

last 3 years, 8 times the rate of inflation. Our appropriation bill this year gives them a 25.6 percent increase to \$2.2 billion for the fiscal year starting October 1. Yet in spite of all this money, the INS is shirking its duty and it refusing to enforce the law and do the job it is supposed to be doing.

Just 2 days ago a state trooper in Knox County, Tennessee, my home county, stopped a van, a regular-sized small van, containing 25 illegal aliens. The people were piled on top of each other. They were on their way to North Carolina. Our local law enforcement officer called the INS office in Memphis and could not even get an answer, even though this was during regular working hours.

One of our local radio stations has attempted several times to get through, repeatedly, and has been unable to do so.

This was the 6th time in recent months that the INS has either refused to act or even has at times told our local law enforcement officials in Tennessee to let a van of illegal aliens go.

The problem is not money. No other agency in the Federal Government has received such a huge increase in the last 3 or 4 years. The problem is the system, Mr. Speaker. These people are paid the same whether they work hard or whether they work easy. Apparently, we have many in the INS who are wanting to do as little as they possibly can. Because our civil service system protects even lazy and incompetent workers, bad Federal employees can get away with almost anything.

This is one of the reasons why so many people are so fed up with the Federal Government today and why we so desperately need to reform our civil service laws so that some of these Federal employees will have to start working at least half as hard as those in the private sector.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, a member of the Committee on National Security told me this week that our Bosnian adventure will ultimately cost us \$10 billion. We have spent \$4 billion in Haiti and, according to the Washington Post, have had our troops down there picking up garbage and settling domestic disputes. We have turned our men and women in our armed forces into international social workers, and we have spent and are spending billions in Bosnia, Haiti, Rwanda, Somalia, and especially, of course, in the former Soviet Union, where we even spent hundreds of millions constructing homes for returning members of the Soviet military.

This does not even count our regular foreign aid. Any time anyone opposes throwing away all these billions overseas, they are insulted with the false label of isolationist. Yet, anyone who fairly looks at this would have to admit that the United States could carry on many close, active, friendly relationships with all nations without pouring billions and billions down foreign black holes.

Let us be friends with everyone, Mr. Speaker, but you should not have to buy friends, especially with billions that we are taking away from our own children, putting their futures very much in jeopardy. We need to remember, Mr. Speaker, that we are over \$5 trillion in debt and we are spending money that we do not have. We should not send our troops overseas unless there is a serious threat to our own national security or a definite U.S. vital interest involved, and neither of these is present in Bosnia.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to briefly mention or briefly touch on one other incident which received national publicity this week. A 6-year-old boy in Lexington, N.C., was charged with sexual harassment because he gave a 6-year-old girl a peck of a kiss on the cheek after she asked him to do so. This little boy, who knows nothing about sex, was held away from his classmates for the entire day and missed an ice cream party with his fellow students.

This is taking political correctness to a ridiculous extreme. Surely, we can operate our schools with a little common sense. The school system in Lexington justified its actions based on a manual that this little boy could not have understood even if he had been told about it.

Some of these extremists, I say extreme women's libbers, seem to want to turn men and women into enemies in this country, but we need to resist this. We need to stand up to this and say that some of this is wrong and ridiculous, and surely we should not have done this to this little 6-year-old boy.

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

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

DEDICATION TO HON. RAY THORNTON

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

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this time to honor a dear friend and colleague of mine, RAY THORNTON. RAY will be leaving this body soon and before he goes his dedication and fellowship deserves high praise. As chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee on Appropriations, I would like to thank him for his assistance as ranking member.

RAY assumed the ranking member position this year with great enthusiasm and skill. I appreciated his input as well as his willingness to work in a friendly and bipartisan way. Together we accomplished a great deal. To date, the legislative branch is a full 12 percent leaner than it was 2 years ago and serves as the model for rightsizing the rest of Government.

RAY contributed tremendously to this effort. He supported and advanced our efforts to find additional opportunities to save dollars and increase efficiencies here in the legislative branch.

The Legislative Branch spending bill is primarily about people. RAY's administrative background, as a former University of Arkansas president, proved invaluable. As RAY and I worked together to rightsize this institution, time again he brought his management orientation to task.

Unfortunately, we may be losing RAY to another branch of government as he works to assume a judgeship on the Arkansas Supreme Court. His dedication and enormous talents will certainly continue to prove beneficial to the people of Arkansas. While I wish RAY well in his future endeavors, I will miss him as my colleague here in the House and on my subcommittee.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET REGARDING CURRENT LEVELS OF SPENDING AND REVENUES REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1996 FOR FISCAL YEARS 1996-2000

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

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on the Budget and pursuant to sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am submitting for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an updated report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 1996 and for the 5-year period fiscal year 1996 through fiscal year 2000.

This report is to be used in applying the fiscal year 1996 budget resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 67, for legislation having spending or revenue effects in fiscal years 1996 through 2000.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, September 27, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: To facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 1996 and for the 5-year period fiscal year 1996 through fiscal year 2000.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature as of September 18, 1996.

The first table in the report compares the current level of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by H. Con. Res. 67, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996. These levels are consistent with the recent revisions made pursuant to section 606(e) of Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as amended by the Contract with America Advancement Act (P.L. 104-121) which provides additional new budget authority and outlays to pay for continuing disability reviews. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of

order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 1996 because appropriations for those years will be considered under future budget resolutions.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority, outlays, and new entitlement authority of each direct spending committee with the "section 602(a)" allocations for discretionary action made under H. Con. Res. 67 for fiscal year 1996 and for fiscal years 1996 through 2000. "Discretionary action" refers to legislation enacted after adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to implement section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 602(a) discretionary action allocation of new budget authority or entitlement authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 1996 with the revised "section 602(b)" suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. This comparison is also needed to implement section 302(f) of the

Budget Act, because the point of order under that section also applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 602(b) suballocation. The revised section 602(b) suballocations were filed by the Appropriations Committee on December 5, 1995.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. KASICH,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 1996 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 67

[Reflecting action completed as of September 18, 1996]
[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal year 1996	Fiscal year 1996-2000
Appropriate Level (as set by H. Con. Res. 67):		
Budget authority	1,285,515	6,814,600
Outlays	1,288,160	6,749,200
Revenues	1,042,500	5,656,841
Current Level:		
Budget authority	1,306,896	(¹)
Outlays	1,307,685	(¹)
Revenues	1,039,110	5,691,500
Current Level over(+)/under(-) Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	21,381	(¹)
Outlays	19,525	(¹)
Revenues	-3,390	34,659

¹ Not applicable because annual appropriation Act for Fiscal Years 1997 through 2000 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Enactment of measures providing any new budget authority for FY 1996 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 1996 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 67.

OUTLAYS

Enactment of measures providing any new budget or entitlement authority that would increase FY 1996 outlays (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 1996 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 67.

REVENUES

Enactment of any measure that would result in any revenue loss in FY 1996 (if not already included in the current level estimate) or in excess of \$34,659,000,000 for FY 1996 through 2000 (if not already included in the current level) would increase the amount by which revenues are less than the recommended levels of revenue set by H. Con. Res. 67.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO BUDGET ACT SECTION 602(a), REFLECTION ACTION COMPLETED AS OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1996

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

	1996			1996-2000		
	BA	Outlays	NEA	BA	Outlays	NEA
House committee:						
Agriculture:						
Allocation	-992	-992	177	-8,477	-8,477	-2,164
Current level	-330	-722	-758	-5,011	-5,366	-6,771
Difference	662	270	-935	3,466	3,111	-4,607
National Security:						
Allocation	-1,168	-1,168	382	1,733	1,733	1,467
Current level	369	367	401	1,378	1,374	1,758
Difference	1,537	1,535	19	-355	-359	291
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs:						
Allocation	-481	-481	0	-1,698	-1,698	0
Current level	3	3	0	0	0	0
Difference	484	484	0	1,698	1,698	0
Economic and Educational Opportunities:						
Allocation	-128	122	-2,015	-1,976	-1,534	-11,465
Current level	0	0	0	8,568	7,919	6,900
Difference	128	-122	2,015	10,544	9,453	18,365
Commerce:						
Allocation	-555	-405	-3,619	-11,381	-11,480	-84,935
Current level	0	0	0	6,453	6,406	7,367
Difference	555	405	3,619	17,834	17,886	92,302
International Relations:						
Allocation	-3	-3	0	-19	-19	-6
Current level	-72	-72	0	-73	-73	0
Difference	-69	-69	0	-54	-54	6
Government Reform & Oversight:						
Allocation	-436	-436	-106	-2,903	-2,903	-2,729
Current level	0	0	0	0	0	6
Difference	436	436	106	2,903	2,903	2,735
House Oversight:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Resources:						
Allocation	-106	-104	0	-2,698	-2,693	0
Current level	-19	-25	0	-161	-167	8
Difference	87	79	0	2,537	2,526	8
Judiciary:						
Allocation	0	0	0	-238	-238	0
Current level	0	1	1	17	16	6
Difference	0	1	1	255	254	6
Transportation and Infrastructure:						
Allocation	-63	-63	0	92,844	-457	0
Current level	0	0	0	0	-2	0
Difference	63	63	0	-92,844	455	0
Science:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Business:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans' Affairs:						
Allocation	-79	-79	-195	-686	-686	-2,928
Current level	0	0	-21	0	0	-106
Difference	79	79	174	686	686	2,822
Ways and Means:						
Allocation	-7,163	-7,615	-4,502	-192,899	-193,345	-82,895
Current level	34	-8	-25	55,337	55,305	-31,986
Difference	7,197	7,607	4,477	248,236	248,650	50,909
Unassigned:						
Allocation	306	306	0	4,892	4,892	0
Current level	0	0	0	0	0	0

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO BUDGET ACT SECTION 602(a), REFLECTION ACTION COMPLETED AS OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1996—Continued

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

	1996			1996-2000		
	BA	Outlays	NEA	BA	Outlays	NEA
Difference	-306	-306	0	-4,892	-4,892	0
Total Authorized:						
Allocation	-10,868	-10,918	-9,878	-123,506	-216,905	-185,655
Current level	-15	-456	-402	66,508	65,412	-22,818
Difference	10,853	10,462	9,476	190,014	282,317	162,837

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH SUBALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO BUDGET ACT SECTION 602(b)

[In millions of dollars]

	Revised 602(b) suballocations (December 5, 1995)				Current level as of September 18, 1996				Difference			
	General purpose		Violent crime		General purpose		Violent crime		General purpose		Violent crime	
	BA	0	BA	0	BA	0	BA	0	BA	0	BA	0
	Agriculture, Rural Development	13,325	13,608	0	0	13,306	13,577	0	0	-19	-31	0
Commerce, Justice, State	22,810	24,148	3,956	2,113	23,338	24,320	3,956	2,112	528	172	0	-1
Defense	243,042	243,512	0	0	241,853	242,306	0	0	-1,189	-1,206	0	0
District of Columbia	727	727	0	0	712	712	0	0	-15	-15	0	0
Energy & Water Development	19,562	19,858	0	0	19,326	19,801	0	0	-236	-57	0	0
Foreign Operations	12,284	13,848	0	0	12,153	13,856	0	0	-131	8	0	0
Interior	12,213	13,174	0	0	12,122	13,047	0	0	-91	-127	0	0
Labor, HHS & Education	61,947	68,380	53	44	63,195	68,838	53	25	1,248	458	0	0
Legislative Branch	2,126	2,180	0	0	2,125	2,180	0	0	-1	0	0	0
Military Construction	11,178	9,597	0	0	11,136	9,592	0	0	-42	-5	0	0
Transportation	12,500	36,754	0	0	11,705	36,751	0	0	-795	-3	0	0
Treasury-Postal Service	11,237	11,542	78	70	10,826	11,144	77	70	-411	-398	-1	0
VA-HUD-Independent Agencies	61,686	74,440	0	0	62,349	74,480	0	0	663	40	0	0
Reserve	437	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-437	0	0	0
Grand total	485,074	531,768	4,087	2,227	484,146	530,604	4,086	2,207	-928	-1,164	-1	-20

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 24, 1996.

Hon. JOHN KASICH,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended, this letter and supporting detail provide an up-to-date tabulation of the on-budget current levels of new budget authority, estimated outlays, and estimated revenues for fiscal year 1996. These estimates are compared to the appropriate levels for those items contained in the 1996 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget (H. Con. Res. 67) and are current

through September 18, 1996. A summary of this tabulation follows:

[In millions of dollars]

	House current level	Budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 178)	Current level +/- resolution
Budget authority	1,306,896	1,285,515	+21,381
Outlays	1,307,685	1,288,160	+19,525
Revenues:			
1996	1,039,110	1,042,500	-3,390
1996-2000	5,691,500	5,656,841	-34,659

Since my last report, dated May 21, 1996, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Agriculture Appropriations Act, 1997 (P.L. 104-180), and Act to Amend

the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act (P.L. 104-164), the Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2 Act (P.L. 104-168), the Small Business Job Protection Act (P.L. 104-188), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-91), the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193), an Act for the Relief of Benchmark Rail Group, Inc. (Pvt. L. 104-1), and an Act for the Relief of Nathan C. Vance (Pvt. L. 104-2). These actions changed the current level of budget authority, outlays, and revenues.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL,
Director.

PARLIAMENTARIAN STATUS REPORT—104TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION, HOUSE ON-BUDGET SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996, AS OF CLOSE OF BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 18, 1996

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
ENACTED IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS			
Revenues			1,039,122
Permanents and other spending legislation	830,272	798,924	
Appropriations legislation		242,052	
Offsetting receipts	-200,017	-200,017	
Total previously enacted	630,254	840,958	1,039,122
ENACTED IN FIRST SESSION			
Appropriation Bills:			
1995 Rescissions and Department of Defense Emergency Supplementals Act (P.L. 104-6)	-100	-885	
1995 Rescissions and Emergency Supplementals for Disaster Assistance Act (P.L. 104-19)	22	-3,149	
Agriculture (P.L. 104-37)	62,602	45,620	
Defense (P.L. 104-61)	243,301	163,223	
Energy and Water (P.L. 104-46)	19,336	11,502	
Legislative Branch (P.L. 104-53)	2,125	1,977	
Military Construction (P.L. 104-32)	11,177	3,110	
Transportation (P.L. 104-50)	12,682	11,899	
Treasury, Postal Service (P.L. 104-52)	23,026	20,530	
Offsetting receipts	-7,946	-7,946	
Authorization Bills:			
Self-Employed Health Insurance Act (P.L. 104-7)	-18	-18	-101
Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 104-42)	1	1	
Fishermen's Protective Right Amendments of 1995 (P.L. 104-43)		(1)	
Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act Amendments of 1995 (P.L. 104-48)	1	(1)	1
Alaska Power Administration Sale Act (P.L. 104-58)	-20	-20	
ICC Termination Act (P.L. 104-88)			(1)
Total enacted first session	366,191	245,845	-100
ENACTED IN SECOND SESSION			
Appropriation Bills:			
Ninth Continuing Resolution (P.L. 104-99) ²	-1,111	-1,313	
Foreign Operations (P.L. 104-107)	12,104	5,936	
Offsetting receipts	-44	-44	
District of Columbia (P.L. 104-134)	712	712	

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-134)	330,746	246,113	
Offsetting receipts	-63,682	-55,154	
1997 Agriculture Appropriations (P.L. 104-180)	-4		
Authorization Bills:			
Gloucester Marine Fisheries Act (P.L. 104-91) ³	14,054	5,882	
Smithsonian Commemorative Coin Act (P.L. 104-96)	3	3	
Saddleback Mt. Arizona Settlement Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-102)		-7	
Telecommunications Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-104) ⁴			
Farm Credit System Regulatory Relief Act (P.L. 104-105)	-1	-1	
National Defense Authorization Act, FY 1996 (P.L. 104-106)	369	367	
To Award Congressional Gold Medal to Ruth and Billy Graham (P.L.104-111)	(¹)	(¹)	
An Act Providing for Tax Benefits for Armed Forces in Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia (P.L. 104-117)			-38
Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (P.L. 104-127)	-330	-721	
Federal Tea Testers Repeal Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-128)			(¹)
Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (P.L. 104-132)			2
An Act to Amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act (P.L. 104-164)	-72	-72	
The Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2 (P.L. 104-168)			-30
Small Business Job Protection Act (P.L. 104-188)			92
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-91)		10	62
Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193)	52		
An Act for the Relief of Benchmark Rail Group, Inc. (Pvt. L. 104-1)		1	
An Act for the Relief of Nathan C. Vance (Pvt. L. 104-2)	(¹)	(¹)	
Total enacted second session	292,795	201,713	88
APPROPRIATED ENTITLEMENTS AND MANDATORIES			
Budget resolution baseline estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs not yet enacted ⁵	17,656	19,168	
Total Current Level ⁶	1,306,896	1,307,685	1,039,110
Total Budget Resolution	1,285,515	1,288,160	1,042,500
Amount remaining:			
Under Budget Resolution			3,390
Over Budget Resolution	21,381	19,525	

¹ Less than \$500,000.
² P.L. 104-92 and P.L. 104-99 provide funding for specific appropriated accounts until September 30, 1996.
³ This bill funds specific appropriated accounts until September 30, 1996.
⁴ The effects of this Act on budget authority, outlays, and revenues begin in fiscal year 1997.
⁵ Estimates include the effects of changes enacted this session in the following public laws: P.L. 104-57, P.L. 104-121, and P.L. 104-127.
⁶ In accordance with the Budget Enforcement Act, the total does not include \$4,836 million in budget authority and \$2,737 million in outlays for funding of emergencies that have been designated as such by the President and the Congress.

Notes.—Detail may not add due to rounding.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
 Washington, DC, September 27, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
 Speaker, Office of the Speaker,
 U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193), I hereby submit revised 602 allocations and other appropriate budgetary levels. Subsection 211(d)(5) of P.L. 104-193 amends section 103(b) of the Contract with America Advancement Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-121) which provided for an adjustment in the various budgetary levels established by budget resolutions to accommodate additional appropriations for conducting continuing disability reviews (CDRs) under the Supplemental Security Income program.

P.L. 104-121 directed the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget to revise the discretionary spending limits, 602(a) allocations, and the appropriate budgetary aggregates when the Appropriations Committee reports an appropriations measure that provides additional new budget authority and additional outlays to pay for the costs of continuing disability reviews.

For fiscal year 1997, the adjustment reflects the amount appropriated for CDRs that is in excess of \$100 million in new budget authority and \$200 million in outlays (subject to a maximum adjustment of \$175 million in budget authority and \$310 million in outlays). The adjustment is based on the levels provided for CDRs in H.R. 3755, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies.

These revised levels will supersede those established by the conference report accompanying H. Con. Res. 178 (H. Rept. 104-575) and shall be binding for purposes of enforcing sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The revised allocations and other budgetary levels are as follows:

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays
Discretionary spending limits	492,842	535,849
602(a)/302(a) allocations	497,525	538,922
Budget aggregates	1,314,935	1,311,321

If you have any questions, please contact Art Sauer or Jim Bates at ext-6-7270.

Sincerely,
 JOHN R. KASICH,
 Chairman, Committee on the Budget.

GAO REPORT AFFIRMING LEGALITY OF RUBIN ACTION ON DEBT LIMIT

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the American people, I would like to express our gratitude and respect to Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin for his courageous and responsible actions during the last year in the face of the regrettable debt limit crisis. Specifically, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues a report that the General Accounting Office [GAO] issued earlier this month reporting on the Treasury's handling of the debt limit crisis. As you may recall, for several months beginning last October the Republican Congressional leadership refused to increase the statutory debt limit, an intransigence that brought the Nation to the brink of default on its sovereign debt for the first time in its history. As a result of Congress' actions, Treasury Secretary Rubin was required to take a variety of extraordinary measures to safeguard the Nation's credit and to prevent a

situation that was deemed "unthinkable." The recent GAO report concluded that all of Secretary Rubin's actions were legal, calling them "proper and consistent with legal authorities the Congress has provided to the Secretary of the Treasury."

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Secretary Rubin. Clearly, his extensive experience in financial markets enabled him to understand fully the disastrous consequences of default. The GAO report makes abundantly clear that Secretary Rubin met this challenge in a manner that was both lawful and effective.

It was clear at the time, and it is even clearer in hindsight, that the debt limit impasse was simply a tactic to force President Clinton to sign a budget deal with which his Administration could not live. It was a dangerous game to play, because the Nation's credit affects the financial well-being of all Americans and the financial stability of all the world. It was not only a risky game. It was ultimately a losing game. It should come as no surprise then that neither the Dole campaign nor the Republican leadership of this Congress has offered any comment on this report.

Secretary Rubin's actions were as effective as they were courageous. The American people should be proud of this very fine public servant.

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

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