

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 244

To direct the Speaker to provide an appropriate remedy in response to the use of a forged document at a subcommittee hearing.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 1995

Ms. SLAUGHTER submitted the following resolution; which was laid on the table

RESOLUTION

To direct the Speaker to provide an appropriate remedy in response to the use of a forged document at a subcommittee hearing.

Whereas, on September 28, 1995, the Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight held a hearing on political advocacy of Federal grantees;

Whereas the president of the Alliance for Justice, a national association of public interest and civil rights organizations, testified at that hearing;

Whereas a document was placed upon the press table for distribution at the hearing which contained the letterhead, including the name, address, phone number, fax number,

and E-mail address of the Alliance for Justice, and the names of certain member organizations and the dollar amounts of Federal grants they received;

Whereas, in her opening statement at the hearing, the president of the Alliance for Justice identified the document as being forged and contained errors and requested an explanation from the chairman of the subcommittee as to the source of the document;

Whereas, in response, the chairman acknowledged that the document was created by the subcommittee staff;

Whereas House Information Resources, at the request of the subcommittee staff, prepared the forged document;

Whereas the document was prepared using official funds;

Whereas the chairman of the subcommittee acknowledged in a letter, dated September 28, 1995, to the president of the Alliance for Justice that “the graphics, unfortunately, appeared to simulate the Alliance’s letterhead”;

Whereas the September 29, 1995, issue of the National Journal’s Congress Daily reported that Representative McIntosh’s communications director said that “the letterhead was taken from a faxed document, scanned into their computer system and altered”; and

Whereas questions continue to arise regarding the responsibility for preparation of the forged document; the chairman of the subcommittee stated during the hearing that he had no prior knowledge of the document’s preparation; the chairman later stated that the subcommittee staff

prepared the document; and other published reports suggested that Chairman McIntosh's personal office staff prepared the document;

Whereas, on September 27, 1995, the Speaker expressed concern over the distribution of unattributed documents and announced a policy requiring that materials disseminated on the floor of the House must bear the name of the Member authorizing their distribution;

Whereas Members and staff of the House have an obligation to ensure the proper use of documents and other materials and exhibits prepared for use at committee and subcommittee hearings and which are made available to Members, the public or the press, and to ensure that the source of such documents or other materials is not misrepresented;

Whereas committees and subcommittees should not create documents for use in their proceedings that may give the impression that such documents were created by other persons or organizations, as occurred at the September 28, 1995, hearing of the Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs; and

Whereas the dissemination of a forged document distorts the public record and affects the ability of the House of Representatives, its committees, and Members to perform their legislative functions, and constitutes a violation of the integrity of committee proceedings which form a core of the legislative process: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Speaker shall take such action as
2 may be necessary to provide an appropriate remedy to en-
3 sure that the integrity of the legislative process is pro-
4 tected and shall report his actions and recommendations
5 to the House.

