

On debt ceiling F Post 4/13/98

# Rubin exceeded his authority, GOP says

WASHINGTON (AP) - Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin exceeded his authority when he tapped civil service trust funds to avoid federal default, a House Republican task force asserted Monday.

The task force called for legislation sharply restricting the government's ability to use the trust funds, and its chairman, Rep. Nick Smith, R-Mich., said Mr. Rubin should resign.

Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said Mr. Smith's call for Mr. Rubin's resignation was "an irresponsible insult that is wholly unbecoming a member of Congress."

As a whole, the 11-member House Task Force on the Debt Limit and Misuse of the Trust Funds did not call for the secretary's resignation, although one member, Rep. Chris Cox, R-Calif., previously joined House Rules Committee Chairman Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., in advocating Mr. Rubin's impeachment.

The task force complained that Mr. Rubin was misleading last fall in his warnings of the consequences of default as the national debt rose toward the government's \$4.9 trillion borrowing ceiling.