

served India well during his term as Ambassador.

Of course, Ambassador Ray has not achieved all of these successes by himself. He possesses another invaluable asset: his lovely wife, Maya, who also is a noted barrister and former elected official. Maya Ray has been a gracious host, trusted advisor and articulate spokesperson. Together, they have proven to be a superb team.

Mr. Speaker, later this month, Siddhartha Shankar Ray will leave his position as Ambassador to the United States to return to Calcutta, his home city, to stand for election to the Lokh Sabha, India's House of Parliament. While it would be improper for any Member of this body on either side of the aisle to endorse a candidate for office in India, I am certain all of my colleagues agree that Ambassador Ray will approach the coming campaign with the same level of energy, dedication and articulate persuasion that were the hallmark of his years in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in wishing Siddhartha Shankar Ray and Maya every good wish in the months and years to come. We invite them to visit us in Washington often to witness the fruits of Ambassador Ray's labor as the Indo-United States relationship continues to grow and prosper.

SUPPORT PEACE AND DEMOCRACY
IN TURKEY: SUPPORT HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 136

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, 1995, I joined the chairman of the Helsinki Commission, CHRIS SMITH, in introducing H. Con. Res. 136, legislation which advocates a peaceful end to the conflict between the Government of Turkey and Kurdish militants. I urge my colleagues to join us as cosponsors of this important resolution aimed at ending a vicious cycle of violence and terror which has claimed so many lives over the past decade and has eroded the impressive strides made by a government committed to achieving full-fledged democracy.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade Turkey's citizens, especially those residing in the southeast, have suffered the horrors of terrorism and the excesses of a government committed to eradicating terrorism at any cost. More than 20,000 people have died in clashes among security forces, the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] and shadowy Muslim fundamentalist groups. Turkish troops in southeast Turkey have forcibly evacuated or destroyed more than 2,650 Kurdish villages, burned crops, killed livestock, and displaced more than three million people. Citizens are detained, tortured, extrajudicially executed or disappear without a trace. The PKK has also killed innocent civilians, mined local roads, and set off bombs in populated areas—contributing to the cycle of violence and the climate of fear that pervades southeast Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, European newspapers printed color pictures of Turkish soldiers posing with the heads of decapitated Kurdish guerrillas. These gruesome and despicable photos all too graphically underline the

hatred and brutality fueling this conflict. But even more, the pictures reinforce the urgent need for reconciliation. Violence and terrorism will not resolve this conflict. Only dialog can help overcome bitterness inspired by 12 years of war. House Concurrent Resolution 136 promotes an end to violence and a beginning for efforts promoting reconciliation and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman SMITH and I are sending letters to officials of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] urging them to initiate and support steps to resolve the escalating conflict in Turkey. We believe the OSCE should establish a million of long-duration to monitor human rights abuses and help defuse sources of conflict and have asked that the OSCE chairman-in-office send a personal representative to develop recommendations concerning the mandate and scope of future OSCE activities in Turkey. We have also asked the president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to designate a parliamentary delegation to Turkey to assist in this task. The OSCE has played a critical role in conflict prevention, mediation, and human rights monitoring in the former Yugoslavia, the Caucasus, the Baltic States, and elsewhere. An OSCE presence in Turkey would be especially helpful as local non-governmental organizations, international humanitarian groups, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, and even journalists are not allowed by authorities to operate freely in this region.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey and Israel are the only functional democratic states in the Middle East. Turkey is a NATO ally and OSCE member. The government's inability to peacefully and democratically resolve the Kurdish conflict jeopardizes Turkey's democratic foundations, drains a stumbling economy, threatens regional stability, and makes closer relations with Europe and the United States problematic. Our Government has been instrumental in helping resolve conflicts in the Middle East, the Balkans and elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, if we truly value our strategic, economic and political partnership with Turkey, and I believe we do, we must act now to help end this brutal conflict. It is precisely because of that partnership that we seek to assist Turkey in ending this conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to review House Concurrent Resolution 136. I believe it represents a balanced and thoughtful first step that our Government can and should take to promote peaceful resolution of a difficult and divisive conflict. I call on all my colleagues who value human rights and our partnership with Turkey to cosponsor this resolution. We must try to help stop the violence.

THE STATE OF THE UNION

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, January 31, 1996 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION
ADDRESS

Declaring that the era of big government is over, the President embraced a centrist view

of government in his State of the Union address. The speech had no soaring rhetoric, and it was rather blandly written and probably too long, but he delivered it forcefully and appeared robust and strong. By complimenting his chief political opponent he came across as gracious and fair minded. As usual, he threw about everything into the speech. Most observers felt that he had a very good night.

OVERVIEW

He gave an upbeat view of the nation, saying that the state of the union is strong and that America has made progress in reducing the deficit, creating new jobs, and keeping unemployment and inflation low. He emphasized that the crime rate, teen pregnancies, high school drop out rates, poverty and welfare rolls are all down, and that we have had great success in lowering air pollution, cutting tons of pesticides from water and food supplies. He emphasized progress made abroad, with the United States leading toward peace in Haiti, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, and the Middle East.

But the President did not dwell upon the progress; he emphasized the challenges that are before us—to balance the budget, keep families together, provide educational opportunities and economic security, continue the fight against crime and drugs, protect the environment, continue American world leadership, and make our government and its democracy work better for less money.

SIZE OF GOVERNMENT

Throughout the speech the President highlighted the theme of smaller government, saying that big government does not have all the answers, that there's not a program for every problem. He's right. He said that we need a smaller, less bureaucratic government in Washington, one that lives within its means, and he noted that the federal workforce is now at its lowest level in 30 years. He laid out the challenges for an age of possibility. He hit hard on the point that the government shutdowns are a mistake, also now acknowledged by Speaker Gingrich, and he challenged Congress never to shut the federal government down again. The President was equally sharp in his comments on the efforts to threaten the full faith and credit of the U.S. to try to force presidential budget or other policy concessions.

ECONOMY

The President was both optimist and critic of the American economy. He mentioned the impressive list of economic statistics that now characterize the American economy. The economy overall is in good shape, with low inflation and interest rates, steady growth, and relatively low unemployment. Yet at the same time, many Americans are fearful of layoffs, concerned about the growing gap between the rich and the poor, worried that wages are not keeping up with inflation, and doubtful about the future of the American dream.

MAJOR POINTS

As usual in a State of the Union address there was something in it for most everybody. The President hit very popular themes emphasizing a balanced budget, a strengthened American family, moving people from welfare to work, making health care more available to every American, and supporting the efforts of state and local police to catch criminals and prevent crime. He also stressed improving educational opportunities, reducing the drug problem, working with business to cut pollution, curbing the influence of special interests in politics, attacking the problem of illegal immigration, and maintaining America's role as a peacemaker in the world.

Strongly applauded were his references to education and cultural values, and his calls