

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

PRESS RELEASE

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The Joint Committee on Taxation (the "Joint Committee") released today the official record of the first joint Congressional review of the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS").

The Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (the "IRS Reform Act") requires the chair of the Joint Committee on Taxation to convene a joint review of the strategic plans and budget of the IRS. The joint review is to be held by June 1 of each year 1999 through 2003. The joint review is conducted by two Members of the majority and one Member of the minority from each of the House Committees on Ways and Means, Appropriations, and Government Reform and the Senate Committees on Finance, Appropriations, and Governmental Affairs. Pursuant to the IRS Reform Act, Congressman Bill Archer, Chairman, Joint Committee on Taxation, convened the first joint review of the IRS strategic plans and budget on May 25th, 1999. Charles O. Rossotti, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, was the only witness.

In releasing the transcript, Chairman Archer stated: "I am proud to be a part of the Congress that put America's taxpayers first and protected them from IRS abuses. We must do all we can to ensure that taxpayers are treated fairly. I am also proud that Congress met the self-imposed deadline for this oversight hearing as the law required. I hope the President would act in a similar fashion with respect to appointing an IRS independent Oversight Board, as he is now 10 months behind in that requirement."

Senator William V. Roth, Jr., Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation, had the following statement: "This joint review is an appropriate way for the various oversight committees to hear the views of those who focus on different aspects of the IRS. We need to speak with one voice. Last year's restructuring bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. We must continue that level of support. The IRS can and will change. It can collect taxes and at the same time treat taxpayers fairly and with respect. To do this, the IRS needs our continued vigilance. It also needs the support of the Administration, which has not yet provided a full slate of nominees to be members of the IRS Oversight Board as required by law on or before January 22, 1999."

The transcript of the joint review will be available on the Joint Committee website on the Internet:

<http://www.house.gov/jct>