

America will soon find its words falling on deaf ears all around the world.

Almost exactly fifty years ago, in the first winter of the Cold War, President Harry Truman stood before a Republican Congress and called upon our country to meet its responsibilities of leadership. This was his warning: "If we falter, we may endanger the peace of the world—and we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation." That Congress, led by Republicans like Senator Arthur Vandenberg, answered President Truman's call. Together, they made the commitments that strengthened our country for fifty years. Now let us do the same. Let us do what it takes to remain the indispensable nation—to keep America strong, secure and prosperous for another fifty years.

In the end, more than anything else, our world leadership grows out of the power of our example here at home, out of our ability to remain strong as one America.

All over the world, people are being torn asunder by racial, ethnic, and religious conflicts that fuel fanaticism and terror. We are the world's most diverse democracy. And the world looks to us to show that it is possible to live and advance together across those kinds of differences.

America has always been a nation of immigrants. From the start, a steady stream of people, in search of freedom and opportunity, have left their own lands to make this land their home. We started as an experiment in democracy fueled by Europeans. We have grown into an experiment in democratic diversity fueled by openness and promise.

My fellow Americans, we must never believe that diversity is a weakness—it is our greatest strength. Americans speak every language, know every country. People on every continent can look to us and see the reflection of their own greatness, as long as we give all of our citizens, whatever their background, an opportunity to achieve their greatness.

We are not there yet. We still see evidence of abiding bigotry and intolerance, in ugly words and awful violence, in burned churches and bombed buildings. We must fight against this, in our country and in our hearts.

A few days before my second inauguration, one of America's best known pastors, Rev. Robert Schuller, suggested that I read Isaiah 58:12. It says: "Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations, and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in." I placed my hand on that verse when I took the oath of office, on behalf of all Americans. For no matter what our differences—in our faiths, our backgrounds, our politics—we must all be repairers of the breach. We may not share a common past, but surely we share a common future.

I want to say a word about two other Americans who show us the way to that common future. Congressman

FRANK TEJEDA was buried yesterday, a proud American whose family came from Mexico. He was only 51 years old. He earned the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart fighting for his country in Vietnam, and he went on to serve Texas and America fighting for our future in this chamber. We are grateful for his service and honored to have his mother, Lillie Tejada, with us tonight.

Gary Locke, the newly elected Governor of Washington State, is our first Chinese-American Governor, the proud son of two of the millions of Asian-American immigrants who have strengthened America with their hard work, family values, and good citizenship.

Rev. Schuller, Congressman TEJEDA, Governor Locke, along with Kristin Tanner, Chris Getsla, Sue Winski and Dr. Kristen Zarfos—all Americans from different roots, whose lives reflect our shared values and the best of what we can become when we are one America.

Building that one America is our most important mission, "the foundation of many generations," of every other strength we must build for the new century. Money cannot buy it. Power cannot compel it. Technology cannot create it. It must rise from the human spirit.

America is far more than a place. It is an idea, the most powerful idea in the history of nations. We are now the bearers of that idea, leading a great people into a new world. A child born tonight will have almost no memory of the 20th Century. Everything that child will know of America, will be because of what we do now to build a new century.

We don't have a moment to waste. Tomorrow morning, there will be just over 1,000 days until the Year 2000. 1,000 days to prepare our people. 1,000 days to work together. My fellow Americans, we have work to do. Let us seize the days and the century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 35. That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Frank Tejada, a Representative from the State of Texas.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 637(b) of Public Law 104-52, as amended by section 2904 of Public Law 104-134, the Speaker reappoints Mr. PORTMAN of Ohio to the National Commission of Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 637(b) of Public Law 104-52, the minority leader accepts the resignation of ROBERT T. MATSUI of California from the National Commis-

sion on Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service and hereby appoints Mr. WILLIAM J. COYNE of Pennsylvania to the Commission for the remainder of its term.

#### 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-942. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports of three deferrals of budget authority; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Finance, and to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-943. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to financial reporting, received on January 29, 1997 to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-944. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on salary range structure and performance merit pay matrix for 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-945. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the fluid milk promotion program, received on January 27, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-946. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report concerning the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-947. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report a rule relative to home mortgage disclosure, received on January 28, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-948. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules including one rule relative to National Emission Standards, (FRL-5682-3, 5584-5), received on January 29, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-949. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the weighted average interest rate, received on January 29, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-950. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the alternative minimum tax, received on January 29, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-951. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue