Texas was formed and began its mission. Tonight, the Gulf Coast branch will proudly celebrate its 20th anniversary with a gala event, and on this occasion the founder of the Gulf Coast branch of Prevent Blindness, Dr. Bernard Milstein, will be honored as this year's person of vision. I commend Dr. Milstein on this wonderful honor.

Prevent Blindness Texas is the largest voluntary health organization in Texas that takes proactive measures in the prevention of blindness. Over the years Prevent Blindness Texas has provided free vision screening to almost one million Texas preschoolers and screened well over 650,000 adults for blinding glaucoma. The Gulf Coast branch alone screened nearly 2,100 adults and children during the last fiscal year. Nearly 500 Galveston residents were provided free eye exams and glasses from this branch last year, almost doubling the prior year.

This organization exists without government funding or United Way funding because of the generosity of people who share in its vision of saving sight. Funds are raised locally and work locally. My heartiest congratulations to Dr. Bernard Milstein and to Prevent Blindness Texas.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT JUST AS EMPTY AS H.R. 1

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

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, it has been now 10 months since the White House Conference on Social Security. During that conference we pulled together, the President pulled together, much to his credit, leadership from both sides of the aisle, the leadership in both parties. The chairman and the ranking member on the Committee on Ways and Means came together. I was there as a chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, and we promised to work together in order to save Social Security.

The President at that point made a commitment to us that he wanted to take the lead and that he would be sending us legislation. Mr. Speaker, today that commitment is just as empty as H.R. 1, which was reserved by the Speaker of this House to place the President's Social Security bill, the Social Security reform bill, in place in order to save Social Security for this country. We have been reaching out in a bipartisan way to the Democrat side in order to do that.

Mr. Speaker, it is time now for the President to come forward and give the leadership that this country needs to save Social Security.

SAVE TODAY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, Congress may be struggling to fight against violence affecting our young people, but our communities are doing something about it. Today in San Luis Obispo, California, and around this Nation, the American Medical Association Alliance is kicking off its save schools program.

SAVE, which stands for Stop America's Violence Everywhere, began in 1995. This year the AMA alliance will focus its efforts directly on our schools. In my district, the San Luis Obispo Medical Society Alliance will team up with the local high school students and a local homeless shelter. Dedicated teenagers will mentor younger children in need and help them learn to resolve their conflicts peacefully.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud that the national president of the AMA Alliance, Ann Hansen, lives in my district. I join Ann in offering this rallying cry in the fight against school violence. Save today.

PRESIDENT'S SCHEME TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, America's public lands are vital to the future of this Nation, and I have very serious concerns about the President's new scheme to restrict access to these public lands. Most Americans recognize the value that public lands hold for its natural resources as well as the use and development of those natural resources for the quality of life we all enjoy, and no one can deny the opportunity that public lands hold for recreation.

Since these lands are in the public domain, individual costs are low and the lands are generally open for all of us to use and enjoy. Now we are seeing a fundamental shift in how our lands are managed for our access. Historically, we have allowed the public to access our lands in the public domain, but unfortunately it appears the President is setting a trend toward keeping our public lands closed unless posted open. This scheme is completely unacceptable to all Americans who use our public lands. To say the public cannot access their lands unless the Federal Government gives them permission is fundamentally opposite to the freedoms our country was founded upon.

I yield back, Mr. Speaker, the balance of the time I have and any access America has to its public lands.

DAIMLER-BENZ, A GERMAN COMPANY?

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in the 1970s Congress bailed out Chrysler, and last year Chrysler merged with Daimler-Benz. Chrysler is now a German corporation, and upon merging they said Americans will always have a strong voice in the new company's leadership.

So much for the tooth fairy, Mr. Speaker. The three top American executives were replaced, and now the German company announced they will invest $28 billion, all of it in Germany.

What is next, Mr. Speaker? Mercedes-Benz limousines for our White House?

Beam me up.

I yield back the billions of dollars that Congress invested into what is now a German company.

NO TAX INCREASES OR RAIDS ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the unwavering opposition of President Clinton and his free-spending allies in this Congress, American taxpayers are now enjoying a budget surplus for the first time in a generation. One might think that the President would be willing to share some of that surplus with working American families. After all, they created the surplus with their hard work and their tax dollars.

Tax relief perhaps? Not a chance. Incredibly the White House instead proposes either, A, more taxes or, B, a raid on the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for yet more government spending programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is one Member of Congress who is more than willing to stay here until Christmas if that is what it takes to stave off another tax grab by the Clinton administration or a raid on the Social Security Trust Fund. American families are taxed more than enough. Leave them alone, Mr. President, and keep your hands off their Social Security. Stop the raid.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair advises all Members to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

EXPANDED INTERNET ACCESS IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the natural beauty of western Massachusetts is hardly a well-kept secret. We are attracting more people each day who seek the quality of life that is offered. However, there is something that we need in western Massachusetts that would make our lives even better, and what we want is the