

A SALUTE TO JACK McNULTY ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FIRST ELECTION TO PUBLIC OFFICE

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to salute the Honorable John J. McNulty, Junior, the mayor of the village of Green Island, New York. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, Jack McNulty celebrated the 50th anniversary of his first election to public office in November of 1949.

At various times during his career he has served as the supervisor of the town of Green Island, as the mayor of the village of Green Island, as the sheriff of Albany County, and as a member of the New York State Commission on Correction.

Mr. Speaker, if we ask anyone in public life in upstate New York, Republican, Democrat, liberal, or conservative, about the reputation of Jack McNulty, they will tell us that he stands for everything that is good and honest and decent about public life.

So I am very proud to salute this constituent today, Mr. Speaker. And oh, yes, incidentally, he is my dad.

ANNOUNCING PRESS CONFERENCE ON A NEW SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENCY BILL

(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, 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 Washington 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 vetos 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 re-

member 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 watch helplessly as their children are condemned to attend a run-down school because Congress refuses to act.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must not leave town without addressing this crisis. We must not sneak out the back-door without passing commonsense school construction assistance.

A SUCCESSFUL AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

(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, after-school hours are the most vulnerable for school children to become involved with gangs, with drug abuse, with violence and with vandalism. Statistics demonstrate that between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., the immediate hour after most children are released from school, juvenile crime more than doubles from the preceding hour of 2:00 to 3:00.

It has become evident that safe and healthy alternatives need to be found for latchkey school children and that concentrated efforts, ones that focus on literacy, on tutoring, on homework assistance, are becoming necessary, especially for our at-risk youth.

YMCA's, like many after-school programs, have helped improve children's academic achievements, their school attendance, their behavior, their dropout rates and grade retention.

Denis Espinosa, a young man who recently testified at a Children's Caucus event here in Washington, is evidence that an after-school program can guide children to becoming responsible and productive adults. I congratulate Denis for his exemplary outlook, as well as

Anna Nechelles, executive director of the West Dade Branch of the YMCA, for her commitment to the future of south Florida's children.

GOP BUDGET IS A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, all year the GOP Congress has employed gimmicks and distractions against the American people in their attempt to pass a nearly trillion dollar tax break for the wealthy and special interests in our country, a tax break soundly rejected by hard-working Americans. In the past few months, the GOP has dressed its trickle-down, wolf-like budget in sheep's clothing. They now claim to be protecting Social Security, even calling for across-the-board cuts to save the surplus, when their own CBO numbers show them dipping into the Social Security surplus by nearly \$17 billion.

Back in 1935, they voted to table Social Security. How can we expect them today to try to protect it?

Now they are advocating a minimum wage bill, but upon further examination the minimum wage bill is loaded down with a tax relief for the wealthiest special interests in this country with only a 33-cent raise each year over the next 3 years for hard-working men and women in this country; a tax break for the wealthiest corporate CEOs in the history of the world and a measly 30 cents an hour raise for their workers.

Mr. Speaker, this is just a back-door attempt, an attempt made in sheep's clothing, for the GOP leadership to give their best friends a tax break.

NO MEANS NO

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, they just do not get it. President Clinton, Vice President Gore and the Democrat leaders in Congress are failing to grasp one simple concept: No means no.

When we passed every appropriations bill this year, we did it in a way that will protect every last dollar in the Social Security trust fund, but the Democrat leaders have opposed us almost every step of the way. They are pulling out all the stops to try to get their hands on that Social Security money for their big government Washington programs. That is the way they have been doing things for 30 years, but the Republicans have changed that. We stopped the raid on the Social Security trust fund and we are asking the Washington bureaucracy to reduce its spending by just 1 percent to make sure that Social Security remains strong.

We want to root out some of the waste, fraud and abuse that plagues the bureaucracy. So I hope President Clinton will sign our legislation that protects Social Security, because if he keeps telling us to dip into that Social Security money we will keep telling him no, and we will mean it.

THE REAL CONCERNS OF AMERICA, SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, HMO REFORM, TO NAME A FEW

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, the American people want us to put aside the partisanship of the last Republican Congress and to get to work on American families' real concerns, the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, real HMO reform, more teachers and lower class sizes for our children.

Unfortunately, this Republican Congress has been little different from the last. They are holding hostage real HMO reform and they refuse to help local communities reduce class size by hiring 100,000 new teachers.

The chief actuary of the Social Security Administration has found that the Republican budget would do nothing to extend the life of Social Security, not by even a single day. They have done nothing to strengthen Medicare, and GOP leaders refuse to even admit the existence of American seniors' most pressing problem, the astronomical cost of prescription drugs.

On the other hand, Republicans tried to squander the surplus, risking Medicare and Social Security, to fund a \$1 trillion tax break for special interests. Those are the values of this Republican Congress, Mr. Speaker, \$1 trillion for tax breaks for special interests but not a dime for prescription drugs for seniors.

WE NEED A PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to join my colleagues in lamenting legislation important to my constituents and the American people that the Republican leadership has ignored. I am speaking about gun safety, prescription drug benefits, the Patients' Bill of Rights and campaign finance reform.

The Republican leadership has disregarded the American people and killed these measures for this session of Congress. Democrats still believe we can get action on agendas that matter to reduce class size and raise student achievement by providing for local schools to hire 100,000 new teachers, make our neighborhoods safer and build on the progress we have made