Reagan wants more economic reforms
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program in place completely different from the artificial quick fixes of the past." Reagan forecasted, "in the near future, the state of the union and economy will be better."

Before shifting to his proposals to counter defections in the conservative coalition, Reagan made it clear the constitutional separation of functions of local and national government. Reagan predicted that "history will remember this as an act of American renewal."

The mandates of entitlement programs should "strengthen discretion and flexibility in state and local government," said the President. Reagan also announced that "we should set an example in our capital." He proposed legislation to set up an experimental program of urban enterprise zones. Solow said the scheme to develop depressed urban areas is "not a bad idea at all, but amounts to small potatoes."

Reagan chose not to ignore taxes in attempting to offset potential budget deficits of as much as $100 billion. He told the Congress, "I don't ask you to balance the budget on the backs of the American taxpayer." Reducing waste and fraud in aid programs will also reduce budget cuts of $6 billion over four years, he claimed.

The cuts, he added, will only affect non-essential government spending. Reducing the contention that three-quarters of the federal budget is fraud, Reagan said "the time has come to control the uncontrollable."

Throughout his speech Reagan reassured his previous commitment to "a reliable safety net of social programs" for the poor and elderly. Both Solow and Burnham disputed the President's sincerity, with Burnham contending that "making the poor poorer is basic to Reagan's strategy." Solow concluded: "The trick is to get him to stop the back on the poor and elderly-he's going to stare them right in the face as he does them in.

The President touched on several foreign policy issues at the end of the speech, promising to address the subject in more detail in the near future. He contended that "the Administration had strengthened the country's position as a force for peace and progress in the world."

Reagan reiterated his position that the United States can only negotiate with the Soviet Union from a position of strength and so must rebuild its defenses. The President endorsed a foreign policy "rooted in realism, not naivete or self-delusion."

Burnham predicted the President will have a difficult time putting the House of Representatives to adopt his proposals for turning the programs over to the states. "There is nothing like the imminent threat of an election to make politicians wonder if they're doing the right thing," Burnham explained.

Reagan ended his speech by lauding the "spirit of American renewal." He cited several individuals for their heroic acts, but reserved his highest praise for "the countless, quiet, everyday heroes" of American life.