Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose union-only requirements for construction projects.

Vice President GORE wants to have all Federal projects done by union construction firms. Also, the Los Angeles Unified School District, near my congressional district, is considering requiring all of their new construction to be done only by union companies.

Union-only construction agreements may make political sense for some politicians, but they certainly do not make practical sense for our children in our schools.

PLAs do not guarantee lower costs, higher performance standards, or eliminate red tape. The union-only contracts only guarantee that the four out of five construction workers not represented by a union cannot work on the project.

It is un-American for our Government to say to someone who does not belong to a certain group or organization, ''You are not good enough to compete for Federal money based on merit.''

For those of us who agree that there should not be race-based discrimination, this is another form of discrimination. A person should not be denied a job because of his or her color. Neither should he or she be denied a job because they do not carry a union card.

I hope that the Vice President and the Los Angeles Unified School District will not put politics above our children. I encourage both of them to support freedom in the bidding of construction projects.

AMERICAN PUBLIC DOES NOT WANT PARTISAN BICKERING

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on the Budget, I spent much of last week wondering why the majority party has chosen to move forward with a budget that is clearly divisive.

This morning the Washington Post reported, ''Congress is set to begin a week of partisan bickering today over a budget that Republican congressional leaders expect will provoke a veto shutdown with President Clinton later this year when it results in appropriations bills.''

It baffles me. Why start out on such a sour note? The majority is clearly welcoming a partisan battle without first trying to find some common ground and some room for partisan cooperation.

The American people have seen enough bickering to make them wonder what we are doing in Washington. The people I talk to want to make sure that we extend Medicare and Social Security. They want us to fight crime. They want us to help our schools. And they want us to create an even better business atmosphere. And the list goes on.

There are many things the American public wants us to accomplish, but partisan bickering is not one of them.

VOLUNTEER MIAMI

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last year Miami-Dade County established a wonderful tradition when it implemented Volunteer Miami. This annual volunteer fair, made possible by Dr. Eduardo Padron, David Lawrence, Valerie Taylor and hundreds of dedicated volunteers from Greater Miami's nonprofit community and government service organizations, has awarded students and families the opportunity to truly make a difference.

Saturday, April 17, will kick off this year's Volunteer Miami-Dade Community Colleges' Wolfson Campus, where representatives from various organizations will be on hand to provide valuable information on how members of our community can lend their abilities and spare time for the benefit of all of south Florida.

Volunteering is a definitive way in which to promote a powerful force that enriches an individual and allows all of us to positively impact an entire community. By raising awareness on volunteerism and forming strong partnerships between deserving agencies and a corps of volunteers, positive change can and will be effected to make south Florida a better place in which to live and work.

I congratulate my alma mater, Miami-Dade Community College, for making Volunteer Miami a success.

PAIGE SECURITY SERVICES, INC.

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a good news note to honor the accomplishments of a constituent of mine, Mr. Leonard Paige.

In November 1998, Mr. Paige realized his lifelong dream to make a difference in Africa with the signing ceremony of the first joint venture between a black-owned security firm in the United States and a black-owned security firm in South Africa.

The United States firm, Paige's Security Services, Inc., will facilitate the training and logistics for Paige's Security Services, Inc., in South Africa in a manner modeled upon the affirmative action programs here in the United States. The program is intended to assist the disadvantaged in that community.

Under Mr. Paige's able leadership, Paige Security Services, Inc., has garnered great recognition over its 10 years of service. It has been selected for three straight years by Inc. Magazine as one of the fastest growing private firms in the Nation and has been commended by Congress and the President of the United States.

Paige's Security Services, Inc., employs over 800 workers in the United States and Costa Rica, and the new affiliate in South Africa employs 300 people.

Thank you, Leonard Paige, for your leadership.

REPUBLICANS FOR LESS GOVERNMENT, MORE FREEDOM

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, we are going to bring our budget to the floor this week and it is going to be a great debate. And from what I am hearing from the other side, it is going to be entirely too partisan.

You see, we want to save 100 percent of all the revenues into the Social Security Trust Fund for just Social Security. They want to save 62 percent. It would be bipartisan to agree with them.

We want to keep within the spending caps of 1997. That is what gave us the revenue surpluses that we have, the discipline that we agreed to with the White House. What does the White House want to do in a bipartisan way? They want to spend $32 billion a year more than the caps.

We want to provide tax cuts. That is a very partisan effort on our behalf. When the Democrats were last in control, in a very partisan way, they gave us the largest tax increase in history. We would like to have the largest tax cut in history. That would be partisan.

We will save 100 percent of the Social Security Trust. And what is left over we want to give back to the American people. They want to spend it. That is the bipartisan thing to do.

We will pass our budget. The Senate will agree. There will be a great debate. But when it is all over, they will know that Republicans are for less government and more freedom, the Democrats are just for more government.

□ 1115

BUILDING ON BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL RETREAT

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, last weekend we had the second bipartisan congressional retreat in Hershey, Pennsylvania. A lot of people helped in pulling that together. I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SAWYER), the planning committee, the staff at Hershey, the Pew Charitable Trust and the Aspen Institute who all helped in bringing Members on both sides of

the aisle together, but I want to especially commend my colleagues who took the time out of their busy schedules to bring the family and the children and their spouses to the retreat so that we could get to know one another a little better and talk to one another. The goal of the retreat was simple, to try to make this great institution a more civil place in which to conduct the Nation's business. The format was also simple, get out of Washington, away from the media, bring the families in and the children and the spouses so that we could have some honest conversations across the aisle of how we could improve this great institution. Because it is a fundamental rule of human nature that the better you know someone and their spouse and their little children, a lot harder it is going to be to demonize that person than during the hot debates of the day. I think we made a good, honest attempt last weekend, Mr. Speaker. I hope we can now build upon that for the sake of this great Nation.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE DEBT LIMIT

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, some people in Washington want to replace the current debt limit of this country with two limits, one for Treasury securities held by public and one for IOUs held by the Social Security and other trust funds. This is a bad idea that would send a message that debt owed to the trust funds is less important than debt owed to Wall Street.

Some want the new statistic so they can brag about reducing the debt held by the public. That would be true, but it does not matter because total government debt would keep rising. A new statistic on debt held by the public would hide this fact.

Others suggest that we could consider writing off the debt owed to the trust funds because that is just what government owes itself. That is wrong and that is dangerous.

I ask my colleagues to fight against any proposal to change the status of the debt held by the Social Security Trust Fund.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, we must send 95 percent at least of the Federal funds for education to the classroom. This will result in an additional $800 million to be taken from the grasp of the bureaucrats and into the hands of teachers and parents.

Congress needs to give parents and school boards even greater control without increasing the bureaucracy. It takes about 18,000 Federal and State employees to manage 780 Federal education programs in 39 Federal agencies, boards and commissions that cost nearly $100 billion a year annually. It is not surprising that approximately 70 cents per dollar makes it directly to the classroom. If it does not happen in the classroom, nothing much is happening. I am a former schoolteacher and I can tell my colleagues that.

Parental involvement, not bureaucracies, must be central in any proposal to reform our education system.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY BURIAL ELIGIBILITY ACT

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 70) to amend title 38, United States Code, to enact into law eligibility requirements for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 70

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Arlington National Cemetery Burial Eligibility Act''.

SEC. 2. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR BURIAL IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 24 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 2412. Arlington National Cemetery: persons eligible for burial

''(a) PRIMARY ELIGIBILITY.—The remains of the following individuals may be buried in Arlington National Cemetery:

''(1) Any member of the Armed Forces who dies while on active duty.

''(2) Any retired member of the Armed Forces and any person who served on active duty and at the time of death was entitled (or but for age would have been entitled) to retired pay under chapter 1223 of title 10, United States Code.

''(3) Any former member of the Armed Forces separated for physical disability before October 1, 1949, who—

''(A) served on active duty; and

''(B) would have been eligible for retirement under the provisions of section 1201 of title 10 (relating to retirement for disability) had that section been in effect on the date of separation of the member.

''(4) Any former member of the Armed Forces whose last active duty military service terminated honorably and who has been awarded one of the following decorations:

''(A) Medal of Honor.

''(B) Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, or Navy Cross.

''(C) Distinguished Service Medal.

''(D) Silver Star.

''(E) Purple Heart.

''(5) Any former prisoner of war who dies on or after November 30, 1993.

''(6) The President or any former President.

''(b) ELIGIBILITY OF FAMILY MEMBERS.—The remains of the following individuals may be buried in Arlington National Cemetery:

''(1) The spouse, surviving spouse (which for purposes of this paragraph includes any remarried surviving spouse, section 2402(5) of this title notwithstanding), minor child, and, at the discretion of the Superintendent, unmarried adult child of a person listed in subsection (a), but only if buried in the same gravesite as that person.

''(2)(A) The spouse, minor child, and, at the discretion of the Superintendent, unmarried adult child of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty if such spouse, minor child, or unmarried adult child dies while such member is on active duty.

''(B) The individual whose spouse, minor child, and unmarried adult child is eligible under subparagraph (A), but only if buried in the same gravesite as the spouse, minor child, or unmarried adult child.

''(3) The parents of a minor child or unmarried adult child whose remains, based on the eligibility of a parent, are already buried in Arlington National Cemetery, but only if buried in the same gravesite as that minor child or unmarried adult child.

''(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the surviving spouse, minor child, and, at the discretion of the Superintendent, unmarried adult child of a member of the Armed Forces who was lost, buried at sea, or officially determined to be permanently absent in a status of missing or missing in action.

''(B) A person is not eligible under subparagraph (A) if a memorial to honor the memory of the member is placed in a cemetery in the national cemetery system, unless the memorial is removed. A memorial removed under this subparagraph may be placed, at the discretion of the Superintendent, in Arlington National Cemetery.

''(5) The surviving spouse, minor child, and, at the discretion of the Superintendent, unmarried adult child of a member of the Armed Forces buried in a cemetery under the jurisdiction of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

''(c) DISABLED ADULT UNMARRIED CHILDREN.—In the case of an unmarried adult child who is incapable of self-support up to the time of death because of a physical or mental condition, the child may be buried under subsection (b) without requirement for approval by the Superintendent under that subsection if the burial is in the same gravesite as the gravesite in which the parent, who is eligible for burial under subsection (a), has been or will be buried.

''(d) FAMILY MEMBERS OF PERSONS BURIED IN A GROUP GRAVESITE.—In the case of a person eligible for burial under subsection (a) who is buried in Arlington National Cemetery as part of a group burial, the surviving spouse, minor child, or unmarried adult child of the member may not be buried in the group gravesite.

''(e) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY FOR BURIAL IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.—Eligibility for burial of remains in Arlington National Cemetery prescribed under this section is the exclusive eligibility for such burial.

''(f) APPLICATION FOR BURIAL.—A request for burial of remains of an individual in Arlington National Cemetery made before the death of the individual may not be considered by the Secretary of the Army or any other responsible official.

''(g) REGISTER OF BURIED INDIVIDUALS.—(1) The Secretary of the Army shall maintain a