

above ideal. Many high schoolers are in class sizes of 40 or 50 in Portland. Across the congressional district that I represent, there are inadequate facilities.

We need to fight strongly to reduce class size by adding 100,000 additional qualified teachers across America. That would bring about 2,500 teachers to my home State of Oregon. We need to modernize school facilities so that teachers have a place to teach and students have a place to learn.

In this budget fight, we need to put the interests of America's children first.

STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE TRUMPS UNVERIFIABLE TEST BAN TREATY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today's headlines are filled with two stories of great importance to our national interest and security. In the first, we learn that a military coup overturned the government of Pakistan, who has nuclear weapons.

In the second, we see the other body voted against ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The Senate deserves our thanks for their correct and courageous vote to defeat the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The President and the liberals did their very best to convince the American people to rely on an unverifiable treaty for security. As we already know, the Chinese Communists have stolen the technology they need to skirt this test ban. If they have the technology, there is no doubt that the rogue nuclear powers such as North Korea and Iraq will have it as well.

A better solution lies in a strong national defense. We recently have had successful tests of both strategic and theater systems. We need to move forward with enhanced testing and deployment.

It is time to move beyond unverifiable treaties as the answer to our defense needs.

GO YANKEES, GO METS—BUT WHO TO ROOT FOR?

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this is an exciting time for baseball fans in New York. For the first time since the 1950s, we have a very real chance to have a subway series. In the 1950s, the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants baseball team routinely played the New York Yankees in the subway series, and now we have a real chance for the New York Mets and the New York Yankees to play each other in the subway series.

I know there are some naysayers out there who are saying well, the Mets

lost the first two games, so things do not look very well. But I want to remind everybody that in 1986, the world champion New York Mets also lost the first two games of the world series.

As a Bronx boy who represents the Bronx, who grew up within walking distance of Yankee stadium, I am very, very proud of the Yankees; and I have a bet with my good friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), on the Boston-Yankees playoffs game.

We are very, very happy in New York. We look forward to a World Series between the New York Yankees and the New York Mets, and I will worry about who to root for when that happens.

Go Yankees; go Mets. 1999 is the year.

THE PROMISE OF TELEMEDICINE

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I recently rose in support of the Thompson amendment calling for a comprehensive study of telemedicine as a method of delivering timely, quality health care, particularly in rural districts like mine.

Today, I wish to discuss a vital component of telemedicine, and that is the Internet, but not the Internet of old and not the Internet of the "worldwide wait." No, Mr. Speaker, I refer to an Internet built on a foundation of high-speed technologies that will enable transmission of vast amounts of data in real-time. Physicians will then have the ability to transmit medical images to radiologists anywhere in the country for interpretation. Patients will have the option of remaining home and having their daily readings checked without traveling all the way to the doctor's office, often a substantial distance from home.

These are but two examples of telemedicine's promise. Congress should take the steps necessary to ensure that these technologies are developed and deployed swiftly. Our constituents deserve nothing less.

A VERY SAD DAY FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day for this country. Santayana said, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Yesterday, we saw what was, in my view, a very important event. The United States Senate said, we do not care who tests or how much testing there is done in the world. It is the same group that sanctimoniously came out here and said, we will put sanctions on anybody who blows off a bomb. So when India and Pakistan got into that last year, we said, oh, this is awful, this is terrible. But when the time comes to say, let us stop it, they say no.

Now, it is a sad day, in my view, when the United States steps back from leadership in the world. The last time we voted down a treaty was the Treaty of Versailles. We did not join the League of Nations. And what happened? We had the Second World War.

When we in this country refuse to take our leadership role and say, we will not test and no one else should test, we abrogate our leadership in the world. It is a very bad day for America.

AMERICANS DESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKBOX

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, this Republican Congress has stopped the raid on Social Security.

The Congressional Budget Office projected this week that in fiscal year 1999, for the first time in 30 years, not one penny of the Social Security surplus was spent. Now, it is our duty to prevent the raid from ever happening again.

Mr. Speaker, 140 days ago, Republicans and Democrats in the House joined together to pass a Social Security lockbox, which protects Social Security from being spent on unrelated programs. Senate Republicans have attempted to bring this bill to the Senate Floor seven times, and on seven occasions, the measure was blocked from even being considered by a straight party line vote.

Mr. Speaker, American seniors deserve more from Senate Democrats and President Clinton. They deserve a Social Security lockbox.

WHITE HOUSE DESTROYS ACCESS TO NATIONAL FORESTS WITH THE STROKE OF A PEN

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President, with the stroke of a pen, set aside 41 million acres, 41 million acres that humans will no longer have access to as they have known in the past because he is closing the roads and, in essence, putting up signs that almost say "no trespassing" to humans. That means hunters, that means campers, loggers, people who have traditionally gone into the woods to pick berries, to enjoy family outings, photographers, ranchers, Americans who enjoy our national forests.

Mr. Speaker, 41 million new acres can no longer be accessed by most Americans. Only the young and fit who are able to hike in wilderness conditions will be able to access our forests. With the stroke of a pen.

Mr. Speaker, what this does is actually destroys our forests and families and communities. This has a real

human face on it, and it is a big problem.

BP AMOCO AND GM—PARTNERSHIP FOR CLEANER FUELS

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, starting today, the men and women and children of Chicagoland can breathe easier, thanks to the innovative and cooperative efforts of BP Amoco and General Motors. These two responsible corporate citizens today will announce that cleaner burning, low-sulfur gasoline will be distributed by Amoco and BP service stations throughout the Chicagoland area.

The resulting emissions reductions will be equivalent to removing 70,500 cars from Chicagoland's highways each day. That is more than three times the number of cars that enter Chicago on the Kennedy Expressway each day during the morning rush hour.

BP Amoco and GM are not waiting for government mandates, they are not waiting for consumer demand, they are not waiting for someone else to take the lead, and they are not waiting for air quality in Chicago to get better on its own. To top things off, BP Amoco will continue to use ethanol in the Chicagoland area. They have chosen to support the farmers of America's heartland while improving the air quality of our cities.

Thanks to their innovative corporate partnership, BP Amoco and General Motors are working to address air quality issues using new and creative approaches.

□ 1030

PRAISING SENATE REPUBLICANS FOR VOTING TO TURN DOWN THE TEST BAN TREATY

(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, we have heard this morning individuals from the other side of the aisle criticize turning down the nuclear test ban treaty over in the Senate.

I am disappointed that there was partisanship on the part of the Democrats, that all those Democrats in the Senate voted for that test ban treaty, despite the fact that six former Secretaries of Defense urged the Senate to vote it down, four former Secretaries of Energy urged the Senate to vote it down, four former CIA directors urged the Senate to turn it down; (that includes two of the directors in the CIA appointed by President Clinton, Jim Woolsey and John Deutch), two former national security advisers, urged the Senate to turn it down; four former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and former Secretary of State Henry

Kissinger called the Senate saying it was going to tremendously jeopardize the security of this country if they voted for it.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it is important that as we look at all this expert advice and all of the additional retired generals and admirals that have come forward urging a "no" vote, there is no question in my mind, we have done this country a security favor by turning down this particular test ban treaty. Good going, Senate Republicans, for doing what is right.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). All Members are reminded that they are to refrain from characterizing the actions of the Senate.

THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN IS CRITICAL TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, in my view, nothing is more important to the future of this country than the education of our children. Our kids are going to be the future doctors, the future scientists. They are going to be our future leaders. As such, we want to assure that they have the best education possible.

This comes down to a question of who knows best how to develop that curriculum. Who should be developing that curriculum? Should it be the teachers? They are in the classroom. Or should it be some bureaucrat miles and miles away? Should it be some bureaucrat in Washington, D.C. that develops that curriculum?

The Federal Government today operates 760 Federal education programs, 39 different Federal education agencies. This is \$100 billion that we spend on education. Yet, public education for some reason is worse than it was 20 years ago. It is worse.

We can improve education by shifting decision-making power towards principals, teachers, parents, and people who have a direct impact on learning. That is why I am pleased to have cosponsored the Dollars to the Classroom resolution, which urges the Department of Education to spend 95 percent in the classroom.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2684, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 328 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 328

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

SEC. 2. House Resolution 300 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 328 is a rule providing for the consideration of the VA-HUD conference report which provides funding in fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Environmental Protection Agency, among other programs.

The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration.

Mr. Speaker, today, with the passage of this rule and the VA-HUD conference report, Congress will be one step closer to meeting our budget goals for the year 2000; namely, maintaining a balanced budget without raiding the social security trust fund to pay for it.

We have fought long and hard to achieve a balanced budget by making the tough decisions necessary to reduce Federal spending, shrink the size of government, and reform Federal programs.

It has not been easy, change never is, but our work has met with success, which has emboldened our cause. Just this week the Congressional Budget Office reported that in fiscal year 1999, for the first time in 40 years, we experienced a true budget surplus, without touching a dime of the social security trust fund.

That means that we have transitioned from a pattern of deficit spending to a new era of balanced budgets, and now to a more honest method of budgeting that really places social security off limits.

Mr. Speaker, we have turned a corner, and it is no time to look back. Today Congress will continue down this path of fiscal discipline and integrity as we consider the VA-HUD conference report.

I am pleased to report that this conference report is the product of negotiating and consensus between Congress