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## IFTA'S NEWEST PUBLICATION CHALLENGES THE GOVERNMENT DEBT ASSESSMENT

The Institute for Truth in Accounting (IFTA) announced today their new publication, a short, hard-hitting pamphlet entitled, "The Financial State of the Union". This eight-page booklet concisely summarizes the 158 page, 2005 Financial Report of the U.S. Government, prepared by the Department of Treasury. This easy-to-understand publication answers important questions like, "Where Do We Stand?" and "Are We Better Off?"

Recent corporate accounting failures have highlighted the importance of proper accounting and reporting practices for all entities. Like the stockholders of Enron, federal legislators and U.S. taxpayers cannot make knowledgeable economic decisions without truthful and timely information. In this regard, the IFTA agrees with Comptroller General David Walker, the head of Government Accountability Office, who has stated the federal government's current financial reporting model "provides a potentially unrealistic and misleading picture of the federal government's overall performance, financial condition, and future fiscal outlook."

In the 2005 Financial Report, the September 30<sup>th</sup> balance sheet shows a net negative financial position of nearly \$8.5 trillion. But the national debt is not \$8.5 trillion, rather it is nearly \$50 trillion, almost all the personal wealth of the entire American population. Why such a discrepancy? The IFTA hopes to help the public better understand this and all government financial situations.

The IFTA, founded in 2002, is a nonprofit organization with no political affiliations. It is made up of business, academic and other leaders who are committed to high standards of ethics and integrity, and who support these principles in the private as well as in the public sector. Its mission is to enhance the credibility of public and private sector financial reporting by encouraging the issuance of understandable, reliable and relevant information. For more information, please visit [www.truthinaccounting.org](http://www.truthinaccounting.org). The Institute for Truth in Accounting is located at 1500 Skokie Blvd, Suite 304, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

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