

CALLING FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, this body will soon be voting on the conference report to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. This gives us the opportunity to greatly improve the health of people of color.

As we prepare to enter the 21st century, the poor, African-Americans and other ethnic minorities are essentially no healthier than they were at the opening of this one. There remains a gaping divide between whites and people of color in heart disease, cancer, diabetes, infant mortality and HIV/AIDS.

The Congressional Black Caucus was able to mount an unprecedented initiative to target \$156 million to communities of color across this country to address the state of emergency that exists with respect to HIV/AIDS and access to care. Although we made an impact, we need to do much more to increase access to the resources needed to raise the health status of minorities in this country.

I appeal to this Congress to respond by fully funding the President's requests for health, by increasing the funding for the CBC initiative to \$349 million, health disparities to \$150 million and including the \$35 million for AIDS in Africa.

My colleagues, health care delayed is health care denied. Let us not deny hundreds of millions of Americans their right to good health.

ANNOUNCING FORMATION OF THE BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just by looking around at our homes, our offices, our roads and our local infrastructure, we can see that construction has an important impact on our lives. The U.S. construction market totaled \$652 billion in 1998 which was 8.13 percent of our gross domestic product, which is GDP. Construction employed 5,970,000 workers with a payroll of \$160 billion in 1998 which is about 6 percent of the Nation's nonfarm, private sector employment. The construction industry is comprised of nearly 2 million small and large firms. Construction is larger than the automotive and steel industries combined.

Because construction is such an important part of our everyday lives, I have started the Building a Better America Caucus. The purpose of the caucus is to educate Members of the

Congress on building-related issues that impact our districts and our constituents, from affordable housing to airport construction.

I urge all my colleagues to support our Nation's builders by joining the Building a Better America Caucus and supporting commonsense legislation to build a better America.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESS WILL STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the Federal Government wastes billions of dollars every year through bureaucratic mismanagement. Add waste, fraud and abuse to the equation and we are talking about some pretty big dollars. That is money that could be used in a much more worthwhile way for strengthening the Social Security trust fund.

We have a choice here in Congress. Do we want to continue the old Democrat practice of raiding the Social Security trust fund to pay for big government programs while overlooking waste, fraud and abuse just as they did the last time they had control of this body? The answer is "no."

For too many years, Democrats in Washington raided Social Security while making no effort to hold government agencies accountable for how they spent the taxpayers' money. I am proud to say that the Republican Congress will hold the bureaucracy accountable. We will make them find ways to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse. And better yet, we will stop the raid on the Social Security trust fund.

□ 1015

PASS THE LABOR-HHS BILL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, time is fast approaching for this Congress to do its business. There are at least five appropriations bills that we have not yet addressed. We call it deadlock; but in my town of Houston, we cannot afford any more deadlock as it relates to our children. Violence continues. Just this past week we lost a young middle schooler through a violent act in his school, struck down by a screwdriver to his head.

There is a great need for attention to our children, for stopping the violence, for intervention; and we need to pass a Labor-HHS bill that will provide more funding for mental health.

I will be offering before the session ends the Give-a-Kid-a-Chance Omnibus Mental Health Bill, which provides ac-

cess to mental health services for all of our children, to make sure that our community health clinics provide a holistic approach to the treating of the parent, the child, the support system around that child, the community, in order to understand that ending violence with our children is a community effort, a community affair, and mental health is not bad, it is good.

Pass the Labor-HHS bill and provide more funding for mental health services in America.

DAY 152 IN THE LOCKBOX BILL HOSTAGE SITUATION

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

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday we reached a milestone in the wait for the other body to consider the lockbox bill this House passed on May 26. Sunday was day 150 since the Lockbox bill of the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) to protect Social Security from the Congressional big spenders passed this House by the overwhelming vote of 416 to 12.

That is right. On Sunday, when President Clinton's supporters were on TV talk shows accusing the Republican Congress of threatening Social Security, it was exactly 150 days since those very Clinton supporters took the Lockbox bill hostage. They refused to allow a vote to stop the raid on Social Security forever. Now it has been 152 days since this body passed the Lockbox bill, and the other body has not acted.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to stopping the raid on Social Security, now and in the years to come. We hope the President will join us by offering real leadership to pass a real Lockbox bill.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN MAKING WRONG DECISIONS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership's budget plan does not make the tough decisions that we were sent here to make. Instead, it makes wrong decisions. According to their own, their own accounting office, the Republican leadership has already spent \$13 billion from Social Security. In fact, they have picked the lockbox.

This money should not be spent. It should be kept in the Social Security Trust Fund so that we are prepared when the baby-boomers retire. No amount of rhetoric can change the facts. The Republican leadership is spending Social Security, despite the priorities of the American people.

This budget is a windfall for special interests, billions of dollars for military equipment that the Pentagon does

not even want. Billions more will go for corporate welfare that opens public lands to oil and timber interests. Yet the budget cuts funding for smaller classes, which would improve discipline and give children more individual attention. It also cuts funding for police officers that have reduced crime in our neighborhoods. It ignores the fact that our seniors need a moderate Medicare program with a prescription drug benefit. It is irresponsible and poorly planned.

PROTECTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, it is crunch time. After today, eight of the 13 spending bills will be signed into law. Seventy percent of our budget will be law. The remaining five spending bills will complete the financial responsibility for the U.S. Government. When we are done, we will have balanced the Federal budget without spending one cent of the Social Security surplus.

Using bogus ground rules, some liberals are saying that we have already spent the Social Security surplus. It is not true. But, Mr. Speaker, if they are so concerned, they should vote for our across-the-board 1.29 percent savings. That will protect the Social Security Trust Fund. All you have to do is crunch about 1 cent out of every dollar of Federal spending, discretionary spending, and we will save it.

It is crunch time, Mr. Speaker, time to crunch Government waste and save the Social Security Trust Fund.

CONGRATULATING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SPANISH AMERICAN LEAGUE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

(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, I would like to congratulate the men and women of the Spanish-American League Against Discrimination, SALAD, who are dedicated to promoting the intellectual, educational, economic and social progress of Hispanics, as well as other ethnic groups.

As many of us enjoy the peace and prosperity of our Nation's economic growth, some have blinded ourselves to the persisting culture of bigotry which can be aimed at Hispanics and other minority groups.

For 25 years the hard working group at SALAD has sought to defend Hispanics and others from this mistrust. With the assistance of SALAD, communities are learning that given a level

playing field, Hispanic Americans, and, indeed, all Americans, can achieve their goals, if they educate themselves, work hard, and never give up on their dreams.

I congratulate the Spanish American League Against Discrimination, and especially its president and founder, Dr. Osvaldo Soto, on SALAD's 25th Silver Anniversary.

COMMITTING ENOUGH MONEY TO THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the entire appropriations process has been short circuited because of the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. This is wrong. It is the very last appropriations bill that we are going to be considering. In fact, it should have been marked up and dealt with the first, instead of last. And here it is, being brought to the floor without going through the Committee on Rules. It was crafted in some back room, and it is squeezed into a conference committee report that was already vetoed by the President, the District of Columbia Appropriations Act. Now, is that not the tail wagging the dog?

Education appropriations is so important to the whole country, and yet we are going to piggyback the District of Columbia appropriations bill out of the conference committee. The bill has a 1.4 percent cut in education spending, which works out to be \$400 million. The funding for education is \$100 million below what the President asked for and \$700 million below what our colleagues in the Senate passed.

This bill would eliminate one of our most important initiatives, class size reduction, by making it into a \$1.2 billion block grant.

I had the opportunity yesterday to be in Houston before I came back to Washington, and saw the success of Title I funding and bilingual funding in our Houston schools.

HANDS OFF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my colleague from Texas, because he proves a seminal point in this budget debate: there is no program under the aegis of the left that is worthy of realizing any savings.

That is the bottom line. This entire debate is about our friends of the liberal persuasion wanting to spend more and more and more and more of the American people's money.

Now, what we are talking about is a fairly generous sum, over \$1.7 trillion, in this year's budget. We simply say hands off the Social Security surplus. Do not spend it on non-Americans, as the President wants to do in vetoing our foreign aid bill. Let us put our Nation's interests first. Let us be good stewards of the American people's tax dollar.

For every \$10 spent, we can realize a savings certainly of 13 cents. But, then again, Mr. Speaker, I understand this is Washington; and, then again, there are those who will defend waste.

NO MEANS NO WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, as the White House said it best, John Podesta, the Chief of Staff, said, "The Republicans' key goal is not to spend the Social Security surplus." That comes from the leading liberal Democrat over there.

Indeed, that is what we have done. This chart right here shows, particularly on the bottom part, that we have in fact not spent any of the Social Security surplus. It is very important.

But now where are the Democrats on this process? Well, here is the minority leader. "The Democrats will spend a little bit of the money." He is saying that we should not try to do it, but we are going to have to do it.

That is the difference right now between the Democrats and the Republicans. Republicans are saying, "No means no. We don't want to spend any Social Security money for balancing the budget." The Democrats are saying, "Let's spend a little bit of it."

Now, what is our way of getting around it? We say that out of every \$10 in spending, ten bucks, we are asking the Federal Government agencies to save 13 cents. That is all it is, save 13 cents. To give an example, the President went to Africa last year and took 1,700 people. Two would have had to stay at home under our plan.

JOINING TOGETHER TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, I am going to try to give a quick 1-minute summary. For the 40 years before the Republicans took the majority in this House, spending of the United States Government increased faster than inflation every year. Now we are starting to bring that spending increase down, and we have balanced the budget without using Social Security