

independent audit of House operations, something inconceivable in the recent past.

We are committed to regular audits in the future, just like any other institution. It is embarrassing to realize that the executive branch instituted regular audits the year I was born.

Congress in the past has betrayed the public trust. Now we have to ask, and we must ask, to get that public trust back and to earn it back. An audit is one way of doing that. We must push reforms to the next level. We have already instituted a number of the recommendations made by the Price Waterhouse firm that did the auditing. We need to evaluate the remainder of those.

This audit is one of the best indications of real change in the Congress. People sent us here to change government, and we are doing it.

With this audit, Congress has taken steps toward credibility with the American people. Congress must operate in the open. As we legislate openness and accountability for private companies and public institutions, we have to obey these principles ourselves. The old Congress didn't obey these rules.

The auditors found in the last Congress a shocking disregard for financial control, for institutional management, and just pure common sense.

For example, the audit showed that some of the Members overspent their allowances for staff salaries, office expenses, and official mail. It showed Members being paid twice for their travel expenses. If Congress were a business, an auto repair shop, a farm, a bank, well, by the auditors' own statements, they would not be able to get a loan and they would be bankrupt. If it was a public institution, it would have been violating laws since 1990.

It is time that these practices end, and today we finally had the audit that came forward with the information to open the closet doors. This is only a start. We have to continue these reforms. We have to continue to open this body up to the people so that they can look and see and hear and learn what all is taking place.

This is taxpayer dollars, and this is how the people's decisions are being made. We need to continue to open that up. I am very proud that this first big step was taken today, to open up, and now we have to continue to push this forward. We have to aggressively pursue those things that are put forward in this audit to be able to clean up the People's House.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to hear of this audit coming forward, and I think the American people will be most interested in its findings.

#### ADMINISTRATION ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY TOBACCO INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Bill Clinton and Dr. Kessler at the FDA did not get the message of the November 8th elections.

The American people do not want more regulations and more government in their lives. They want far less intrusion and far less regulation.

This latest attempt by the administration to destroy the tobacco industry, through a regulatory power grab, is unprecedented and unwarranted.

It is ironic to me, that the Clinton administration wants to classify nicotine as a drug. I think the administration should spend their time and money fighting the illegal drug trade, that is destroying this country instead of being so concerned about a legal product which has been used since the founding of this country.

The Federal Government has consistently used tobacco as their whipping boy, first trying to finance their big government health care plan on the backs of tobacco and now by trying to regulate them to death.

Let me make it clear, no tobacco farmer or tobacco company is encouraging young people to smoke. As a matter of fact the tobacco industry has established programs to encourage young people not to smoke. In many States, it is illegal to sell cigarettes to minors.

The Clinton administration view is that they know what is best for the American people. They believe that Government has an obligation to be our big brother.

This is big brother at its worst. What next, prohibition of alcohol, caffeine, chocolate?

Ladies and gentlemen, adults over 18 make responsible decisions on caffeine, tobacco, and alcohol every day.

The Government has no business in those decisions and the FDA and Commissioner have no authority to classify nicotine as a drug.

The courts have consistently stated that the FDA has no authority to regulate cigarettes and it is time that Kessler end this witch hunt on the tobacco industry and the tobacco farmer.

If Bill Clinton and Dr. Kessler had ever held a real job, they would understand the struggle that family farmers face.

They would understand that the tobacco farmer has to fight the elements and that most farmers work within a small financial margin.

Congress has already levied numerous taxes on tobacco making the farmers' life even more difficult and his ability to make a profit even slimmer.

Again, I call on the administration to stop the witch hunt of the tobacco industry and tobacco farmers and get on with the business of downsizing Government, reducing the debt, and implementing the mandate of the November 8th elections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FORBES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### FIRST AUDIT EVER OF THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, when I return home to the Sixth District of Arizona and visit with my constituents and talk to them about various issues confronting this body and this Nation, the question always arises: What are you in the Congress doing to take the lead? What differences have you made by example?

Today in this Congress, we reaffirm one of those examples with the announcement of the privately conducted audit of this institution, the first ever, the first in its history finally being completed.

Unfortunately, some of the worst fears of the American people have been confirmed with this report. Because you see, Price Waterhouse, the independent accounting firm with whom we contracted to do the audit, said that the records were so poorly kept that they could not even make an accurate assessment of the problem. What a terrible indictment of the old order, that this, the people's House, had fallen into such disrepair in terms of balancing the ledger books, in terms of keeping track of your money, that the independent accounting firm could not even issue any type of evaluation or accurate opinion. In accounting parlance the worst possible evaluation.

The audit is rife with examples. The House Finance Office, an office which processes \$700 million a year in salary and expense checks using handwritten ledgers to keep records. Here in the information age, as we brought the House of Representatives on line and on the Internet through Thomas, as we look to the technological advancements in the computer age, and still in this institution handwritten records. The opportunities for abuse were plentiful. The audit notes bills were paid late, appropriations limits ignored. Little accounting for the property and equipment belonging to this, the people's House, and with the computer program and the computer system that does exist, significant security problems.

Now, be forewarned: It is almost impossible in the course of 6 or 7 months to take this institution and automatically put it on the right track. Certainly more remains to be done, and

there may even be a period of time here where we are trying to move from these archaic, unrealistic accounting practices to a fair, honest, and open system. The hard work may still be ahead of us in correcting this as an institution. But I noted with great satisfaction that Members on both sides of the aisle stepped up unanimously I believe, if my math is correct and my recollection correct, to vote for a resolution approving of this audit and carrying on the business at hand.

This morning, during the course of 1-minutes, one speaker had the audacity to pooh-pooh, I guess, just put down the audit process. I note with interest the Member voted for this resolution. I appreciate his commitment there. But the fact is that working together, Members of both parties must remake this institution in the image of the American people. Mr. Speaker, we are committed to that.

#### THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S WANTED POSTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia [Ms. MCKINNEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, a little bit more than 30 years ago, the Republican Party put out a wanted poster, and the day after this poster was put out, our beloved President was assassinated.

Well, old habits die hard. And so now we find that the Republican Party has once again put out a wanted poster. Now, what is it that they expect to happen to the good people who are on this wanted poster, people who are elected by 580,000 people sent here to do a job, and whose main business is to take care of their constituents back home and to make sure that this is indeed a kinder and gentler Nation. But when you put on a wanted poster black folks, women, Latinos, certain white males, and Jews, and you say that these are people who are aiding and abetting President Bill Clinton's big government, what are you really saying? What you are saying to me, it seems, is that there are too many black people in Congress, there are too many Jews in Congress.

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There are too many women out of the house, in this House, making public policy. And what is the result of this kind of racist, anti-Semitic, divisive politics? Something happens in the heartland of America, and I can tell you what happens in the heartland of America. I have received hate mail.

This is just a sample of the hate mail that I receive: "Save America. Nigger genocide." Some people do not even have any feelings. They will sign their name. This one says, "You have a hell of a nerve trying to tell the Supreme Court what they can and cannot do. You lousy niggers." I have another one that says, "Definition of a nigger: An

extremely vile and heinous, fecal-colored, wild animal that inhabits America's concrete jungles and walks upright on its hind legs, attempting to mimic human behavior." Then another one here: "Niggers destroy America."

It seems that in the quiet of their homes, people find some kind of pleasure in using the word "nigger." Well, you know, I have heard it all my life. It does not bother me. But some people get off using that word "nigger." That is what happens when you try and divide a nation. That is what happens when you try and divide a country. And that is what happens when you put politics above all else and the bottom line above all else and above all people.

American people are smart, though, and there is hope.

I just received this letter from a young woman in Gainesville, FL. She said, "Dear Congresswoman McKinney: I watched you this morning in regards to the idiotic poster the Republican party distributed labeled 'Wanted liberals.' I realize your office has been under attack recently, due to the Supreme Court decision on redistricting and this most recent incident. As a young white female with all of the advantages of growing up in the upper middle-class neighborhood of Gwinnett County, GA, allow me to be the first to say thank you for speaking the truth. The forces trying to tear you apart are the same people who say that they are trying to protect what I have. I have a lovely home, I have a bright future, and I have a blessed life. I do not need protection for what I have. I need to know that other people will grant the opportunity to achieve what I take for granted."

Mr. Speaker, I think the people get the point.

#### HEARINGS CONCERNING THE BRANCH DAVIDIAN/WACO AFFAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. BRYANT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we begin hearings in this House on the 1993 Waco incident.

Mr. Speaker, ours is a Government of laws, not men. In order to preserve the rules of law, our citizens must be assured that their government, its institutions, its officials, and its law enforcement agents are accountable. Accountability is the key to ensuring public confidence in the system in order for all of us to live well. Confidence in one's government is essential to the long-term survival of that government and to the peaceful life of that government's citizens.

The abuse of power threatens any society. However, a government of laws gives stability to a nation, a state, and a community. The abuse of power is tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, when a sizable portion of our citizens become concerned, even

fearful, over a perceived lack of accountability by Federal law enforcement, the time has come that we need to clear the air.

These hearings are intended to be a part, to demonstrate how our system works. The members of these investigating committees seek to ascertain the truth. We seek to restore the confidence of the American people in their government. We seek to discover and explore the events leading up to and including what many consider excessive force by law enforcement. We seek a more complete revelation of the details of the Waco events.

The goal of these hearings is to discover the truth, to seek the answers to unanswered questions that linger, that even have festered since earlier hearings.

The surviving Davidians have been tried in court, which yielded new information and mixed verdicts. With respect to individuals involved on all sides, let the chips fall where they may. Those responsible for breaches of law or policy must be held accountable for their abuses of power.

Only by finding the truth can accountability be secured.

If abuses of the Government power in fact occurred, then we must take what we learn at these hearings and move forward with steps that insure such abuses of Government power will not occur again.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Government has its proper roles. While we do not need or want anarchy, we do not want unlimited Government either, nor do we want agents who breach our constitutional rights or God-given rights.

As a former young State's attorney and Federal prosecutor, I worked closely with Federal law enforcement personnel at all levels of government. I believe the majority of enforcement personnel are honorable and only want to do what is legal and just. These hearings are not intended to bash any law enforcement in general or any agency in particular; at least, that is not my purpose in participating in these hearings.

Individuals make decisions, and individuals should bear responsibility for consequences of their actions. That goes for criminal offenders and those in fiduciary roles of Government.

In the bigger picture, it is my hope these hearings will help to restore the American people's confidence in their Federal Government. This country needs a healing, a renewal.

I look forward to these hearings and to the healing effect that is so needed in this great Nation. Let us do our part to restore the rule of law and the preservation of liberty.

#### THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE "WANTED" POSTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK] is recognized for 5 minutes.