

scores, whose families suffer the highest percentage of poverty, and whose health statistics and mortality rates are alarming by all measures. We do this for the Native American and Native Alaskan communities. The Majority would never dream of eliminating the funding for these equally important programs. We must not repeal this important program for the Native Hawaiian population.

I want to support this bill. Some good reforms and improvements were incorporated in this legislation. But unless the three areas that I have addressed are fixed, H.R. 2 will be a travesty on girls and women, on Native Hawaiians and on the poor children who need all the help this nation can muster.

STUDENT RESULTS ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2) to send more dollars to the classroom and for certain other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise today to show my support for the Mink/Woolsey/Sanchez/Morella amendment to H.R. 2, the Student Results Act. This amendment would place much needed gender equity language into this bipartisan legislation.

Madam Chairman, I know firsthand how difficult it is for women to compete in today's world. As a woman of many firsts, I know that it is not always assumed that anything boys can do, girls can do, especially in the sciences. Let me give you some statistics to illustrate my point. Only 25 percent of female students have taken computer science courses in high school. Only 20 percent of female students take the three core science courses in high school. Also, only 19 percent of girls earn a math SAT score of 600 or above vs. 30% of males. These statistics are alarming.

We need to create a strong workforce for technology jobs in our country so that we can continue to compete with other countries. Therefore, it is important for us to not only include, but to also encourage every student to excel in the maths and sciences. That means encouraging girls as well as boys to take courses in math and science. We cannot afford to limit our technology workforce and training based on gender.

Studies have proven that teachers and other influences in children's lives still do not equally encourage girls as well as boys to study math and science. Until we see more improvements in these statistics, gender equity language will be necessary.

This amendment will train teachers in gender equitable methods and techniques and require the identification and elimination of gender and racial bias in instructional materials. It will continue the progress that was started with the passage of Title IX in 1974 to close the gender gap which still exists in today's schools.

I wish that I did not have to speak about this gender gap and hope that a day will come when we will no longer need this type of legislation. Until that day, let us do the right thing and prove to everyone that this Congress cares about girls as much as we do boys by adopting this amendment.

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS ON THE BUDGET

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, last week, Joe Lockhart, the Presidential spokesman, made a number of erroneous statements regarding the budget. Mr. Lockhart called "absurd" the notion that President Clinton has finally come around to the Republican way of thinking by not wanting to touch the Social Security surplus—yet—the facts state differently.

The President's original fiscal year-2000 budget asked to spend some 41 percent of the Social Security surplus.

The President's State of the Union address specifically stated that the President would only commit 60 percent of the surplus for Social Security.

And now, the President tells the bipartisan delegation meeting over the budget that he wants to save 100 percent of the surplus. If that isn't a turnaround to support the Republican position of "lock-box," protecting Social Security, I don't know what is.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD this information and other erroneous statements made by Mr. Lockhart last week in his presidential press conference, showing how these inaccuracies have attempted to bias public information against the real facts.

RAPID RESPONSE FROM THE SPEAKER'S PRESS
OFFICE—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1999

"JUST THE FACTS, MR. LOCKHART"

Joe Lockhart says that the idea that President Clinton finally came around to the Congressional Republican's plan of protecting 100 percent of the Social Security surplus is an "absurd notion."

Fact: The President's original budget for FY 2000 spends 41 percent of the Social Security surplus. Also, the President specifically proposed in this year's State of the Union to only commit 60 percent of the budget surplus for Social Security. He told the bi-partisan delegation yesterday that he now wants to save 100 percent of the Social Security surplus.

Joe Lockhart says that CBO says that the Republicans have already spent the Social Security surplus.

Fact: In a September 30 letter to Speaker Hastert, CBO Director Dan Crippen clearly states that the final GOP budget plan "will not use any of the projected Social Security surplus."

Joe Lockhart says our budget is full of "gimmicks" such as using advanced appropriations.

Fact: The President's own budget used \$18.8 billion in advanced appropriations. Furthermore, advanced appropriations simply means that money not spent next year will not be counted towards next year's budget. If the money is not being spent until 2002, it

should be counted against the 2002 budget, not the 2000 budget. That's just common sense.

Joe Lockhart says that the Republican budget doesn't make the investments in education that the American people expect.

Fact: The Republican budget has \$300 million more for education than the President's budget. In addition, the Republican budget would let local communities spend this money how they best see fit—including hiring more teachers, if that's what the community needs.

COMMITMENT TO MILITARY RETIREES

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a request made by the Texas State Legislature asking that Members of Congress maintain its commitment to America's military retirees over the age of 65; to enact legislation that affords military retirees the ability to access health care either through military treatment facilities or through the military's network of health care providers, as well as legislation to require opening the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to those uniformed services beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicare on the same basis and conditions that apply to retired federal civilian employees; and to enact any other appropriate legislation that would address these concerns.

Military retirees who have served honorably for 20 or more years constitute a significant part of the aging population in the United States. These retirees were encouraged to make the United States Armed Forces a career, in part by the promise of lifetime health care for themselves and their families.

Prior to age 65, these retirees are provided health services by the United States Department of Defense's TRICARE Prime program, but those retirees who reach the age of 65 lose a significant portion of the promised health care due to Medicare eligibility. Many of these retirees are also unable to access military treatment facilities for health care and life maintenance medications because they live in areas where there are no military treatment facilities or where these facilities have downsized so significantly that available space for care has become non-existent.

The loss of access to health care services by the military has resulted in the government breaking its promise of lifetime health care. Without continued affordable health care, including pharmaceuticals, these retirees have limited access to quality health care and significantly less care than other retired federal civilians have under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

It is necessary to enact legislation that would restore health care benefits equitable with those of other retired federal workers. Several proposals to meet this requirement are currently under consideration before the United States Congress and the federal Department of Defense and Department of Health and Human Services; of these proposals, the federal government has already