

they cannot cash in those so-called IOU government bonds. It can only be an act of Congress. So we have, number one, fooled the American people with the words "trust fund" when it is really not a trust fund.

Secondly, we have spent all that money on other government programs and written these nonredeemable IOUs. We have experienced under Secretary Rubin and the Clinton administration, and now in the Bush administration, when we reach the limit of allowable debt, well, it is disregarded. We have a law that says we cannot go deeper in debt in this country without the permission of the United States Congress, signed by the President. Yet we play games with it, with the disinvestment of retirement funds for civil servants. So when we exceed the debt limit, what happens is the Treasurer starts pretending that we are not writing those IOUs to the retirement funds for government employees. Some call it disinvestment. This is another area where it just would not be acceptable nor would it be legal if it were done in the private sector.

The lockbox. The lockbox is another hoodwinking gimmick. It simply was an effort of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, to try to make people believe that there was some additional security to Social Security trust funds if we had the gimmick called a lockbox. But nothing changed. The IOUs were still written and the money was spent for some other purposes.

Again, what I am trying to suggest is we take this opportunity to review what we are doing in the United States Congress and the Federal Government as a whole. In 1995, when the Republicans took the majority in this U.S. House of Representatives, one of the first things we did was to require an audit of all government departments and agencies. That initial audit came back and reported that, in most of these agencies and departments we cannot audit because their books are so bad. But what they had audited so far we found \$100 billion that is unaccounted for in government assets, which is what government supposedly owns. The auditors could not find that \$100 billion worth of property.

The Government Performance and Results Act was another thing Republicans did when we came into the majority in 1995. And that required annual audits of all the departments and agencies. The auditors came back and said the books are so bad in so many of these departments and agencies that we are unable to give them an audit. These were supposed to be annual audits. Yet from 1995, 7 years later, there are still agencies and departments that do not have their books in order in such a way that they can actually be audited.

We play games in our appropriation process. We come up with a budget resolution that, since I have been here for the last 9½ years, that budget has never been adhered to. And frankly,

Mr. Speaker, I am upset that while we get on our pompous soap boxes here and criticize the corporate world, that needs criticizing and they need to go to jail, and they need to go to real jail, not some kind of country club jail for white-shirt crimes, we should also be looking inward at our own accounting practices and the way we handle taxpayers' money.

302(b)'s. This is a provision where, after we pass the budget, we send it to the appropriators and the appropriators come up with how they are going to divide that allotted money between the several appropriation bills. But what has been happening, and what I suspect is going to happen this year, is we turn out the early appropriation bills, and we add extra money to those bills so it is attractive to everybody. And then the final bills that come out, that are very popular, whether it is veterans or military or education, they say, look, we do not have any more money under the budget and we end up overspending.

Let me just conclude by saying we need to have a lot better accountability to the investors in the United States Government; that is the taxpayers' money. Let us take this opportunity to review, renew, and do a much better job of the way we handle this business of government and taxpayers' money.

#### IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 395

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, later today the House will consider a resolution that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, which enjoys the support of both the chairman, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), of the Committee on Resources.

The constitution of Puerto Rico established a republican form of government and provided for a broad bill of rights that followed both the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man. This constitution also provided for the election of all members of the legislature of Puerto Rico by the free will of the people of Puerto Rico.

The ratification of the constitution by the people of Puerto Rico is the most significant democratic achievement of the Puerto Rican people in the 20th century. This bipartisan resolution recognizes the historic event that came about 50 years ago through the principles of democracy. It is through these same principles that I stand before my colleagues as the only elected

representative here in Congress of some 4 million Puerto Ricans and ask for your support of House Concurrent Resolution 395.

#### JOHN WALKER LINDH NOT A "GOOD BOY"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, as most Americans awoke, they were greeted with headlines like the one I saw in my hometown Palm Beach Post: "Lindh's Dad Says Son a Good Boy." John Walker Lindh being described by his father as a good boy.

While I ran on the Mall this morning, I was listening to NPR, and I was listening to the defense attorney for that good boy, John Walker Lindh, describe his client as a slightly misguided youth who was actually in Afghanistan fighting the cocaine traffickers and the poppy growers and the drug lords. John Walker Lindh, a good boy.

It was difficult yesterday, because I received calls from two of my constituents, Ed and Maureen Lunder, whose son Christopher, at the age of 33, perished in the World Trade Center; and Stanley and Carol Eckna, whose son Paul perished in the World Trade Center at the age of 28.

John Walker Lindh, the good boy, will celebrate his birthdays in a Federal prison; and when he turns 41, he will celebrate his birthdays outside in the free world. Christopher and Paul do not get any birthdays any more. They do not get any anniversaries. They do not get to see their kids grow up. But John Walker Lindh is a good boy.

Maybe it does not startle people that the ethics of this Nation are collapsing. I remember when our President and chief executive officer of this Nation lied to a grand jury and lied to the American people. And at that time I heard from my colleagues who said, hey, listen, the economy is good, do not worry about it; it is his personal business.

Now we have companies like Endrun, formerly known as Enron, and WorldCom, formerly WorldCom, stealing money out of the till and enriching themselves at the cost of the consumer, taxpayer, and investor. And now we have John Walker Lindh described as a good boy.

Where are the ethics of this Nation? What about those 3,000 lives that were lost in the World Trade Center in New York and Washington, D.C. at the Pentagon, and in that airplane in Pennsylvania? Collaborating with the enemy, to me, was always treasonous. No matter how you describe it, no matter how you tie a bow on that package, John Walker Lindh has committed treason against the common good and purpose of this country. He violated our constitutional premise. He violated the sacred oath we have as citizens to protect