

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this morning at 11 a.m. I will be holding a press conference announcing a new social security bill that will keep social security solvent forever. That press conference at 11 a.m. this morning is going to be held at the triangle southeast of the steps. If it rains or snows it will be in room 210, the Committee on the Budget room.

I announce this, Mr. Speaker, because I notice some publications noted that it was going to be in the press gallery. It is going to be at the triangle.

The reason for the change is about a dozen organizations will be present that have agreed to support my bill.

I would just encourage, Mr. Speaker, everybody in this Chamber to decide what legislation, scored by the Social Security Administration keeps Social Security solvent, they support. There are several such bills already introduced, or come up with your own bill as long as it is scored by the Social Security Administration to make this important program solvent. I think time has gone for rhetoric. We need action to support and move ahead with legislation that is going to keep social security solvent.

#### ELECTIONS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday on the floor of this assembly I spoke about the sleeper issue in the 2000 election that was emerging in the ballot initiatives across the country. The ballot results are in. We need look no further than northern Virginia to see that growth and livable communities, quality of life, are becoming the emerging issue.

Even the Virginia victory by the Republicans in the legislature was due to more than a huge infusion of campaign money. Republican candidates took moderate positions on gun violence, unplanned growth, and transportation.

We do not have to wait to the year 2000 election. I strongly urge my Republican colleagues to embrace these elements of livable communities: hiring more teachers, police, reducing gun violence, and giving communities the mechanisms to manage growth. America will be the winner.

#### LAST WEEK THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS STOPPED THE 30-YEAR RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, last week was a truly remarkable week in Wash-

ington because the Republican Congress stopped the 30-year raid on social security. We passed all 13 appropriations bills without touching the surplus in the social security trust fund. We did it requiring big government in Washington to be a little more responsible with the taxpayers' hard-earned money.

A 1 percent across-the-board reduction in bureaucratic spending will mean less waste, fraud, and abuse in government, and it will mean that the social security will be there for American retirees. A penny saved is a retirement secured.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a great accomplishment. If the President vetoes our plan to strengthen social security by cutting government waste, we will send him another bill that does the very same thing. This is no time for political gamesmanship, because the retirement security of the millions of Americans is at stake. Strengthening social security is a top priority for the Republican Congress, and I sincerely hope that the President and his party will join us in meeting that goal.

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#### THE GOP TAKES A GUILLOTINE TO OUR VETERANS PROGRAMS

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, with the approach of Veterans' Day, we must remember the sacrifices made by those that have fought to preserve our freedom. Fortunately, our society has been blessed with many leaders who learned the values of responsibility and loyalty and leadership while wearing the uniform of this country. For without their dedication to duty, we would not enjoy the many freedoms this fortunate America has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to honor the commitments that we have made our veterans. At a time when our economy is the strongest in decades and the Federal Government is experiencing budget surpluses, it is incomprehensible to me that Republicans would have, as its top priority, an across-the-board cut to our veterans' programs and benefits. This loss of funding would threaten the very survival of our veterans' health care system.

The Republicans' decision to cut these programs is misguided and ill-advised. Yes, we need to get to the Nation's work and we need to come to a budget agreement but let us not do it at the expense of our sick and disabled veterans.

#### THE \$3 MILLION DUCK, DISCOVERED AND STOPPED BY TWO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the previous speaker that the Republican budget has more money for veterans in it than was requested by the President.

Mr. Speaker, we have all heard about the million dollar man. Well, believe it or not, now we have a \$3 million duck. That is right, we now know that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service planned to spend \$30 million on a small island 1,000 miles south of Hawaii for a wildlife refuge for migratory ducks. The only problem is there are only 10 ducks on the island. That is \$3 million per duck.

The ducks probably think this is a pretty good deal. After all, they each get \$3 million. But I do not think taxpayers think this is such a great deal.

This is just the last example of government waste uncovered by Congress. It all comes down to whether or not we are willing to root out government waste or to protect Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have stopped the 30-year raid on Social Security. The President now shares our commitment. We can lock away every penny of Social Security if we simply root out some government waste.

Mr. Speaker, there is some good news. The 10 ducks on that island are not going to get their \$30 million because two Members of Congress discovered this program and they stopped this quack program.

All we have to do is stop all such programs and we can save Social Security from waste, inefficiency and absurdity.

#### CONGRESS SHOULD PASS SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this House to pass school construction legislation before we adjourn for the year. We should not even consider ending this session until we tend to the needs of our children for new school construction.

Across the country at this very moment more than 53 million children are attending classes in our Nation's schools. We now have more children in our schools than we have had at any time in our history even at the height of the baby boom.

Our schools are bursting at the seams and we know that the explosion in enrollment growth we are experiencing and will experience over the next 10 years is going to stretch local communities even farther.

Today many of our children are in overstuffed classrooms. Too many of our teachers are forced to struggle in cramped trailers instead of a quality facility, and too many parents must