

Texas was formed and began its mission. Tonight, the Gulf Coast branch will proudly celebrate its 20th anniversary with a gala event, and on this occasion the founder of the Gulf Coast branch of Prevent Blindness, Dr. Bernard Milstein, will be honored as this year's person of vision. I commend Dr. Milstein on this wonderful honor.

Prevent Blindness Texas is the largest voluntary health organization in Texas that takes proactive measures in the prevention of blindness. Over the years Prevent Blindness Texas has provided free vision screening to almost one million Texas preschoolers and screened well over 650,000 adults for blinding glaucoma. The Gulf Coast branch alone screened nearly 2,100 adults and children during the last fiscal year. Nearly 500 Galveston residents were provided free eye exams and glasses from this branch last year, almost doubling the prior year.

This organization exists without government funding or United Way funding because of the generosity of people who share in its vision of saving sight. Funds are raised locally and work locally. My heartiest congratulations to Dr. Bernard Milstein and to Prevent Blindness Texas.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT JUST AS EMPTY AS H.R. 1

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

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, it has been now 10 months since the White House Conference on Social Security. During that conference we pulled together, the President pulled together, much to his credit, leadership from both sides of the aisle, the leadership in both parties. The chairman and the ranking member on the Committee on Ways and Means came together. I was there as a chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, and we promised to work together in order to save Social Security.

The President at that point made a commitment to us that he wanted to take the lead and that he would be sending us legislation. Mr. Speaker, today that commitment is just as empty as H.R. 1, which was reserved by the Speaker of this House to place the President's Social Security bill, the Social Security reform bill, in place in order to save Social Security for this country. We have been reaching out in a bipartisan way to the Democrat side in order to do that.

Mr. Speaker, it is time now for the President to come forward and give the leadership that this country needs to save Social Security.

SAVE TODAY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, Congress may be struggling to fight against vio-

lence affecting our young people, but our communities are doing something about it. Today in San Luis Obispo, California, and around this Nation, the American Medical Association Alliance is kicking off its save schools program.

SAVE, which stands for Stop America's Violence Everywhere, began in 1995. This year the AMA alliance will focus its efforts directly on our schools. In my district, the San Luis Obispo Medical Society Alliance will team up with the local high school students and a local homeless shelter. Dedicated teenagers will mentor younger children in need and help them learn to resolve their conflicts peacefully.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud that the national president of the AMA Alliance, Ann Hansen, lives in my district. I join Ann in offering this rallying cry in the fight against school violence. Save today.

PRESIDENT'S SCHEME TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, America's public lands are vital to the future of this Nation, and I have very serious concerns about the President's new scheme to restrict access to these public lands. Most Americans recognize the value that public lands hold for its natural resources as well as the use and development of those natural resources for the quality of life we all enjoy, and no one can deny the opportunity that public lands hold for recreation.

Since these lands are in the public domain, individual costs are low and the lands are generally open for all of us to use and enjoy. Now we are seeing a fundamental shift in how our lands are managed for our access. Historically, we have allowed the public to access our lands in the public domain, but unfortunately it appears the President is setting a trend toward keeping our public lands closed unless posted open. This scheme is completely unacceptable to all Americans who use our public lands. To say the public cannot access their lands unless the Federal Government gives them permission is fundamentally opposite to the freedoms our country was founded upon.

I yield back, Mr. Speaker, the balance of the time I have and any access America has to its public lands.

DAIMLER-BENZ, A GERMAN COMPANY?

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in the 1970s Congress bailed out Chrysler, and last year Chrysler merged with

Daimler-Benz. Chrysler is now a German corporation, and upon merging they said Americans will always have a strong voice in the new company's leadership.

So much for the tooth fairy, Mr. Speaker. The three top American executives were replaced, and now the German company announced they will invest \$28 billion, all of it in Germany.

What is next, Mr. Speaker? Mercedes-Benz limousines for our White House?

Beam me up.

I yield back the billions of dollars that Congress invested into what is now a German company.

NO TAX INCREASES OR RAIDS ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the unwavering opposition of President Clinton and his free-spending allies in this Congress, American taxpayers are now enjoying a budget surplus for the first time in a generation. One might think that the President would be willing to share some of that surplus with working American families. After all, they created the surplus with their hard work and their tax dollars.

Tax relief perhaps? Not a chance. Incredibly the White House instead proposes either, A, more taxes or, B, a raid on the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for yet more government spending programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is one Member of Congress who is more than willing to stay here until Christmas if that is what it takes to stave off another tax grab by the Clinton administration or a raid on the Social Security Trust Fund. American families are taxed more than enough. Leave them alone, Mr. President, and keep your hands off their Social Security. Stop the raid.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair advises all Members to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

EXPANDED INTERNET ACCESS IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the natural beauty of western Massachusetts is hardly a well-kept secret. We are attracting more people each day who seek the quality of life that is offered. However, there is something that we need in western Massachusetts that would make our lives even better, and what we want is the

high-speed Internet connections that our friends down the pike and in the Cape Cod area already have.

Our businesses, employers, and households have a serious interest in the Internet to win contracts, coordinate production and distribution, export entertainment, enhance education, and both to teach and learn at the best medical centers. Right now there are too few capacity Internet data trunks that make the trek from Boston to western Massachusetts. When we get a few high-capacity Internet trunks or backbones, as they are called, we can take it from there.

□ 1015

We already have excellent fiberoptics within my district. This is why I support legislation that provides an incentive that is needed for expanded investment in the Internet backbone into rural areas. Having a better choice provides those who seek it stronger data links that will make Western Massachusetts an even better place to live.

THE CAN SPAM ACT OF 1999

(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, I come to the floor today to address my bill, H.R. 2162, the Can Spam Act. Spam are the millions of unsolicited commercial e-mail messages clogging up computer networks and the entire information superhighway. Thirty percent of sample is pornography. Another 30 percent is get-rich-quick schemes, and much of that is targeted towards senior citizens.

In effect, spam levies a tax on all Internet consumers by causing ISPs to spend money on additional bandwidth, hardware, as well as time and staff to deal with the bulk commercial e-mails. The increased costs are passed on to consumers.

America Online estimates that 30 percent of their costs are associated with spam. This cost is passed onto consumers. That is like getting a postage due letter that you do not want and being forced to pay for it.

To combat this problem, I have introduced the Can Spam Act. This bill gives ISPs a civil right of action against spammers who violate their published policy prohibiting spam. They can litigate for \$50 per message, up to \$25,000 per day for damages. That would also levy penalties on spammers who hijack another person's domain name for the purpose of sending out unsolicited commercial e-mail.

We need to defend our constituents and the businesses in our districts from commercial advertising.

HIGH MATERNAL DEATH RATE AMONG AMERICA'S BLACK WOMEN

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, black women who are pregnant are dying at an alarming rate. Maternal death rates among black women are four times those of whites. This represents the largest racial disparity in all public health. We need to know why. We need to get data and improve standards of care.

A report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that for minority women, motherhood is deadly. The discrepancy of maternal mortality rates between black and white women is bordering on a crisis. Despite tremendous advances in the last 20 years, we have failed to make progress on maternal mortality.

I have joined the bipartisan effort to close the gap of maternal mortality rates between black and white women by cosponsoring the Safe Motherhood Monitoring and Prevention Research Act. Women have joined hands across the aisle to support this bill.

This legislation is the cornerstone of our effort to promote better health and to educate women about their pregnancies. Let us work to promote safe motherhood.

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH, AND THE RACE FOR THE CURE IN MIAMI

(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, every 3 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, and astonishingly, 80 percent of these women will have no known risk factors. Mr. Speaker, these numbers can be simply translated to say that every woman is at risk of developing breast cancer at some point throughout her lifetime.

We know that the key to defeating breast cancer is early detection through self-exams, mammographies, and clinical tests. However, none of these components can be beneficial if they are not regularly practiced. This month we celebrate national breast cancer awareness, where breast cancer survivors and supporters will share information and raise funds to cure this disease.

This Saturday, the YWCA of greater Miami will host race for the cure, Miami 99, to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation, a national organization dedicated to the eradication of breast cancer. This year's race is dedicated to the memory of Nancy Bossard, a Miami Dade County public school teacher who, sadly, lost her life to breast cancer.

Up to 75 percent of the race's proceeds will stay in our community to support local breast cancer programs and to provide detection to equip women in their battle against this deadly disease.

THE RED SOX, THE FINAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD CHAMPION OF THE MILLENIUM

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, the baseball gods are smiling down upon Red Sox Nation. The hardball heroes of Boston are in the process of lifting one of the most vexing curses of all time, the curse of the Bambino. For the Fenway faithful, the curse has taken on mythic proportions. It is Shakespearean, epic, Biblical, in the same league as the curse of Macbeth, the curse of King Tut's tomb, or the curse of the Tower of Babel.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the millions of Red Sox fans who are saying, wait until next year, no more. How will Pedro, Nomar, and the rest of Olde Towne Team meet this daunting challenge? They will blast away at the Bronx Bombers in the House that Ruth built. They will swarm the stadium and swat the sultans' spell. They will crush the curse of the Bambino.

Mr. Speaker, this year is our year. The Red Sox are about to have their millenium moment. The Indians could not stop them, the Yankees cannot stop them, and neither the Mets nor the Braves will be able to stop them as they become the final Major League Baseball world champions of the millenium. The Sox in six, Mr. Speaker. This year we win the World Series.

THE NEW YORK TIMES RECOGNIZES REPUBLICANS' ROLE IN SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from today's New York Times:

"Surplus social security funds have functioned as money under the mattress for Congress for four decades. When general government revenues to run the Federal agencies run out, Congress taps into the retirement funds. Some outside experts say that social security surpluses has had no effect on its benefits.

"Republicans have been vowing almost daily never again to spend the money. Speaker J. DENNIS HASTERT again promised today 'never to return to the days when Democrats raided social security.'" This is from the New York Times, of all things.

THE HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

(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, I am proud to rise today and speak in favor