

LEE, your departure will create an enormous need in this House to replace the kind of civility, wise balance, and professionalism with which your presence here has always been marked. We send you on your way with every special blessing, and in continuing gratitude for your new work in the cause of humanity. God Bless, LEE, and Godspeed!

DR. AULAKH OF COUNCIL OF
KHALISTAN NOMINATED FOR
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, at the recent convention of the Council of Khalistan, the delegates passed a resolution to nominate the Council's President, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, for the Nobel Peace Prize. This is a very well-deserved nomination.

Dr. Aulakh is well known to many of us in Congress for his tireless work to free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian rule. He is dedicated to doing so by peaceful means. For eleven years, the Council of Khalistan has led the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan, which declared its independence on October 7, 1987.

The Indian government labels anyone who advocates independence for Khalistan a "terrorist," even when he advocates freedom by peaceful means. Meanwhile, India has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and by human-rights groups. About 50,000 Sikh youth have been abducted, tortured, and murdered by the police, then their bodies have been declared "unidentified" and cremated.

In addition to his work with Congress, Dr. Aulakh has worked with organizations like the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples' Organization, and members of the media. He has worked tirelessly to make the world aware of Indian repression against the Sikhs.

Dr. Aulakh has not just worked to expose the oppression of Sikhs, however. Recently he brought to the attention of the Congress the rapes of four nuns in Madhya Pradesh. He has helped to expose the Indian government's extrajudicial killings of Christians, Muslims, Dalits, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. Wherever in South Asia oppression rears its ugly head, Dr. Aulakh has been there to expose it.

Dr. Aulakh has also worked with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to make sure that the Indian government's efforts to alter Sikh history for their own convenience.

Yassir Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin received a Nobel Peace Prize. If they are qualified, then Dr. Aulakh's efforts make him a good candidate for this prestigious award.

America must support efforts like Dr. Aulakh's and those of other peaceful freedom fighters. We can do this by maintaining the sanctions imposed on India after its nuclear weapons test in place, by cutting off all American aid to India, and by publicly declaring our support for a plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan so that the Sikhs of Khalistan can decide freely

and democratically the issue of independence. We should also support the same right for all other people, notably the people of Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's press release on the recommendation of Dr. Aulakh for the Nobel Prize into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From Council of Khalistan—Press Release, Oct. 14, 1998]

DR. AULAKH RECOMMENDED FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

WASHINGTON, DC—The annual convention of the Council of Khalistan, which was held October 10-11 at the Sikh Cultural Society in Richmond Hill, New York, passed a resolution unanimously recommending Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for the Nobel Peace Prize. The recommendation is based on Dr. Aulakh's tireless work for a *Shantmai Morcha* (peaceful agitation) to liberate the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, from Indian rule. Dr. Aulakh's name will be formally submitted to the Nobel Prize committee soon.

The Council of Khalistan is the government *pro tempore* of Khalistan, the independent state declared by the Sikhs on October 7, 1987. It was formed at the time of that declaration and has worked to liberate Khalistan for eleven years. The Council of Khalistan leads the Sikhs' peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan.

Dr. Aulakh is well known for his work with Members of Congress, the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), the American and international media, and other people and organizations to get information about Indian genocide against the Sikhs out to the world. This genocide has killed over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Tens of thousands are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial, some since 1984. The Council of Khalistan has collected information about more than 150 atrocities in Punjab since the Akali Dal government took power in February 1997.

The Indian government has been altering Sikh history, but Dr. Aulakh's work has gotten the true history of the Sikh Nation preserved in the *Congressional Record*, which the Indian government cannot alter.

The resolution cites Dr. Aulakh's consistent support for peaceful action to combat Indian state terrorism and his explicit rejection of militancy as a means of liberating Khalistan. The Indian government routinely labels anyone who advocates freedom for Khalistan a "terrorist."

In addition to his work for the Sikhs of Khalistan, Dr. Aulakh has worked with Members of the U.S. Congress to expose Indian tyranny against other minorities in India, such as the recent rapes of four nuns by a gang of Hindu nationalists. The Indian government has killed over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, about 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits ("black untouchables," the aboriginal people of South Asia), and others.

"I am extremely honored that the delegates to this convention saw fit to recommend me for the Nobel Prize," Dr. Aulakh said. "This would be a great honor, not only for me, but also for the oppressed Sikh Nation and the people of Khalistan," he said. "Certainly it would further expose our freedom struggle to the international community."

H.R. 4679, ANTIMICROBIAL REGULATION TECHNICAL CORRECTION ACT

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise in support of H.R. 4679. The passage of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 was intended to improve the quality of services provided by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In this process, the regulatory jurisdiction a class of consumer products known as "antimicrobials" was shifted from the FDA to the EPA. Antimicrobials are chemicals used in food contact applications. The EPA has historically regulated pesticides and does not have the experience needed to regulate antimicrobial products.

Since the passage of the Food Quality Protection Act, pending petitions for antimicrobial food additive petitions have been put on hold at the FDA. Products that will benefit consumers have been denied access to the marketplace.

One such petition that is still waiting for production is a new "slimicide" for papermaking usage. This item had previously received the President's Green Chemistry Challenge Award. It has been identified as a safer chemical than what is on the market today.

The enactment of the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) changed the definition of "pesticide chemical" under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). This change had a major and unexpected impact on the regulatory responsibility for approval of specific specialty chemicals in food contact applications.

Antimicrobials are considered a specialty chemical. Prior to the passage of FQPA, these substances were regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. However, with the passage of FQPA, these substances are not termed "pesticide chemical" and were inadvertently switched to the Environmental Protection Agency's jurisdiction.

Since the 1996 passage of FQPA, petitions for antimicrobials are still waiting for approval at the FDA. The FDA has experienced problems with expending resources for a function that they no longer have responsibility for.

The bill amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act which is part of the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act. It is a technical correction. It by no means changes the policy of FQPA, nor does it lessen the Act's environmental safeguards.

This piece of legislation shifts the regulatory jurisdiction for review and approval of petitions for use of antimicrobials in food contact applications. It does not remove or amend pesticide regulations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Antimicrobials will still be subject to registration under FIFRA and standard FDA review for food additives.

This measure will correct a problem that has impacted many working citizens in my district. However, this bill does not lessen the quality of inspection. No one expected the problems we have encountered with the passage of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. However