

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 9, 2004.

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 February 9, 2004 at 1:03 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the Economic Report of the President.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-145)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE) 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 Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed:

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

To the Congress of the United States:

As 2004 begins, America's economy is strong and getting stronger. Over the past several years, this Nation has faced major economic challenges resulting from the decline of the stock market beginning in early 2000, a recession that began shortly after, revelations about corporate governance scandals, slow growth among many of our major trading partners, terrorist attacks, and the war against terror, including in Afghanistan and Iraq. These challenges affected business and consumer confidence and resulted in hardship for people in many industries and regions of our Nation. Americans have responded to each challenge, and now we have the results: renewed confidence, strong growth, new jobs, and a mounting prosperity that will reach every corner of America.

This Report, prepared by my Council of Economic Advisers, describes the economic challenges we faced, the actions we took, and the results we are seeing. It also discusses our plan to continue growing the economy and creating jobs.

In May 2003, I signed a Jobs and Growth bill that focused on three key goals. First, we accelerated previously passed tax relief and let American households keep more of their own money to save, invest, and spend. Second, we increased incentives for small businesses to invest in new equipment and plant expansions. Third, we enacted important tax relief on dividend income and capital gains to help investors and businesses. These actions were designed to promote investment, job creation, and income growth. By all three measures of performance, we are seeing signs of success.

Since May 2003, we have seen the economy grow at its fastest pace in nearly 20 years. Consumers and businesses have gained confidence. Retail sales are strong, and Americans are buying, building, and renovating houses at a record pace. Investment has strengthened, with spending on business equipment the best in 5 years. The unemployment rate has fallen from its peak of 6.3 percent last June to 5.7 percent in December, and employment is beginning to rise as new jobs are created especially in small business. Productivity growth has been strong, leading to higher incomes for workers, while the tax relief we passed means that American families keep more of their money instead of sending it to Washington.

We are moving in the right direction, but have more to do. I will not be satisfied until every American who wants a job can find one. I have outlined a six-point plan to promote job creation and strong economic growth. This plan includes initiatives to help manage rising health care costs to make health care more affordable and accessible for American workers and families; reduce the burden of junk lawsuits on the economy; ensure a reliable and affordable energy supply; simplify and streamline government regulations; open foreign markets for American goods and services; and allow businesses and families to keep more of their hard-earned money and plan with confidence by making our tax relief permanent. This year, I will work with the Congress to achieve these goals.

I will also continue to work with the Congress on another important shared goal: controlling federal spending and reducing the deficit. The federal budget is in deficit, foremost because of the economic slowdown and then recession that began in 2000 and the additional costs of fighting the war on terror and protecting the homeland. We are continuing to take action to restrain spending and bring the deficit down. By carefully evaluating priorities and being good stewards of the taxpayer's money, we will cut the budget deficit in half over the next five years.

The task of reducing the deficit will become easier because America's economy is growing. We have taken the actions needed to restore growth, and we are pursuing additional policies to help create jobs for American workers and families. I'm optimistic about the future of our economy because I know the values of America and the decency and entrepreneurial spirit of our people.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2004.

PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, the proliferation of weapons of mass de-

struction poses the most serious of dangers to the peace of the world. Chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists could bring catastrophic harm to America and to our friends around the world. We must oppose that threat by any means necessary.

The men and women of our intelligence community have already found a very revealing component of Iraq's biological weapons program. Two mobile production facilities equipped to produce biological weapons. Iraqis allege that these trucks are pharmaceutical labs. But what possible reason could there be for two such mobile labs in the middle of the desert? And why, if these vehicles were merely pharmaceutical trucks, did the Iraqi soldiers wash them out with bleach while the war was going on?

President Bush's decisive action and leadership is keeping our country and allies safe from terrorist groups that are unrestrained in their choice of weapon and undeterred by conventional means. Our perseverance and our belief in the success of liberty assures our security, and we will not relent until this war is won.

OUTSOURCING OF U.S. SERVICE JOBS OVERSEAS

(Mr. MICHAUD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today in total disbelief. The Washington Post reported this morning that President Bush's top economic adviser, Gregory Mankiw, said that outsourcing U.S. service jobs overseas is actually good for the Nation's economy. This is absolutely outrageous. Sending jobs overseas is good?

Just tell that to the 23,000 Mainers who lost their manufacturing jobs in the last 8 years. Tell that to the 2.2 million Americans who lost their jobs since President Bush took office. These people have seen their hard-earned jobs shipped overseas due to unfair trade agreements and terrible management of our economy. They are the ones who suffer.

I spent 30 years working in a paper mill. It went bankrupt last year. Maybe this administration should take a look at what is happening in places like my hometown, places that need these jobs all across America, before saying that shipping jobs overseas is a good idea.

It might give them a dose of reality that real Americans face every day.

COMMENDING FN MANUFACTURING, INC.

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, when Americans watch the nightly news images of U.S. troops on

duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, they see them carrying out their most difficult duties, using the finest small arms in the world. Those weapons are proudly made in South Carolina's Second Congressional District by FNMI, FN Manufacturing, Incorporated, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Since the mid-1980s, FNMI has been building the M-16 rifle, the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, and the M-240 Medium Machine Gun for the U.S. Armed Forces. In other words, FNMI is the principal supplier of small arms to the military. These arms are universally recognized as the finest infantry weapons in the world, perhaps the finest ever made. They are known for their ruggedness, reliability, and effectiveness and are on duty everywhere American troops are deployed in the war on terror, as I have seen first hand in Iraq.

Additionally, FNMI is one of the largest defense industries in South Carolina, employing approximately 450 dedicated personnel.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the professional employees of FNMI Manufacturing, as their work makes it possible for our brave men and women to protect us in the war on terrorism.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

REMEMBERING CARLIE BRUCIA

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a saddened heart that I come to speak to this Chamber today. Last week our Nation was again rocked when we learned of another senseless death of an innocent child. Carlie Brucia, a beautiful young girl from Sarasota, Florida, was violently kidnapped and brutally murdered on her way home from a friend's house, not too far away from her own.

There is nothing I can say that will bring comfort to her family today. No parent should ever lose a child, and all communities throughout the country should shiver at what has happened in Florida this past week. This crime happened in daylight, on a major thoroughfare and in front of passersby. Carlie's death is not just her family's loss but a loss to us all.

This fallen angel's death must not be in vain. Police and prosecutors must ensure that her murderer will never see the light of day again, but that is not enough. We must come together as a community, and as a State, to make sure we never let such a crime happen in our backyard again.

The AMBER Alert system is the best tool we have, but it is just a tool. I wish there was something I could do to undo this terrible crime, but I cannot. What I can offer is my promise to Carlie's family that I will never stop working to ensure that law enforce-

ment has the tools necessary to capture these pedophiles and that families are fully armed with the information they need to protect themselves and their children.

Mr. Speaker, all I can wish for is that I will never have to come to the House floor to talk about the murder of another child ever again. I want to offer my deepest condolences to Carlie's family. I hope that with the help of their family and friends they will be able to get through this terrible time. God bless Carlie.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF "HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL"

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 358) authorizing the printing of "History of the United States Capitol" as a House document.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 358

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF PRINTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be printed as a House document the book entitled "History of the United States Capitol" by Glenn Brown, as prepared under the auspices of the Architect of the Capitol with support from the United States Capitol Preservation Commission and the United States Capitol Historical Society.

(b) SPECIFICATIONS.—The document described in subsection (a) shall include illustrations and shall be in the style, form, manner, and binding as directed by the Joint Committee on Printing after consultation with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

SEC. 2. NUMBER OF COPIES.

In addition to the usual number, there shall be printed for the use of the House of Representatives and Senate the lesser of—

(1) 7,000 copies of the document described in section 1(a), to be allocated as determined jointly by the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate; or

(2) such maximum number of copies of the document as does not have a total production and printing cost of more than \$182,000, with distribution to be allocated as described in paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

□ 1415

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 358. This is somewhat of a mundane measure. As a member of the Committee on House Administration, it is a housekeeping responsibility that we take care of obligations such as this.

This particular measure authorizes the printing of a new annotated edition of the United States Capitol by Glenn Brown. Brown's History of the United States Capitol represents the most scholarly publication on the United States Capitol to date. This book was originally written to celebrate the centennial of the move of Congress to the Capitol in 1800.

The volume by Brown continues to provide important information on the development of the United States Capitol building and is also a visual record of the building and the art collection at the turn of the century. The publication sets a new standard for architectural history, as well as being very well received in both this country and abroad.

Glenn Brown's book also played an important role in the revival of Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plan for Washington, D.C., through its influence on the 1901 McMillan Plan; and thus it has also had a very significant effect on the shape of this city, the District of Columbia, and how we see it through the twentieth century.

The idea of publishing a new annotated edition of Glenn Brown's history of the Capitol, published in 1900 and 1903, was first discussed back in 1987. This new annotated history will provide both historical context and contemporary perspective. Glenn Brown and his philosophy and achievements will be examined in the introductory biographical profile.

Annotation of the text will correct errors, review some very important, sometimes controversial issues, mention recently discovered documentation and direct the reader to relevant sources. The publication will be illustrated with high-quality photographs based on Glenn Brown's selection and will introduce color when appropriate to enhance the architectural renderings.

The book will be prepared under the auspices of the Architect of the Capitol, with support from the United States Capitol Preservation Commission and the United States Capitol Historical Society.

Glenn Brown's History of the United States Capitol will be of interest not only to Members of Congress but of significant value to the public, to libraries across the United States, and also to scholars investigating the rich history of the United States Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, I urge full support of House Concurrent Resolution 358. I am pleased to present it on behalf of the Committee on House Administration this afternoon.