[From the Times of India, Nov. 14, 1999]

MOB ATTACKS CHRISTIAN GATHERING

NEW DELHI.—In the first incident of its kind in Delhi, a group of about 40 persons attacked a Christian gathering outside an Independent Church (meaning neither Catholic nor Protestant) in west Delhi's Khyala area on Saturday evening. At least 12 persons were injured in the attack, allegedly masterminded by ''suspected Bhartiya Janata Party activists,'' according to the police.

Though four persons—Radhey Shyam Gupta, Kapila, Charan and Ashok Sharma—have been named in the police FIR, no arrests have been made so far.

Area sources said the incident took place at about 8:30 pm in the C-block of a JJ colony in Khyala, near Tilak Nagar, where the group (including some women) stormed a tent where a group of Christians were conducting an open air Bible reading session. A small of group of Christians live in the colony.

Sources said the attackers raised anti-Christians slogans, tore and burnt pamphlets with religious scriptures. A couple of Bibles and a Holy Cross were also reportedly damaged in the attack. The group then had a scuffle with scores of people present in the tent which led to the injuries, the sources said. Senior Delhi Police officers confirmed the attack but denied any Bible was torn or burnt by the mob. They also denied that a Holy Cross was damaged. ''Initial investigations have revealed that the mob, which may have had some BJP activists, disrupted the Bible reading session and then attacked the gathering. But all the injuries sustained in the attack are minor,'' joint police commissioner (southern range) Amod Kanth said.

He also said the attackers tore and burnt several pamphlets which contained passages in praise of Jesus. ''But I have personally spoken to the pastor who was conducting the proceedings and he has denied any cross being damaged or Bible being burnt by the attackers,'' Mr. Kanth added.

Local sources said the Bible reading sessions were being conducted at this Independent church for several years, and as a continuation, a pastor, Father S. John had arrived in the area on Friday from Hosangipur in southwest Delhi.

Mr. Kanth also said the police had established that the attackers did not belong to the Tilak Nagar area and had come from some other areas. ''It was clearly an unprovoked attack and all of them would be arrested,'' Mr. Kanth said.

He said the police had registered a case of rioting and of disturbing religious assembly in this connection but no arrests had been made so far. Officers said the west district police had rushed in reinforcements in the Khyala area to prevent any ''further untoward'' incidents, even though there was no tension in the area.

IN HONOR OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN, COAST GUARD CAPT. EARL FOX

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of attending Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11 and was present to hear President Clinton single out a World War II veteran who is the last veteran of that war to still be on active duty.

He is 80-year-old Capt. Earl Fox, a Coast Guard doctor, who spent his last Veterans Day in uniform last week. He is retiring from active duty this week. I want to submit an article from the November 11, 1999, Washington Post, which is a tribute to Capt. Fox and his years of dedicated service to his nation. He is a patriot and hero and we salute him.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 11, 1999]

WORLD WAR II VETERAN SOLDIERS ON, ALONE—ACTIVE-DUTY DOCTOR; 80, SALUTES HIS GENERATION

(By Roberto Suro)

Two weeks ago, Capt. Earl R. Fox learned that he is the last World War II veteran still on active duty in the U.S. armed forces. Since then he has dwelled in memories, wondering whether he will be worthy of the fallen when he walks among Arlington's serried tombstones this afternoon.

''I have felt a weight on me to expend every effort to make it honorable for them,'' said the 80-year-old Coast Guard physician.

Fox will have breakfast at the White House today and then speak at a wreath-laying ceremony at the national cemetery. This will be his final Veterans Day in uniform—he is retiring next week—and he describes himself as ''the last direct physical link'' between today's military and the warriors of Midway, Normandy and Iwo Jima.

''One generation forms the backbone for the next to build on,'' says the text he has prepared for the commemoration. ''As my generation fades into the mist of collective memory called tradition, you will continue the process for the next generation of your sons and daughters. In this way, those who have given the last full measure of devotion will live forever . . .''

As the Virginia native rehearsed his brief speech for a visitor to his office at Coast Guard headquarters yesterday, his voice cracked. He stopped in mid-sentence, reached for a handkerchief and apologized for the show of emotion.

''I had classmates who did not come home,'' he said. ''I had shipmates who did not make it. I knew these men well. I knew what they thought and what they thought about. And I am filled with humility and faith in God, because I feel like I am here today because of their courage and bravery.''

After five years of service on patrol-torpedo boats and submarines, Fox left the Navy in 1947 to attend medical school and then to prosper as a physician in St. Petersburg, Fla. In 1974, he retired at the age of 55 to enjoy his 43-foot yacht and life as a yacht club commodore who made a practice of entertaining officers from the local Coast Guard air station. He was at the club one day when an emergency call came in.

A man aboard a pleasure boat was suffering a heart attack. With the Coast Guard's doctor away, Fox was asked to help. Within minutes, he was being lowered from a helicopter at sea.

Fox enjoyed the experience so much that he agreed to join up when the local commanding officer suggested he could get a commission under a program that waived age limits for physicians. He made only one demand: He wanted to go to flight school. Eventually, he learned to fly helicopters as well as airplanes.

For 16 years, until 1990, Fox served as a flight surgeon at Coast Guard stations up and down the East Coast, making more than a dozen helicopter rescues. For the past nine years, he has worked as the senior medical officer in the personnel department at Coast Guard headquarters.

Combining his Navy and Coast Guard service, Fox has now spent 30 years in the military, the point at which most officers must retire. But he said his decision to leave uniform is driven primarily by a desire to spend more time with his wife of 56 years, Reba.

It might be mere serendipity that this genial octogenarian is the last of 16 million World War II veterans to don his ribbons and decorations every working day. But Fox seems the perfect representative of a generation that, in his words, ''experienced both great times and times of desperation.''

Thinking back to nighttime battles fought in tropical waters, Fox said, ''when things get tough you need more to fall back on than yourself and the present.'' He had the heritage of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, all military officers. But he also had shipmates. ''We were bound together by common purpose,'' he recalled. ''The trust we had in each other made us strong.''

Fox has a small photograph, now fading to sepia, that shows 10 sailors in jaunty poses at the bow of a PT boat, one of the mahogany-hulled speedsters dispatched on hit-and-run missions against enemy fleets. Seated on stools before them are two officers. It's the summer of 1943 and Fox is already a decorated combat veteran and boat commander at the age of 23. To his right sits an even younger man Al Haywood, just out of Yale and assigned as the boat's executive officer.

A few weeks after the picture was taken, they were on patrol off the coast of New Guinea when a single Japanese airplane appeared out of nowhere. It strafed the boat. A sailor fell wounded. Haywood rushed to his side. As the fighter wheeled and dove for another run at the boat, Haywood threw himself over the injured man.

The airplane's gunfire ''stitched him from head to toe,'' recalled Fox, who buried Haywood at sea. The wounded crewman survived.

''Remembering people like Haywood and the many, many others like him is important,'' said Fox, ''because those memories of honor and sacrifice are the fabric our country is made of.''

ZERO-TOLERANCE AND COMMON SENSE

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the following editorial from the November 12, 1999 St. Louis Post-Dispatch in order to make a statement in opposition to so-called ''zero-tolerance'' discipline policies in our Nation's schools.

While maintaining discipline and orderly conduct in our schools should continue to be a top priority of educators and school administrators, we must be mindful that not all misdeeds are worthy of the stringent and unbending punishments administered under these policies. Such policies fail to allow a more reasonable system of addressing each incident separately, thus failing to teach our students the values of discipline and tolerance. As I remain outraged at the actions taken against the seven students in Decatur, I am hopeful that other school boards and districts across America will soon examine their own disciplinary policies in order to create a more equitable system of punishment.

ZERO-TOLERANCE AND COMMON SENSE

The Rev. Jesse Jackson's protest of the expulsion of seven students from a Decatur,