

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 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, Mr. UPTON, recognized Mr. HORN and Mr. KUCINICH, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. HORN demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

#### ¶54.10 LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

Mrs. CHENOWETH moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3520) to adjust the boundaries of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and the adjacent Wenatchee National Forest in the State of Washington.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, recognized Mrs. CHENOWETH and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

#### ¶54.11 NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM

Mr. HANSEN moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1635) to establish within the United States National Park Service the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program, and for other purposes; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, recognized Mr. HANSEN and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

#### ¶54.12 GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL

Mr. HANSEN moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill of the Senate (S. 423) to extend the legislative authority for the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall to establish a memorial to honor George Mason.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, recognized Mr. HANSEN and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

#### ¶54.13 U.S. HOLOCAUST ASSETS COMMISSION

Mr. LEACH moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3662) to establish a commission to examine issues pertaining to the disposition of Holocaust-era assets in the United States before, during, and after World War II, and to make recommendations to the President on further action, and for other purposes; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, recognized Mr. LEACH and Mr. LAFALCE, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. LEACH, by unanimous consent, the bill of the Senate (S. 1900) to establish a commission to examine issues pertaining to the disposition of Holocaust-era assets in the United States before, during, and after World War II, and to make recommendations to the President on further action, and for other purposes; was taken from the Speaker's table.

When said bill was considered and read twice.

Mr. LEACH submitted the following amendment, which was agreed to:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the provisions of H.R. 3662, as passed by the House.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the votes whereby said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said amendment.

By unanimous consent, H.R. 3662, a similar House bill, was laid on the table.

¶54.14 MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

¶54.15 UNITED STATES AND PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 404):

Whereas 1998 marks 100 years of special ties between the people of the United States and the people of the Philippines and is also the centennial celebration of Philippine independence from Spain which initiated relations with the United States;

Whereas the people of the Philippines have on many occasions demonstrated their strong commitment to democratic principles and practices, the free exchange of views on matters of public concern, and the development of a strong civil society;

Whereas the Philippines has embraced economic reform and free market principles and, despite current challenging circumstances, its economy has registered significant economic growth in recent years benefiting the lives of the people of the Philippines;

Whereas the large Philippine-American community has immeasurably enriched the fabric of American society and culture;

Whereas Filipino soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder with American troops on the battlefields of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam;

Whereas the Philippines is an increasingly important trading partner of the United States as well as the recipient of significant direct American investment;

Whereas the United States relies on the Philippines as a partner and treaty ally in fostering regional stability, enhancing prosperity, and promoting peace and democracy; and

Whereas the 100th anniversary of relations between the people of the United States and the people of the Philippines offers an opportunity for the United States and the Philippines to renew their commitment to international cooperation on issues of mutual interest and concern: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Philippines on the commemoration of its independence from Spain;

(2) looks forward to a broadening and deepening of friendship and cooperation with the Philippines in the years ahead for the mutual benefit of the people of the United States and the people of the Philippines;

(3) supports the efforts of the Philippines to further strengthen democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and the expansion of free market economics both at home and abroad; and

(4) recognizes the close relationship between the nations and the people of the United States and the people of the Phil-

ippines and pledges its support to work closely with the Philippines in addressing new challenges as we begin our second century of friendship and cooperation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. WEXLER, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,  
The question being put, *viva voce*,  
Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶54.16 AFFIRMING U.S. SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN AND THEIR ROLE IN ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 270); as amended:

Whereas the President of the United States has announced he intends to travel to Beijing in June 1998 to discuss the common interests of the United States and the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the American people desire strong relations with the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait;

Whereas it is the policy of the United States Government to take all necessary action to ensure peace and stability on the Taiwan Strait, while continuing mutually beneficial trade relations with Taiwan's vibrant economy;

Whereas the American people have repeatedly welcomed and supported democracy for the people of Taiwan;

Whereas Taiwan set an example for democratization in the region having successfully held free and fair elections at the local and national level and encouraging the development of democratic institutions;

Whereas the American people seek to promote economic stability and growth amidst the current financial turmoil in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas Taiwan's economy has weathered the current Asian financial crisis better than others in the region;

Whereas Taiwan has proposed to use various means to help stabilize the economies of many of its neighbors, including possibilities for action by the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum of which it is a member;

Whereas Taiwan has expressed its willingness to provide financial assistance to its neighbors;

Whereas in the spring of 1996, the political leadership of the People's Republic of China used provocative military maneuvers, including missile launch exercises in the Taiwan Strait, in an attempt to intimidate the people of Taiwan during their historic, free, and democratic presidential election;

Whereas officials of the People's Republic of China refuse to renounce the use of force against the people on Taiwan;

Whereas the use of force, and the threat to use force, by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan undermines regional stability; and

Whereas a senior United States executive branch official has again recently called

upon the People's Republic of China to renounce any use of force against Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States abides by all previous understandings of a "one China" policy and its abiding interest in a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan Straits issue; and

(2) the President of the United States should seek, at the June summit meeting this year in Beijing, a public renunciation by the People's Republic of China of any use of force, or threat to use force, against democratic Taiwan.

Amend the title so as to read: "Concurrent resolution acknowledging Taiwan's desire to play a positive role in the current Asian financial crisis and affirming the support of the American people for peace and stability on the Taiwan Strait and security for Taiwan's democracy."

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,  
The question being put, *viva voce*,  
Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BEREUTER objected to the vote on the ground that a quorum was not present and not voting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

The point of no quorum was considered as withdrawn.

¶54.17 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2709

Mr. GOSS, by direction of the Committee on Rules, called up the following resolution (H. Res. 457):

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2709) to impose certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House a single motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on International Relations or his designee that the House concur in each of the Senate amendments. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

When said resolution was considered.  
After debate,

On motion of Mr. GOSS, the previous question was ordered on the resolution to its adoption or rejection and under the operation thereof, the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.