

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, this is the headline in the New York Daily News on Monday: the headline says, Not Fit to Teach Your Kid.

In some city schools, 50 percent of the teachers in New York are uncertified. Well, we can help the City of New York if we gave them the flexibility that is in the House-passed Teacher Empowerment Act so that they can properly prepare some of the existing teachers they have; so that they can raise the academic achievement level of all of their students.

WHO IS TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN?

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the end of the session is almost here. Over this session, the last year, Congress has passed funding for the F-22, tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, and appropriations bills that busted the budget caps.

But while the Republican leadership is taking care of special interests, I want to know who is taking care of our children. Our children continue to lack access to quality health care, attend dilapidated schools and die at a rate of 13 a day due to handgun violence.

Mr. Speaker, our children are 25 percent of our population, but they are 100 percent of our future, and I ask my colleagues, who is taking care of them? They do not need rhetoric, they need action.

So again, I ask my Republican colleagues, while they are taking care of special interests, who is taking care of our children?

STOP DELAYS ON SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKBOX LEGISLATION

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

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Veterans Day, and it is also day 168 since this House passed the Social Security lockbox bill.

Memorial Day, the 4th of July, Labor Day, Yom Kippur, Columbus Day, the World Series, and tomorrow Veterans Day all will pass since this body acted to permanently stop the raid on Social Security. In those five months, the other body has failed to consider providing lockbox protection for the Social Security Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, time after time, an effort was made to bring the bill to the floor, but those efforts were all unsuccessful. And all the while, the leader of the obstructionists, the man who sits in the White House, accused the Republican Party of being against Social Security.

Once again, the truth did not get in the way of White House rhetoric.

We will soon be recessing, heading home for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah,

Christmas, New Year's. Let us pledge not to let too many of those precious holidays pass before we pass in the House and the Senate Social Security lockbox protection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would ask all Members not to make personal references to Members of the Senate or characterize their actions.

CLASS SIZE REDUCTION, WHEN LESS IS MORE

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, the American people know that when it comes to class size, less is more. More personal attention, more teacher instruction rather than discipline, and as the Tennessee Star and Wisconsin Sage and other studies have shown, increased academic achievement, with students actually moving from the 50th to the 60th percentile.

To break this down in terms we can all understand, we know that no sports coach in his right mind would try to teach 150 players one hour per day and hope to win the championship game. No, a coach has several assistants and small, special teams. Yet, my Republican colleagues want to ask one teacher, all alone, to teach several overcrowded classes and then expect children to win the academic game of life.

Parents and teachers want, and our children deserve more teachers, smaller classes, and academic coaching for our children to win this wonderful game of life.

SECURE SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS RATHER THAN WASTE IT

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, break out the suntan oil. Secretary Babbitt and 20 of his officials of the Interior Department are in the Virgin Islands as we speak. Apparently he greased the skids with the administration because the Interior bill is still in negotiations with House and Senate leadership. Before Secretary Babbitt made it to the beach, he told Congress he did not have 1 percent waste in the Interior budget. He said he could not absorb just a 1 percent reduction to help us secure the Social Security surplus.

Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of suggestions. First, Secretary Babbitt could have taken only 19 Interior employees and left one of them in Washington, and help achieve a 1 percent reduction. Or, he could have gone to Wichita, Kansas, where we have competitive rates and large meeting rooms,

and saved at least 1 percent of the cost, or he could have just stayed home and left the Virgin Islanders to the honeymooners and tourists.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the American people would rather secure the Social Security surplus than see government officials spend the money, lubricating their skin on the beaches of the Virgin Islands.

U.S. SHOULD PAY U.N. ARREARS

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, last March, seven former Secretaries of State from both parties, Republican and Democrat, wrote to Congress and told us that it was time for us to pay our debt to the United Nations. With time winding down before we adjourn, we still have not followed their good advice.

For decades, the U.N. has played a key role in American international affairs and national security. But now by failing to pay our bill, we have strained our relationship with some of our closest allies. Our influence in the world and at the U.N. is being undermined and our ability to bring about critical U.N. reforms is being weakened as well.

If we fail to pay by the end of the year, the U.S. will lose its vote in the U.N. General Assembly under the very rules that we helped to adopt. Our international obligations should not be held up by disputes over unrelated issues between the House and the President. Keeping our promises should be a priority and not a bargaining chip.

Other countries look to our great Nation for leadership to set an example for the rest of the world. They should not look to us and see a nation that will not pay its bills because of unrelated issues.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3073, FATHERS COUNT ACT OF 1999

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 367 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 367

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3073) to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide for grants for projects designed to promote responsible fatherhood, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 90 minutes, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the