

leaders should be just the catalyst we need to begin the discussion and to begin the strategy in this country.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this. Support the American families. Support our fathers. Fathers in the Congress, let us take responsibility and work for H. Res. 417.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, we have one more speaker on our side, and I would like to recognize him now. He is a freshman colleague of mine and also a father of four boys, who is expecting his fifth child sometime later this year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING).

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution recognizing the importance of fathers in America and also recognizing the hard and good work of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH). My wife is a godmother of the gentleman's recent new addition to his family, to his daughter, and we proudly celebrate that.

As the gentleman mentioned, I am the father of four boys, four boys, ages 8, 6, 4 and 2; and we have just learned recently that the fifth is coming. This is my first public announcement of that good news, and so we are looking forward to maybe finding a little girl, maybe, somewhere in our house.

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Today I rise first to recognize the role of my father and grandfathers in my life, not because it is unique to me, but it is because of what fathers and grandfathers have offered this country over our proud history. They taught me leadership and discipline. They showed me what sacrifice and service means. They showed me commitment and integrity to faith and to community. They have gave me the role model and the example and the path to follow.

As we approach Father's Day, I want to first recognize the role of my own father and my grandfather, one who was a farmer and one who was a high school principal and teacher and dean of men, and the role they played in my life.

My grandfather was committed to his wife, to his community, and to his church. He taught me what hard work meant and the joy of it. My father, who is now a Federal judge, taught me about public service. He is now the proud grandfather of 14 grandchildren, all under the age of 11. So with Father's Day coming, I thank them.

As we ask ourselves, what is the importance, what is the role of fatherhood in our country, let us put it in context. Let us put it in perspective. With the recent news of India and Pakistan and the possible escalation of the nuclear arms race, we say that that is a great threat to our security. We need to prepare for it and provide the resources, whatever it takes to defend ourselves in the future.

But I say, the greatest threat to our security is the loss of fathers in the home, and the lack of men stepping up and taking on the responsibility of being at home to teach and to provide for the well-being of their family.

As we look at education today, the greatest indicator of whether we will have educational success or failure goes back to the home and the role of the father being there. Violence and drugs are again tied back to the breakdown of the family, the loss and the lack of the male role model, of men and fathers being there; poverty.

Again, everything that we see facing our Nation, the greatest threats to our Nation, the greatest risk that we have, the greatest single determinant, the greatest factor that goes back to time and time again is whether men have accepted their role and have stepped up to the plate and assumed their responsibility. They have made a commitment and they have kept it.

Our challenge today is to call all men to assume their role, their responsibility in their home to be good husbands and to be good fathers. More important than anything we can do in this place, in Congress, is what happens in the home and what happens in the House, what happens with our families.

As the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. J.C. WATTS) said, the most important title to him is not Congressman, but daddy. There is no title, there is no position greater; the President of the United States, congressman, teacher, doctor, lawyer, whatever your title may be. The highest honor and the greatest obligation and responsibility, the greatest joy, is being called daddy and playing the role, and accepting the responsibility of being a good father.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying this is a resolution, as we have heard from people who are fathers and potential fathers, on how important the role of a father is. I think we simply have to look at the environment in which we live, where there are fatherless children, and those children usually run afoul of the law and have some kind of problem. We generally do not find that in a home where a father is present.

I was raised with a family of 10 children, but that important ingredient we had in our home to make our lives a success was our father being there for us in our time of need. I would simply say to all of my colleagues, this is a resolution that should get a unanimous vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Let me first say, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from California and all of the speakers on the Democratic side who have been wonderful supporters of this resolution. It truthfully is a bipartisan effort.

Second, a very quick point, some people have asked me, what about the

mothers involved? Of course, mothers are critical to the raising of our children, rearing of our children. I know I could not do it without my wife, Ruthie. And I know how much my mother meant to us, because, in fact, my father died when I was only 5 years old, and she had to serve both the role of mother and father in our family.

But I think everyone knows that all of us in my family and every family where they may not have an ideal circumstance, we truly wished my father could have been there and been with us. What we are trying to say in this resolution is, to the fathers of America, do all you can to be there, to love your daughters, love your sons, and be a great father to them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 417, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 417.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 4, 1998, during the consideration of House Joint Resolution 78, I apparently voted contrary to my intent on one part of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia.

I correctly voted "no" on the second part of the amendment, but thinking and intending to vote "no" on the first part, I apparently made a mistake and pushed the wrong button, and inadvertently voted "yes" on rollcall 198. I was shocked and disbelieving, Mr. Speaker, to discover my unintended vote of "aye" on the first part of the amendment, which would have stricken the reference to, and I quote, "acknowledge God in our Constitution" and replaced it with "freedom of religion." I did not and do not support that proposal.

As I said in my statement, Mr. Speaker, on House Joint Resolution 78, ". . . we do need to stress that faith in God and raising our voices in prayer continues to be one of the most important things that Americans can do." Mr. Speaker, the right to acknowledge

one's God was fundamental to the founding of this great country. Indeed, the Founding Fathers acknowledged God as the source of our unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

#### SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BY FEDERAL AGENCIES

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 447) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding financial management by Federal agencies, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 447

Whereas financial audits are an essential tool to establish accountable, responsible, and credible use of taxpayer dollars;

Whereas Congress needs such information to accurately measure performance of Federal agencies and distribute scarce resources;

Whereas Federal agencies should meet the same audit standards with which such agencies expect State and local governments, the private sector, and Federal contractors from which such agencies purchase goods and services to comply;

Whereas sections 331 and 3515 of title 31, United States Code (as enacted in section 405 of the Government Management Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-356; 108 Stat. 3415)), require that Federal agencies prepare annual financial statements and have them audited, and that the Secretary of the Treasury prepare a consolidated financial statement for Federal agencies that is audited by the Comptroller General;

Whereas the enactment of these provisions resulted in the first time ever that the financial status of the entire Federal Government was subjected to the same professional scrutiny to which many who interact with the Federal Government are subject;

Whereas section 3521 of title 31, United States Code, requires that the audit follow the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, which incorporate the common, private sector guidelines of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Statements on Auditing Standards;

Whereas Congress intended these audit requirements to provide greater accountability in managing government finances by improving financial systems, strengthening financial personnel qualifications, and generating more reliable, timely information on the costs and financial performance of government operations;

Whereas the data found in the financial reports was not sufficiently reliable to permit the General Accounting Office to render an opinion on the Government's financial statements;

Whereas only 2 of the 24 Federal agencies required to submit reports have reliable financial information, effective internal controls, and complied with applicable laws and regulations;

Whereas the financial statements of the Department of Defense could not be relied on to provide basic information regarding the existence, location, and value of much of its \$635,000,000,000 in property, plant, and equipment;

Whereas the Department of Defense could not account for 2 utility boats valued at \$174,000 each, 2 large harbor tug boats valued at \$875,000 each, 1 floating crane valued at \$468,000, 15 aircraft engines (including 2 F-18 engines valued at \$4,000,000 each), and one Avenger Missile Launcher valued at \$1,000,000;

Whereas inaccurate or unreliable data, such as the findings that 220 more tanks, 10 fewer helicopters, 25 fewer aircraft, and 8 fewer cruise missiles existed than those reported in the system of the Department of Defense, harms deployment activities;

Whereas the Department of Housing and Urban Development spends \$18,000,000,000 each year in rent and operating subsidies, with \$1 of every \$18 being paid out unjustifiably;

Whereas financial management is so poor within Federal credit agencies that the true cost of the Federal Government's loan and guarantee programs cannot be reliably determined;

Whereas the Federal Aviation Administration's records regarding \$5,500,000,000 in equipment and property are unreliable, including \$198,000,000 in recorded assets that no longer exist, \$245,000,000 in spare parts that were omitted from the financial statements, and \$3,300,000,000 in works-in-process that could not be verified;

Whereas the Forest Service lacks a reliable system for tracking its reported 378,000 miles of roads;

Whereas the Medicare program identified an estimated \$20,300,000,000 worth of improper payments in fiscal year 1997;

Whereas the Social Security Administration has identified \$1,000,000,000 in overpayments for fiscal year 1997;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury recorded a net \$12,000,000,000 "plug" recorded as "unreconciled transactions", made up of over \$100,000,000,000 of unreconciled, unsupported transactions, to make its books balance; and

*Whereas the disclaimers, mismanagement, and poor recordkeeping in the Federal Government expose taxpayers to continued waste, fraud, error, and mismanagement, and provide inadequate information to Congress for budget, appropriations, and reauthorization decisions: Now, therefore, be it*

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the first-ever Governmentwide financial audit demonstrated serious concerns with financial management by the majority of Federal agencies;

(2) current efforts with respect to financial management by all too many Federal agencies have failed; and

(3) therefore, Congress must impose consequences on Federal agencies that fail their annual financial audits and conduct more vigorous oversight to ensure that Federal agencies do not waste the tax dollars of the people of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 1998, the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology held a hearing on the first ever audit of the United States government. We were presented with the consolidated government-wide financial statements issued March 31, 1998.

The Democratic 103rd Congress, in which I was a freshman, enacted this law on a bipartisan basis in 1994. As a result of this audit, we found the Federal Government could not balance its books. That is why we gave them 5 years to do it way back in 1994. In fact,

the information in the financial statements was so poor that the auditors were not able to determine the adjustments necessary to make the information reliable.

For the first time, however, Congress was provided a concise accounting for the many financial management problems faced by the executive branch of the Federal Government. This report, by the General Accounting Office, the audit arm of the legislative branch known as the GAO, confirmed that at least tens of billions of taxpayers' dollars are being lost each year to fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement in hundreds of programs throughout the executive branch.

Government financial management is largely in disarray in some departments. Its financial systems and practices are obsolete and ineffective, and do not provide complete, consistent, reliable, and timely information to either congressional or presidential decision-makers, let alone to agency management, which is responsible for the implementation of these various programs.

The GAO report provided a synopsis of the significant weaknesses in the financial systems: problems with fundamental recordkeeping and incomplete documentation. There were weak internal controls, including weak computer controls. These structural problems then prevent the executive branch from accurately reporting a large portion of its assets, its liabilities, and its expenses.

According to the General Accounting Office, "These deficiencies affect the reliability of the consolidated financial statements and much of the underlying financial information." More important, "These problems also," said the GAO, "affect the government's ability to accurately measure the full cost and financial performance of programs, and effectively and efficiently manage its operations."

Looking at some of the charts here, the subcommittee released the first report card measuring the effectiveness of the financial management at 24 Federal agencies, which were required over a 5-year period to prepare financial statements and have them audited. The grades were based on reports prepared by the various agency Inspectors General, independent public accountants, and the General Accounting Office.

The report card is a gauge for Congress to see where attention is needed to push agencies to get their financial affairs in order. A few agencies, most notably the Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, demonstrated that they could effectively manage their finances.

However, these agencies were the exception, rather than the rule. Six other agencies earned commendable Bs. Eleven of the 24 agencies, 46 percent, were not able to meet the March 1 reporting date in the Act. That is 5 months after the close of the Federal fiscal year.