

right to vote on the House floor in the Committee of the Whole and in one of this body's most ungenerous acts, this vote was taken from me by rule by the majority, an act that violates the principles of the majority and the minority. It is a vote I hope to reclaim.

More important than my vote, Mr. Speaker, however, is the survival of my city and your Capital. As we begin the 105th Congress, I ask Members to keep an open mind as we try to find a way toward recovery for the Capital of the United States. We are not asking to tax others. We are asking that the money we spend in Federal taxes be cut somewhat so that we can help revive our city. You must not allow the Capital of the United States to become an absolute disgrace because its problems have been laid only at its feet and its own great country has not come forward to help it. The President wants to help. I now ask my own colleagues to help as well.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m., for the purpose of receiving in joint session, the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m.

JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE HELD PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 9 TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Mr. William Sims, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY];

The gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY];

The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER];

The gentleman from California [Mr. COX];

The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. DICKEY];

The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON];

The gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT];

The gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR];

The gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO];

The gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY];

The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. BERRY]; and

The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. SNYDER].

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT];

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES];

The Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK];

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL];

The Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG];

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL];

The Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON];

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE];

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD];

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MICKULSKI];

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU];

The Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY];

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID];

The Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER];

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN]; and

The Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI].

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the acting dean of the diplomatic corps, His Excellency Mohsen A. Alaini, Ambassador of Yemen.

The acting dean of the diplomatic corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Wilson Livingood, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of the 105th Congress, distinguished guests, and my fellow Americans:

I think I should start by saying thanks for inviting me back.

I come before you tonight with a challenge as great as any in our peacetime history, and a plan of action to meet that challenge, to prepare our people for the bold new world of the 21st century.

We have much to be thankful for. With 4 years of growth, we have won back the basic strength of our economy. With crime and welfare rolls declining, we are winning back our optimism, the enduring faith that we can master any difficulty. With the Cold War receding and global commerce at record levels, we are helping to win an unrivaled peace and prosperity all across the world.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is strong, but now we must rise to the decisive moment, to make a Nation and a world better than any we have ever known. The new promise of the global economy, the information age, unimagined new work, life-enhancing technology, all these are ours to seize. That is our honor and our challenge. We must be shapers of events, not observers. For if we do not act, the moment will pass, and we will lose the best possibilities of our future.

We face no imminent threat, but we do have an enemy: The enemy of our time is inaction.

So tonight I issue a call to action, action by this Congress, action by our States, by our people, to prepare America for the 21st century. Action to keep our economy and our democracy strong and working for all our people; action to strengthen education and harness the forces of technology and science; action to build stronger families and stronger communities and a safer environment; action to keep America the world's strongest force for peace, freedom, and prosperity. And above all, action to build a more perfect union here at home.

The spirit we bring to our work will make all the difference. We must be committed to the pursuit of opportunity for all Americans, responsibility from all Americans, in a community of all Americans. And we must be committed to a new kind of government, not to solve all our problems for us, but to give our people, all our people, the tools they need to make the most of their own lives.

And we must work together. The people of this Nation elected us all. They