promote fundamentalist Hindu nationalism. Two members of the ruling BJP, which is a part of the RSS, were quoted in the newspapers as saying that everyone who lives in India should be Hindu or subservient to Hinduism. Now the RSS is trying to form a satellite organization called the Rashtriya Sikh Sangat which is designed to subsume Sikhs under Hinduism and wipe out their religion. Since the ruling party is part of the RSS, it is implicitly part of this effort to eliminate the Sikh religion. As people who believe in freedom of religion, this assault on anyone’s freedom of religion ought to concern all of us.

The recent massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chatti Singhpora is just another chapter in this campaign. Two recent investigations have proven that the Indian government was responsible for that massacre. There are still 50,000 Sikhs political prisoners rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs. Punjab is a police state. The only way to end this campaign against the Sikhs is to support self-determination and Khalistan, Khalistan.

Mr. Speaker, there are measures the United States can take to promote freedom for Khalistan and throughout South Asia. I urge the President to declare India a terrorist nation. We can cut off American aid and trade to India until all people there enjoy their basic human rights. And in accord with American principles, we must declare our support for self-determination for the people of Khalistan, the people of Kashmir, the people of Nagaland, and the other peoples and nations of South Asia. This can be achieved by allowing them to vote for a government which plebiscite under international supervision on the question of independence. Such a plebiscite is similar to the periodic votes in Puerto Rico and Quebec on their political futures. This is how democratic nations do it and it is how great powers do it. If India wants to be taken seriously as a member of the family of democratic nations, it must allow self-determination and human rights for all peoples and nations within its artificial borders.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan’s final letter on the situation in Punjab into the Record.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN, GURU GODIND SINGH, THE TENTH MAS-

A SOVEREIGN KHALISTAN IS THE ONLY SOLUTION

ALL SIKH INSTITUTIONS AND PRESENT LEADER-
SHIP IN PUNJAB ARE UNDER GOVERNMENT CON-
TROL.

Khalista j i: The militant Hindu fundamentalists of the RSS are now attacking the Sikh Nation. They are trying to insinuate themselves into the Sikh Nation by forming the “Rashtriya Sikh Sangat.” They are trying to bring Sikhs under the Hindu umbrella by any means necessary. The Sikh Nation must stand and fight back against these efforts.

The only way to stop these efforts is political power. Without political power, nations perish. If we cannot reclaim our lost sovereignty, we will never succeed. The RSS will succeed in its efforts to wipe out the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion. Every day, we pray “Raj Kare Ga Khalsa.” Do we mean it? A true Sikh cannot lie to God. If we mean what we say, we must do everything we can to establish Khalsta Raj.

The turmoil of the Akal Takht and the SGPC, and the other problems of the Sikh Nation are the result of the fact that we have lost the sovereignty that the Guru gave us. We must do this because if the entire Sikh leadership and the Sikh institutions in Punjab are under Indian government control. We can only solve these problems by liberating our homeland, Khalistan.

Why are there still 50,000 Sikhs rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial? Why have the Sikh leaders in Punjab been silent about the murders of over 250,000 Sikhs at the hands of the Indian government? There is an Akali party, a group of other Akali parties like Mann’s Akali Dal. Why can’t they start a Shantmaori Chehra to free those political prisoners? Why can’t they demand that the Amritsar Declaration be allowed into Punjab to conduct an independent human-rights investigation? The government previously sent Professor Manjit Singh to destroy the Khalistan movement abroad. Now it has sent Simranjit Singh Mann. No Sikh leaders who speak for Khalistan will be allowed to leave the country. And some other moribund generation of the Sikh character due to the lack of political power.

Four years ago, the Khalistan leadership passed the Amritsar Declaration. It said that if India did not grant Punjab complete autonomy within six months, they would start a peaceful agitation. Four years later, Mann still supports the Amritsar Declaration. He still says that there should be a federation with India controlling defense, foreign affairs, and finances. These are the things that define your political status. The other Sikh leaders in Punjab have backed away from even that position. On February 26, 1987, at the celebration of his birthday, Mann opposed the speakers who spoke for Khalistan, saying that they spoke only for themselves and that Bhindranwale supported securalism. The proposal for a federated India still keeps Hindustan in control. That is why Mann made it. At the Sikh Day parade, U.S. Congressman Major Owens raised slogans of “Khalistan Zindabad,” yet Mann would not even use the word Khalistan. He has long posed as a Khalistani. Even last year at the 300th anniversary celebration, he raised slogans of “Khalistan Zindabad” but now he has changed his stand. He, too, is clearly under government control. There is only one solution: a sovereign independent Khalistan, as declared on October 7, 1987. Only in a free Khalistan can Sikhs live in freedom, dignity, prosperity, and peace.

The Sikh Nation will not achieve its legitimate aspirations with any of the current political parties in Punjab. None of these parties will bring Khalistan. Whether the Akalis, Congress, or the Akali Dal Mann is elected, elections under the Indian constitution will not free Khalistan and they will collect more than one year and the corruption in the Punjab government. Badal made three promises to get elected: that he would release all political prisoners, that he would punish guilty police officers, and that he would appoint a commission to look into the excesses by the Indian government against the Sikh Nation. He could not even keep these modest promises. Instead, he put the heat on the People’s Party and that now collects over $5 billion each year from local and long distance phone calls. The working families of this country deserve lower taxes and this tax repeal will benefit them the most. This tax cut is also an issue that people care about. I wish to express my appreciation to Robert Fuchs, a constituent from the 10th District of Ohio, for bringing this issue to my attention. This tax cut is fair and is long overdue.

The taxation of Americas is necessary to pay for the service of our government. The difficult question is how to structure these taxes. Revenue neutral taxes, which levy taxes regardless of one’s ability to pay, are not fair. The tele-
phone tax is a regressive and unfair tax. Pro-
gerressive taxes, which levy taxes proportional
to one’s ability to pay, are much fairer. The income tax is a type of progressive tax. I believe that the current budget surplus is large enough to consider repealing other regressive taxes that harm lower-income Americans. As such, I remain committed to creating a more fair tax system.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY WILKINSON—EXTRAORDINARY LIBRARY ADVOCATE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize Larry Wilkinson for receiving the Extraordinary Library Advocate of the 20th Century award that is presented by the ALA/ALTA National Advocacy Honor Role. This award recognizes individuals who encourage and promote library services at both the state and national levels. Larry was one of five individuals chosen for this award.

Some of Larry’s accomplishments, with regards to libraries, include initiating the inception of two public libraries in the State of Colorado. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the restoration of a former jailhouse into the current library in the town of Telluride. Today, Larry volunteers one day a week to continue his public passion and also serves on the Colorado Council of Library Development.

The many contributions that Larry has made have markedly improved the public’s access to information, especially in the Telluride area. Before Larry’s involvement and the creation of the library, residents would have to travel to the city of Montrose in order to obtain access to literary materials. Thanks to Larry, that is no longer the case.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Larry’s efforts and to thank him for his work to provide access to information that is only available in public libraries. Larry is exceedingly worthy of this prestigious award and deserves the praise of this body.

WELLTON-MOHAWK TRANSFER ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. ED PASTOR
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. Pastor. Mr. Speaker, I rise today at the end of this long journey to fully support this legislation which transfers the title of the Gila Project/Wellton Mohawk Division facilities from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District.

I want to thank the Gentleman from Alaska, Chairman YOUNG, the Gentleman from California, Mr. MILLER, the Chairman of the Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power, Chairman DOOLITTLE, and the Ranking Member of that Subcommittee, Mr. DOOLEY, for their help in getting this legislation through the Subcommittee, through the full Resources Committee, and now on the Floor of the House.

I also want to thank my colleagues from Arizona for their help. Congressmen STUMP, HAYWORTH, and KOLBE joined me in introducing the legislation, and Congressman SHADEGG quickly joined them in seeing the wisdom of co-sponsorship. And in the other body, both Senators from Arizona joined to introduce the bill we are considering today.

The Gila project in Western Arizona was originally authorized for construction by President Roosevelt in June, 1937. Construction for the Wellton-Mohawk Division was started in August, 1949, and water from the Colorado River was turned onto the Wellton-Mohawk fields for the first time in May, 1952. The project was completed by June, 1957 and the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District fully repaid its project costs and was given its certificate of discharge on November 27, 1991. In 1998, the District and the Bureau of Reclamation signed a Memorandum of Agreement that covers the details of the transfer of title.

This bill, S. 356, which is virtually identical to the bill I introduced, H.R. 841, simply authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry out all provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement covering the transfer of title, including the authority to convey the lands as required. It also requires the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Energy to continue to provide water and power as provided under existing contracts.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this has been a long road, but we are finally ending the legislative journey. This is simple legislation which will help shrink the role of the Federal government and shift the responsibilities for ownership into the hands of local entities. It will reduce the Federal government’s role in construction projects that will ensure a smoother and more efficient operation, which in turn will better serve the American taxpayer and the citizens of Southwest Arizona.

I ask that my colleagues support passage of S. 356 and I look forward to watching the President sign it into law.

TEXAS’ CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on Texas’ Child Health Insurance Program.

Today, our children should not have to fight to get the health care coverage they deserve. I am sad to say, in Texas they do. A child born in the year 2000 is far more likely to grow up healthy and reach adulthood than a child born in 1900 was. Over the past 100 years, our nation’s scientific, technological, and financial resources have built the most advanced health care system in the world. But the doorways to that health care system are not open to everyone.

Millions of children have inadequate medical care. Ensuring that every child in our nation receives the best possible health care must be a top priority. Unfortunately, not all children have benefited equally from the medical, public health, and public policy achievements of the 20th century. To a large extent, health status is still determined by race, language, culture, geography, and economics. In general, children in low-income communities get sick more often from preventable acute and infectious illnesses such as measles, conjunctivitis, and ear infections. Low-income children and teens are also more likely to suffer from chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and asthma, which can lead to school absences. In fact, the sharp increases in asthma rates are among urban minority children.

Despite the tremendous advances in medical technology and public health, millions of children have less of a chance to grow up healthy and strong because of unequal access to health care. Children without health insurance or a regular source of health care are most likely to seek care from emergency rooms and clinics, which have long waits to see a provider, limited follow-up, and little or no health education about preventive strategies or ways to manage chronic illness. Compared with insured children, uninsured children are up to eight times less likely to have a regular source of care, four times more likely to delay seeking care, nearly three times less likely to have seen a provider in the past year, and five times more likely to use the emergency room as a regular place of care. There is no question that insurance is key to maintaining health.

Imagine one hundred children from Texas standing in front of you. Fifty-four of these children are insured through Private/Employer-based programs. Twenty-two are covered through Medicaid. Twenty-four are uninsured. This equals to about 1.4 million children in Texas without health insurance.

Now imagine one hundred children from all over the country standing in front of you. Sixty-four of these children are insured through Private/Employer-based programs. Twenty-one are covered through Medicaid. Fifteen are uninsured.

Why is it that Texas’ percentage of uninsured children is higher than the national average? The reason is due to a Texas government that chooses not to take advantage of government funding that will allow many children to be insured. As a matter of fact, Texas can expand its Medicaid coverage to the age of eighteen and cover those whose income is up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. Presently, Texas only covers children up to the age of eighteen and to those whose income is 100% of the Federal Poverty Level with Title XXI funds. If Texas expands Title XXI eligibility to only 200% Federal Poverty Level, like it has the choice to, then an additional 483,000 uninsured children would be eligible for insurance coverage. Over half of all states have expanded coverage to 200% or beyond.

Most states have expanded health insurance coverage to children using Title XXI funds. This coverage is provided through Medicaid expansions and/or separate insurance programs. Ten states offer Medicaid to those with an income up to 150% Federal Poverty Level. Texas falls within this category. Texas falls at the bottom. Our children fall at the bottom.

This should simply not be the case. The Texas government must not only strive to improve its average compared to the national average, but it must also strive to ensure all of its children adequate health care. The opportunity for Texas to make change is now. The