American people but exempt this body from those laws. This leadership, under the new management team, also eliminated proxy voting. I am from the mountains in Colorado. I could be enjoying the mountains of Colorado while my vote was being cast back here in this body. That is not right. That is why we changed it. Our opinion is that if you are elected to the United States House of Representatives, you are expected to be here and to vote in person.

We brought about congressional gift reform. We brought about lobbying disclosure. I would add that while all these changes came about, mostly with bipartisan support, it was through the leadership of the Republican Party that got them here. These changes could have been made at any time in the last 40 years, but they were not.

We had the first vote ever on this House floor on term limitations. We cut congressional staff by a third, and we eliminated and abolished three full committees. We have not abolished three full committees in one period of time, I think, this century.

We did something else for the first time in the history of the United States House of Representatives, we had the books audited. As you can imagine, the books in this House, which have never been audited in the history of this House, were, in my opinion, a big financial mess. We now are demanding that the United States Congress run its own house, its own fiscal house just the same as our constituents are expected to run theirs.

We opened all committee hearings to the public. Most of the States that we represent have sunshine laws within their State. Their legislators have to have their meetings in the public, not so with the United States Congress. We changed that. In fact, I think the only real closed committee hearings that we have had are, one, the Ethics Committee, and, two, the Select Committee on Intelligence.

We cut spending in the United States Congress for two years in a row. We did a lot of this. We put in a line item veto. That was not just talk. I can tell you that it is not necessarily to the political advantage of a Republican to give a Democratic President a line item veto. But do you know what, it is to the benefit of this country. The President, regardless of his party affiliation, needs a line item veto in order to manage the budget of this country. We give it to him.

Let us talk about some issues outside these halls that we changed. Welfare reform, it ends the entitlement status of welfare. It uses a four letter word called ''work.'' It establishes work requirements for recipients when welfare is no longer required. It provides incentives to reduce illegitimacy. It helps on child support, collection of child support, a huge problem in this country.

We can talk about Megan's law. It was this Congress that put Megan's law into effect so that when a sexual abuser moves into a community, that community has a right to know about it.

These are very significant changes. We have made a number of changes in health care legislation, and we have made a number of budgetary changes. What you hear about, of course, the close down or this or that, but through it all, once you get through all of that cloud and through all that smoke, you will see a Congress that finally is accepting fiscal responsibility, that has come a long way.

This is a government that adds to its deficit at a rate of $30 million an hour. It is about time that a Congress with some leadership stood up to this. That is exactly what has happened.

I think that all of us, as I said, because a lot of these votes were taken, were passed with bipartisan support, I think a lot of us in this body have a lot to be proud. While we go out there in the election year, I do not think that election year politics should overshadow the accomplishments of this Congress. We have a long ways to go. The American people demand it. The American people are entitled to it. But we have done ourselves proud.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Washington [Ms. DUNN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. DUNN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HOUGHTON 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 gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FOX 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 gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1897. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend certain programs relating to the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes;

S. 1962. An act to amend the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, and for other purposes; and

S. 1973. An act to provide for the settlement of the Navajo-Hopi land dispute, and for other purposes.