widespread labor abuses raised when the Kathy Lee Gifford scandal broke last year.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE FACTORY

In June 1996, Charles Kernaghan, the executive director of the National Labor Committee, submitted a complaint to the House International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee accusing Honduran apparel manufacturers and Kathy Lee Gifford associate, Global Fashion (a South Korean-managed firm), of labor abuses. The foreign company was accused of employing approximately 100 minors under deplorable work conditions, which included prohibiting the use of restrooms, mandating that female employees take birth control pills, and forcing pregnant women to stand while working in unbearable heat. But, inspections of the company's facilities conducted by the Honduran Department of Labor and Social Security as well as the Episcopal Church, among others, failed to establish hard evidence of endemic abuse. However, the company did acknowledge that overtime work was compulsory and that there was a high employee turnover rate. In fact, Global Fashion may have been better than most of the tainted industry.

The government insists that its labor laws have been designed to protect its citizens. Under the most recent labor legislation, employees working 44 hours per week are entitled to 50 hours worth of wages, which adds up to 14 months of pay per year. While the official minimum wage in the country is $0.31/hr., most apparel industry laborers earn as much as $0.86/hr. Education is mandatory through grade six, and minors who are 14 or 15 years of age may work up to 36 hours per week, but only with permission from parents or legal guardians and from the Ministry of Labor. The AHM claims that ''there are no minors under the age of 14 working in Honduran assembly plants.'' Skeptics are not so sure.

OBSTACLES TO THE CODE

Although the AHM's code of conduct now appears to be based on a real desire for progressive reforms, there are many cultural and political roadblocks to its progress. The Korean-owned segment of the industry creates a large culture gap that has resulted in many worker complaints. Approximately 18 percent of AHM's members are South Koreans who own about one-fifth of the 200 maquiladoras operating in the country. Complaints that Korean managers frequently commit verbal, physical and sexual abuse against female workers have led us to a expulsion of several Korean managers from the country. Due to the hard-line Korean business ethic that stresses ''the more you work the more you earn'' strategy, the AHM has had to provide Korean maquila mangers with special seminars on Honduran labor laws and appropriate workplace conduct.

Another obstacle hindering the efficacy of the new code of conduct is the omnipresent political corruption existing in the country. The recent scandal involving Chiquita Brand International executives and the deeply flawed Honduran court system demonstrates how the integrity of the judiciary can be compromised and manipulated by powerful and unethical foreign corporations. Complicating the AHM's task is the claim that some of the 33 plants that are unionized have tainted labor leaders who routinely demand payoffs. According to Arnoldo Solis, President of the AHM, ''the new code of ethics will be a healthy instrument if used properly to enhance protection of human and labor rights, but could become dangerous if used as a political instrument to 'deteriorate' the industry.''

DESIGNATE THE RICHARD C. LEE COURTHOUSE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill to designate the U.S. courthouse in my hometown of New Haven, CT, as the ''Richard C. Lee United States Courthouse.'' I am pleased to take this opportunity to speak of the dedication and service that my friend and colleague, Richard Lee, has given the city of New Haven throughout his life. Richard Lee epitomizes all that a mayor should be. He is a local boy, a family man, a dedicated and hard working person, and most of all a friend to everyone. He is truly a model mayor for this century.

After serving his tour of military duty, Dick Lee returned to New Haven to begin a lifetime of service to his beloved city. During four terms as an alderman, Dick Lee was committed to urban redesign at a time when most cities had not yet considered such ideas. When Lee first ran for mayor in 1949 he had the foresight to recognize the need for urban renewal. He was elected mayor in 1953 and then went on to serve eight terms.

Those of us from New Haven know Richard Lee for his profound influence on the city, but he is well known for his signal impact on national urban policy. Lee fought for and won Federal funding for important city renewal projects. Under Lee's aegis New Haven came to have three times more Federal funds per capita than any other city. Both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson courted Lee's insight and innovation on urban renewal. Lee's forward thinking ideas on city planning were the first version of the War on Poverty.

When the signs of an urban upheaval were noted by President Johnson, Richard Lee's connection to the heartbeat of cities was well acknowledged. The new Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development was created and Lee was offered a prestigious Federal post—which he declined because he wanted to continue his service to the city of New Haven.

Anticipating the coming storm embodied in the civil rights movement, Lee applied for and received $2.5 million from the Ford Foundation to combat urban unemployment and poverty. In addition, he received the first Federal grant to battle juvenile delinquency. When the urban tensions of the civil rights movement came to a head with rioting across the Nation, New Haven was spared the violence which shook other American cities. In New Haven, not one shot was fired by a policeman and not a single citizen was seriously harmed.

Under Lee's direction, the city of New Haven became one enormous renewal effort. Every neighborhood and school was involved in Dick Lee's programs and projects, and citizens of New Haven are still reaping the benefits today. The restoration of Wooster Square and the engineering buildup of Long Wharf are both credited to Dick Lee. The Knights of Columbus building and the Veterans coliseum were also projects of Lee's doing.

While Dick Lee is known for his many achievements, projects, and programs, he is also known by the people of New Haven for his commitment to the average citizen, his community involvement, and his accessibility. For Dick there was no higher service than the office of mayor of New Haven. Time and again he rejected offers of higher government positions. He felt the best way to serve the city and the people was in the mayor's office.

In 1980 Richard Lee was presented with the Distinguished Service Award for his advocacy on behalf of America's cities by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The country is thankful to this man who has brought so much to America's cities. Most importantly, the people of New Haven are blessed with the presence of this hometown boy who came to the position of mayor and changed the face of the city.

As a citizen of New Haven, I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to know and learn from this remarkable man. The Richard C. Lee U.S. Courthouse will be a lasting tribute to a man who was truly one of the most dedicated and effective mayors of this century.

PRIEST IS KILLED IN INDIA

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House that this past Tuesday a Catholic priest was found beheaded in Bihar, India, apparently for simply helping Untouchables. I not only deplore this tragedy but urge the Government of India to rectify this situation and end the persecution of religious minorities.

I submit for the RECORD two news articles describing this horrible crime and the persecution of Christians by Indian police.

[The New York Times, Thursday, Oct. 30, 1997]

3D PRIEST IS KILLED IN INDIA

NEW DELHI, Oct. 29 (AP)—A Catholic priest was found beheaded in a forest in northern India, apparently killed for helping untouchables, colleagues said today.

A search party from the Australian-run mission that employed the priest, the Rev. A.T. Thomas, found his body Monday near Sirka, Bihar, three days after he was abducted.

He was the third Catholic clergyman killed in two years in Bihar, where caste-based gang wars have killed hundreds of people.

Father Thomas, an Indian, had established 15 schools and health projects for untouchables.

[The Tribune, Oct. 27, 1997]

DSP HURT IN BRICKBATTING

Ludhiana, October 26.—The police opened fire in the air and resorted to a lathi charge to disperse an agitated mob of Christians last night and as many as 19 policemen, including a DSP and nine Christians were injured in the brickbatting and lathi charge. Two vehicles were also damaged. The Christians had started a five-day programme on ''Jesus Christ is the answer'' festival from October 22 to October 26 on the Chandigarh Road. They claimed that they were holding their prayers and thousands of Christians were participating in the same. On the other hand BJP activists of the Shiv Sena and the Bajrang Dal objected to the holding of the festival alleging that the Christians were resorting to conversions and indulging in ''magical healing.'' The administration on the first day withdrew permission to hold the festival but on the assurance that no