Mr. Donnald Anderson, Washington, D.C.;

Ms. Tamra Bentsen, Washington, D.C.;

Mr. Jeff Mendelsohn, Washington, D.C.;

Ms. Sylvia Sabo, Vienna, Virginia.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 2, 2000 at 11:37 a.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with regard to Iraq.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAQ—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106–204)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 1, 2000.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 2, 2000 at 11:37 a.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits the 2000 Trade Policy Agenda and the 1999 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

2000 TRADE POLICY AGENDA AND 1999 ANNUAL REPORT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106–205)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), I transmit herewith the 2000 Trade Policy Agenda and 1999 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program. The Report, as required by sections 122, 124, and 125 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, includes the Annual Report on the World Trade Organization and a 5-year assessment of the U.S. participation in the World Trade Organization.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 1, 2000.*

SPECIAL ORDERS

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES INJECTS HIMSELF INTO THE DIALLO VERDICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I noticed in yesterday's newspaper reports that President Clinton has now seen fit to inject himself into the case surrounding the Diallo verdict in New York. He has done so in a fashion which perpetuates his reputation for political opportunism.

The obligation of any President is to uphold the rule of law in this country, which obligation includes respect for and affirmation of our broader justice system. The President also has an obligation to unify the disparate peoples and views in our country by calling on ''our better angels,'' as Abraham Lincoln once said, seeking to heal the wounds that are too often inflicted by citizens and groups against each other in the history of our country.

Mr. Speaker, the President has an obligation to respect our jury system, as sometimes imperfect in hindsight it might be, for, to do otherwise, enhances cynicism and diminishes the natural conflict in criminal cases between the strength of a prosecutor's claim and the ability of a defense team to defend prosecutions that lack evidence and proof.

Finally, a President's personal stake in the outcome of a broader political contest should not be used as a weapon to gain political advantage in order to benefit a political ally and indict the law enforcement team of a political opponent in the process.

Yet, that is exactly what we see being done in creating a racial divide by second guessing a jury decision that was litigated as provided in our justice system in this country. By such statements, the entire police force of New York has been unfairly besmirched, when, in fact, the jury foreman happened to be of African American descent and publicly stated that racial prejudice had no bearing on the jury verdict, but instead, the prosecution was weak.

Missing an opportunity for judicious comment or healing words or affirmation of the rule of law and the verdicts of juries and the opportunity for all Americans to recognize that all defendants are presumed innocent was something that happened in this case. Their criminal guilt must be proved by the high standard of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, not just tipping the scales, but putting the scales all the way down.

Mr. Speaker, I was not at the trial and listened to the evidence; obviously, our President was not either. I fear that carelessness in this case may prove to be reckless, that those who would divide New York on improper grounds have already seized upon the President's words.

It is clear that the President has attempted to exert his personal undue influence on the political fortunes of his wife in New York in her Senate campaign and give justification for the Justice Department to exert itself in a case that was, by all accounts, fairly litigated, even though a very difficult outcome, knowing what we know now about the facts of the case. However, the jury in this case was the one charged with making this decision.

Had the President used the opportunity to speak against racial division in favor of responsible and unbiased police work, in favor of respect for all human beings in our country, regardless of religion or race or ethnic background, in favor of enhanced police training regarding racial sensitivity and restraint in cases of law enforcement apprehension so that all criminal suspects are accorded their constitutional rights, then this would be a day of admiration and respect for this particular Presidential proclamation.

Mr. Speaker, the risk posed by Mr. Clinton's declarations are not worth any political contest in any State, for any candidate, and certainly not for the racial and social harmony which is the common goal of our country. It is something we ought to strive to reach, not seek to divide.