

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 dependence, 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 rein-

venting 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, not 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.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 668. An act to control crime by further streamlining deportation of criminal aliens; and

H.R. 729. An act to control crime by a more effective death penalty.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 668. An act to control crime by further streamlining deportation of criminal aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 729. An act to control crime by a more effective death penalty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-412. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Sequestration Preview Report for fiscal year 1996; pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977; referred jointly to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-413. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1994 annual report of the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

EC-414. A communication from the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Performance Profiles of Major Energy Producers 1993"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-415. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 1994 report relative to Superfund; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-416. A communication from the Acting Inspector General of the Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Accounting for Fiscal Year 1993 Reimbursable Expenditures of Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Money, Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-417. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, prospectuses for three U.S. courthouses; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-418. A communication from the Inspector General of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the temporary and permanent relocation components of the Superfund Program during fiscal year 1993; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-419. A communication from the Chairman of the Physician Payment Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-420. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State, Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the payment of a reward pursuant to 22 U.S.C. Section 2708; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.