

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES THE NEW JERSEY CHINESE CULTURAL STUDIES FOUNDATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise today in recognition of the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation (NJCCSF) and its ongoing dedication to promoting awareness of Chinese culture. I applaud the achievements this organization has made in helping many of central New Jersey's students pursue the study of Chinese language, history, and culture.

For the past two years, NJCCSF has been committed to promoting the study of Chinese culture by providing scholarships, awards, and financial aid to qualified New Jersey residents under the age of 25. Since its 1999 founding by the Overseas Hong Kong Association (U.S.A.), the NJCCSF has sponsored numerous non-profit and non-political events and activities geared toward fulfillment of its mission to preserve Chinese cultural heritage.

Successfully promoting Chinese culture within such a large and widespread community requires the dedication and skill of talented volunteers and the generosity of committed donors. The NJCCSF has certainly demonstrated its steadfast commitment to the cause of promoting Chinese cultural education through its provision of funds to a great number of university students throughout the state.

The NJCCSF has played an important role in helping to develop social, economic, and cultural ties among Hong Kong immigrants. It is often described as a "home away from home" for its members and their families. It established the NJCCSF with the for the purpose of more effectively promoting Chinese cultural awareness.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing its unwavering dedication to serving our community.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the great work of the Department of English at Howard University. On February 15, 2001, the Department of English at Howard University is sponsoring its eighth annual Heart's Day Tribute, a day on which the Department annually commemorates its intellectual traditions. For a

number of years, it has dedicated this special day to pay homage to those notable men and women who have contributed so richly to our lives. Past honorees have been writers Gwendolyn Brooks, Paule Marshall, Chinua Achebe, and James Baldwin. This year Heart's Day celebrates the work of one of the most provocative and most influential writers of the twentieth century—Amiri Baraka. As the leading voice of the Black Arts Movement, Baraka played a central role in helping to shape the parameters of a new cultural and intellectual rebirth. Through his brilliant essays, plays, poetry collections, and novels, he drove America to contemplate its deeper psyche. At the same time, he explored a world of rich redemptive black culture through such studies as *Blues People* (1963) and *Black Music* (1968). The Heart's Day tradition was inaugurated to support the Department's effort to complete funding for the Sterling A. Brown Endowed Chair. Professor Brown established the first formal study of African American literature in the academy. We salute Howard University and applaud them to continue to honor literary achievers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today, we are introducing the Electronic Commerce Enhancement Act. This bill represents a bipartisan effort to assist small- and medium-sized businesses move their operations into a comprehensive e-commerce environment. The goals of this legislation are twofold: (1) To assist small- and medium-sized manufacturers move into an e-commerce environment; and (2) improve the interoperability of the electronic transfer of technical information in the manufacturing supply chain.

This bill is the same text as H.R. 4429 the Electronic Commerce Enhancement Act, reported by the Science Committee and passed unanimously by the House in the 106th Congress. The Electronic Commerce Enhancement Act addresses real problems that small- and medium-sized businesses are still facing today. That is why I and Chairman BOEHLERT have decided to re-introduce this legislation.

One of the purposes of this legislation is to provide American small businesses with the information and knowledge they need to make smart decisions on e-commerce related purchases and services. This bill authorizes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program (MEP) to establish an electronic commerce pilot program at MEP Centers. This pilot program will allow MEP Centers to provide small manufacturers with the information they need to make informed purchases of e-commerce products and services.

The other main goal of this legislation is to address the issue of interoperability in the manufacturing supply chain. Adoption of e-commerce business practices within a supply chain is hindered by a lack of interoperability between software, hardware, and networks in exchanging product data and other key business information. The National Institute of Standards and Technology has supported the first phase of an interoperability program in the auto industry called STEP. In my home state of Michigan, STEP proved to be a highly successful and was strongly supported by the auto industry and manufacturers in their supply chain. These provisions authorize NIST to perform an assessment to identify critical enterprise integration standards and implementation activities for major manufacturing industries and to report to Congress on the appropriate role for the government to work in partnerships with industry.

This bipartisan legislation represents sound and reasonable policy and builds upon the proven track record of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF NORTHERN FRONT RANGE ROADLESS AREA PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, Colorado's national forests are among the things that make our state a very special place to live. But as our population increases, so do the pressures on our forests.

That is why I strongly supported last month's adoption of new Forest Service rules for managing roadless parts of the national forests—areas that, in the words of the final environmental impact statement on the new rules, "possess social and ecological values and characteristics that are becoming scarce in an increasingly developed landscape."

I think those new rules are both timely and welcome. They make good sense as a way to protect natural resources, provide more diverse recreational opportunities and preserve some of the undisturbed landscapes that are such a special part of Colorado and other Western states.

This week, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman acted to delay the effective date of those new rules, so that they will take full effect in May instead of next month. According to the formal notice, the delay is intended to give the current Administration an opportunity to give the rules further review and consideration.

I understand why the new Administration would want to review these new rules. But I hope that their action in delaying implementation does not signal an intent to weaken or abandon this important initiative.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I am confident that a full and fair review will show that the new rules, developed through an extensive public process, reflect the highest standards of science-based public policy.

I also think a fair review will show the rules are needed to protect the roadless areas—areas that are valuable for wildlife, support ecosystem health and the full range of native species, serve as important sources of clean water, and provide a bulwark against the spread of invasive species such as many of the weeds that plague Colorado's ranchers.

Meanwhile, there have been some press reports suggesting that Congress might be asked to overturn the rules through legislation.

I hope those reports are wrong. I do not think that is what we in Congress should be doing. In fact, I think we should move to strengthen, not weaken, the protection of the roadless parts of our forests.

That is why I am today introducing a bill that would provide additional legal protections to roadless lands in the portion of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest within Colorado's Second Congressional District.

My bill, the "Northern Front Range Roadless Area Protection Act," would require the Forest Service to manage over 80,000 acres on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest as "protected roadless areas." These lands—all within the Congressional District I represent—are areas that the Forest Service identified as roadless in its 1997 Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Arapaho-Roosevelt, and will be covered by the new roadless-area rules when those rules take effect. Further, most if not all of these areas would be appropriate additions to existing wilderness areas.

The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest is within a few minutes' drive for more than 2.5 million people in the Front Range Denver-Boulder metro area. It is experiencing increasing use of all kinds, especially recreational use. So, at least with respect to some of its most valuable lands, I want to undergird the new Forest Service rules with a statutory requirement to protect the special qualities of these areas.

Under the bill, these roadless areas would be managed under the "recommended for wilderness" management category in the existing Forest Plan until Congress decides otherwise. The bill would also require the Forest Service to study and evaluate these areas and make recommendations to Congress regarding their future management. That report would be submitted within three years. The bill will thus allow the Congress the opportunity to ultimately resolve the status of these roadless lands.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is limited in scope and deals only with some of the lands in Colorado that need legislative protection. More will need to be done to respond to the pressures of growth on our national forests and other public lands. But I think it represents an important first step, and I will seek to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to have it enacted into law.

NORTHERN FRONT RANGE ROADLESS AREA
PROTECTION ACT

SUMMARY

The bill would give interim protection to over 80,000 acres of roadless areas on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado's 2d Congressional District

THE FOREST, ROADLESS AREAS, AND THE BILL

The Forest: The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest includes more than 1.5 million acres along Colorado's northern Front Range. It surrounds Rocky Mountain National Park and contains a number of designated wilderness areas. It contains a wide range of ecosystems and topography including level grasslands and peaks rising over 14,000 feet. It includes the rugged part of the Continental Divide seen from the Denver-Boulder metro area. Because of its proximity to 2.5 million people, it is heavily used by the public, and provides vital watersheds.

Roadless Areas: The Forest Service's 1997 Revision of the management plan for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest identified lands that qualify as roadless. The Clinton Administration developed new rules restricting certain activities in national forest roadless areas in order to protect their roadless character and other natural resource values. The Bush Administration has acted to postpone implementation of these rules in order to review their provisions. The bill would provide statutory interim protection to maintain the roadless quality of some Arapaho-Roosevelt roadless areas until Congress decides on their ultimate status.

What the bill does

Acres Affected: The bill would apply to over 80,000 acres in 12 areas within the Second Congressional District (Boulder and Clear Creek Counties) that were identified as roadless in the 1997 forest plan. The bill would designate these areas as "protected roadless areas."

Management: The bill would require the Forest Service to manage these lands in accordance with the "recommended for wilderness" directive in the 1997 forest plan. This would: (a) prohibit timber harvesting; (b) prohibit motorized vehicles; (c) allow the location of "hard rock" minerals (gold, silver, etc.); (d) prohibit oil and gas leasing.

Grazing: The bill would specifically allow grazing to continue under existing laws.

Report: The bill would require the Forest Service to report to Congress in 3 years with their recommendations as to whether these lands should become wilderness areas or other land management status.

What the bill would not do: Designate New Wilderness Areas: The bill does not designate any wilderness areas.

Apply Forest-wide: The bill does not apply to the whole Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest only to specified roadless areas within the Second Congressional District.

Address James Peak: The bill does not include the James Peak Roadless Area.

HONORING ZENIA MUCHA'S SERVICE TO THE STATE OF NEW YORK

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor an outstanding public servant, a faithful adviser and a trusted friend.

For the past six years, Zenia Mucha has served as Communications Director and Senior Adviser to New York State Governor George Pataki. On Monday, February 12, friends and co-workers will gather at the Governor's Mansion in Albany, New York, to bid her a fond farewell as she begins her new duties as Senior Vice President for Communications with the ABC Broadcast Group.

Before joining Governor Pataki's staff, Zenia served for 14 years on the staff of U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, first as a staff aid and, during his last six years of service, as Communications Director.

My own friendship with Zenia stretches back to her early days with Senator D'Amato. Like so many others, not only was I impressed by her knowledge and ability, but on countless occasions, benefited as well from her advice and counsel.

In a recent column in the New York Post, writer Cindy Adams captured Zenia's personality as well as I have ever seen in print. "She's sassy. She's brassy. She's tough. She tells it like it is. She's loyal as hell. She's brilliant."

Mr. Speaker, I know how deeply Zenia's leadership and ability will be missed in New York's Capitol, and I ask that this House of Representatives join me in thanking Zenia Mucha for her leadership and service to New York state, and that this Congress join me in extending its sincerest best wishes for her continued success.

PAYROLL TAX CREDIT

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduced legislation yesterday to provide much needed tax relief to America's working men and women. Unlike other proposals currently under consideration, my bill would offer fair, across-the-board tax relief while providing a stimulus to the economy, without risking a return to the budget deficits of the 1980's and 90's.

In this period of substantial budget surpluses, most of us agree that Americans deserve a break in their taxes, but we are divided on the best way to accomplish this. President Bush has proposed a \$2 trillion package of tax cuts, the centerpiece of which is a reduction in income tax rates. Unfortunately, this proposal is flawed in two important ways: first, it relies on almost all of the Congressional Budget Office's recent forecast of an on-budget surplus of \$2.7 trillion over ten years, an amount that is by no means guaranteed. Second, the great majority of the tax relief would go to the wealthiest Americans.

The Bush proposal is not the only way to implement an across-the-board tax cut. The legislation I have introduced would provide tax relief to all working Americans in the form of a tax credit based on the amount paid in Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes, up to \$300 per individual and \$600 per couple filing jointly. At a cost of approximately \$40 billion per year, this credit would mean tax relief for each and every American who pays into Social Security and Medicare, but would not tie up the entire expected surplus. If for some reason the surplus does not meet current projections a few years down the road, we will not face a sudden deficit. In addition, there will be enough left over for other top priorities such as creating a prescription drug benefit under Medicare and improving America's schools.

Importantly, this proposal will benefit the three-quarters of Americans who pay more in

payroll taxes than in income tax. Unlike the Bush proposal, in which the top five percent of Americans would receive fifty percent of the tax cut, my bill will offer everyone who currently pays into Social Security and Medicare a credit of up to \$300, even if they owe no income tax. The worker at the bottom of the income scale will receive the same dollar credit as the highest-paid CEO. Of course, \$300 means much more to someone making the minimum wage.

Much has been said recently about the need for an across-the-board tax cut to stimulate the economy. Experts agree that the best way to do this is to put more money immediately in the hands of those who will pump it back into the economy. A \$2 trillion tax cut for the wealthy that provides only \$21 billion in relief in the first year will not accomplish this goal. A refundable payroll tax credit, which does not exclude lower- and middle-income workers, is what our country needs. I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense proposal.

TRIBUTE TO MARY COZZOLINO

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise today in recognition of Mary Cozzolino and her ongoing dedication to serving the growing needs of families in Central New Jersey. I applaud the achievements she has made working to address the diverse needs of a growing community.

Recently, Mary was elevated from Deputy Mayor to Mayor of Manalapan; thus becoming the youngest female ever elected to public office in New Jersey, as well as the youngest elected official in Monmouth County.

Mary became involved in Manalapan politics when she noticed that the township's leadership had become complacent and developers were being treated better than the residents. Mary was dedicated to bringing a different kind of politics to Manalapan, a politics where people mattered and the interests of the public are paramount.

Mary currently serves as vice-chair of the Young Dems of Monmouth County. In this capacity she works to elevate the interests of young people to actively participate in politics. Speaking at various youth forums throughout New Jersey, Mary highlights the importance for young people to begin shaping public debate on issues of concern.

Mary has worked in varying capacities on a wide range of public interest issues. She has served as the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG). Mary has also served as a Campaign Organizer for NJPIRG and she even spent some time working in Washington to address national issues with the United States Public Interest Research Group.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of Mayor Mary Cozzolino and ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing her steadfast commitment to serving our community.

TRIBUTE TO DIANA S. CLARK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Diana S. Clark, former President of the Dallas chapter of the League of Women Voters, the Texas League of Women Voters and recipient of the Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award for her years of exceptional service. Mrs. Clark passed away on January 16, 2001 at the age of 71.

Although not a native Texan, Mrs. Clark provided meaningful and significant service to Texas and its people. She began her extensive community service in 1965 and served on boards and commissions including the Waters Resources Council, the Texas Adult Probation Commission, Women's issues network, the Older Women's League and the Dallas Alliance. She was a founding member of the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center League. For twenty years, she was a volunteer mediator with the Dispute Mediation Service. During her tenure, she mediated civil matters and served as President and a member of the board.

She also served on the advisory board for the Judicial Advisory Council of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and was appointed to the Commission of Judicial Efficiency. Although not a lawyer, the Dallas Young Lawyers Association honored her with its Dallas Liberty Bell Award, which is presented annually to a nonlawyer who has made the most selfless contribution to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of justice.

I served on several volunteer organizations with Mrs. Clark. Because I knew her and her work well, I am deeply saddened that Texas has lost a veteran community leader. I ask the House to join me in remembering and paying tribute to Diana Clark, a great advocate.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN CRANSTON

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, Alan Cranston, who died at the age of eighty-six on December 31, 2000, represented California in the United States Senate from 1969 until 1993. In addition to a distinguished political career, Alan was an accomplished writer and journalist, businessman, international advisor, and leader in the movement to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Alan was effective in everything he pursued because he had the intelligence to understand conceptual complexities and the pragmatism to achieve what he wanted. He and Pat Brown rejuvenated the California Democratic Party and led it to power in 1958. My own experience with Alan goes back to 1960 when I was a student at UCLA and he was a model for young Democrats to follow. We were both active in the California Democratic Council, a grassroots party organization, and I was grateful for the personal support he gave me a number of years later when I decided to run for public office.

I learned from Alan that the enactment of good legislation could not be accomplished without attracting good people to our party. He was a visionary in knowing how to help build a party to lead California, but he also worked hard on the everyday nuts and bolts decisions that would make it happen. He brought the same skills to the U.S. Senate in 1968. He was a visionary in shaping the debate on great issues—the Vietnam War, nuclear proliferation, the rights of the disabled, medical care for veterans—and he served as the Majority Whip for fourteen years. He was a consummate vote counter and leadership strategist, and he had a hand in crafting and moving some of the most important legislation enacted while he served.

Lance Murrow once said, "Leaders make things possible. Great leaders make them inevitable." By every estimation, Alan Cranston was a great leader.

COMMENDING FEDERAL JUDGE J. ROBERT ELLIOTT UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, the lives of some public men are like sandy riverbanks. They are swept molded and sometimes even swept away by the swirling currents of popular passion and trendy opinion.

Others are like breakwaters. Their lives are built on principles that keep them steadily in place even in the face of such a torrent.

U.S. Judge J. Robert Elliott is just such a man. He retired this December at age 91 from the U.S. Federal Court in Columbus making him the longest-serving judge in the Federal Courts' history. During this long career, he was faced with many difficult and politically charged cases ranging from civil rights, to the My Lai Massacre in Vietnam, and more recently, protest marches at the School of the Americas.

Judge Elliott is the son of a Methodist preacher and began developing those solid principles at his father's knee. They continued to be molded during the depths of Great Depression as he first worked as a teacher and then later as he attended and was a graduate from Emory University Law School. Through it all he developed a profound respect for the absolute necessity of distinguishing between right and wrong, the value of hard work, the importance of common sense, and the indispensable nature of the rule of law in a free society.

These principles continued to serve him after he was appointed as a Federal judge. Judge Elliott worked 51 weeks a year for almost four decades on the bench. He did all of his own research and writing, unlike many other Federal judges who rely on law clerks.

He ruled his courtroom with common sense as well as a dry sense of humor. The Columbus Ledger Enquirer recounts that an attorney once approached the bench to whisper: "Your honor, one of the jurors is asleep."

"It seems so," Judge Elliott replied.

"Aren't you going to wake him up?" the lawyer asked.

"You put him to sleep—you wake him up," Judge Elliott responded.

Judge Elliott's commitment to the rule of law was put to the test after President John F. Kennedy appointed him to the Federal Bench in 1962. The civil rights campaign was beginning to heat up with marches, demonstrations, and outbreaks of violence. Judge Elliott was steeped in the Southern traditions of those times. As Governor Herman Talmadge's floor leader in the Georgia House, he had taken strong positions on such issues, even advocating a "Whites only" primary.

But when he raised his hand and swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States, this obligation superceded any personal opinions or past political positions. He proved that a man of integrity would enforce laws that he might have opposed in the past. He had sworn to uphold the law and he stood by his oath ordering desegregation of businesses, schools and public places.

His rulings were not always without controversy as he applied common sense to try to bring a balance between the competing interests of public safety and the right to protest. He issued an injunction stopping marches in Albany, GA to try and cool dangerously heated passions, but later ordered the City of Albany to stop arresting peaceful civil rights marchers. He ordered districts to desegregate schools. Despite sharp criticism from both sides of the controversy, the appellate courts eventually vindicated him.

Later, when the nation was most deeply divided by the Vietnam War, Judge Elliott courageously overturned the military conviction of Lt. William Calley for the 1971 My Lai Massacre in South Vietnam because the fierce pre-trial publicity had robbed the defendant of any chance for a fair trial.

Judge Elliott was not afraid to take on big corporations. When he learned that chemical giant DuPont had concealed evidence during a 1993 civil trial concerning the fungicide Benlate, he slapped the firm with a \$115 million penalty. Prior to his decision, DuPont had taken out numerous full-page advertisements declaring its innocence. The company's refusal to accept responsibility led Judge Elliott to offer a decrease in the penalty if the firm published full-page ads admitting it was wrong. DuPont still balked at the advertisements, but was eventually forced to settle the lawsuit and pay a multi-million-dollar fine.

Most recently Judge Elliott has displayed his rare blend of respect for the law, common sense and compassion in dealing with the annual protests at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning. He was lenient with first-time offenders, but hard on the demonstrators who repeatedly trespassed on military property. He sentenced several of them to prison, living up to his nickname, "Maximum Bob."

Judge Elliott's rulings may have generated some comment over the years, but not because he wasn't consistent in his insistence on the rule of law. We live in a day when truth is constantly undermined by "deconstruction"; the meaning of the word "is" is subject to redefinition; and so-called legal scholars advocate that the Constitution be stretched and "reinterpreted" to fit any transient political whim. We should be grateful for a principled man like Judge J. Robert Elliott whose lifetime of service reminds us that the Constitution and the law actually mean what they say.

Judge Elliott had been an elected politician before ascending to the bench and he knew the difference between being a legislator and

a jurist. He understood that as a politician, his duty was to make laws, but as a judge, his job was to fairly apply the law, as written by the legislators, in his courtroom. This critical distinction has become obscured in recent years because too many judges have taken to legislating from the bench and, in the process, attempting to rewrite laws to suit their personal preferences.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, but especially during his four decades on the federal bench, Judge J. Robert Elliott has been a credit to his native state of Georgia, and the community of Columbus. His departure is our loss. My hope is that the President and the other body will refer to Judge Elliott's example as they consider future judicial appointments. My prayer is that all such future appointees will have Judge Elliott's reverence for our Constitution and the rule of the law and his personal characteristics of hard work, integrity. If they do, we will have judges who will be faithful to the call of ensuring justice for all, and will leave legislation to the elected representatives of the people.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
VANDERVEER/KNOX HOUSE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish today in recognition of the historical importance of the Revolutionary War era Vanderveer/Knox House. Located on the Lamington Farm in Bedminster, the Vanderveer/Knox House played a significant role in shaping the outcome of the American Revolutionary War.

The town of Bedminster is one of the most important Revolutionary War sites in New Jersey. The town served as the military headquarters for General Knox during the war, where it was used as an artillery range, as well as a training ground for American officers prior to the establishment of West Point.

Recently, during the construction of The Hills housing community, nearly 30,000 Colonial artifacts were unearthed. These items included everything from belt buckles and artillery shells to glass bottles and ceramic pieces. The collection of artifacts will eventually be displayed at the township-owned Vanderveer/Knox House, which is presently being restored through the efforts of many dedicated volunteers.

I would like to take a moment to recognize three individuals whose dedication has played a significant role in preserving this piece of local history; they are Grania Allport, Nancy Buck Pine, and Bunny Price. Without their tireless efforts this project would not enjoy the broad public support that it has.

The house is a fine example of period architecture and construction. It is now being restored carefully and thoughtfully. It has been important in history and will be educationally important into the future.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of everyone involved in the preservation of this significant historical structure.

INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT
EXILE: THE SAFE STREETS AND
NEIGHBORHOODS ACT OF 2001

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing Project Exile: The Safe Streets and Neighborhoods Act, which passed the House overwhelmingly last year. In the last several years, many states, including Virginia, have dramatically reduced the level of gun crime in their communities by implementing programs that ensure mandatory prison time for criminals who use guns during the commission of a violent crime. This approach enforces the laws already on the books, and it ensures a minimum prison sentence of at least five years for convicted violators.

In states and communities around the country where aggressive prosecution of gun crimes has been coupled with tough prison sentences, violent crime has decreased. This program is based upon the remarkably successful experience of the joint federal, state, and local effort in Richmond, Virginia, which witnessed an amazing 40% reduction in its homicide rate since their program's inception in 1997.

Following this model, Project Exile provides \$100 million in federal resources over five years as an incentive for states to implement such programs. It will also defray the costs associated with tougher enforcement against gun-toting criminals. Project Exile encourages the enforcement of existing laws and helps communities mobilize to get the word out on the street that gun violence won't be tolerated. The Act provides funds for strengthening the state criminal justice system in a variety of ways, such as: hiring and training more judges, prosecutors, and probation officers; increasing prison capacity; and, creating public awareness campaigns regarding tougher prison sentences for criminals who use guns. Project Exile gives local prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and the courts the flexibility and the resources needed to get gun-wielding criminals out of our neighborhoods and off our streets.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful this bill will move swiftly from our halls to the President's desk and become law. I urge my colleagues to support Project Exile: The Safe Streets and Neighborhoods Act.

TERRORIST INDIAN POLICE MURDER
SIKHS, KASHMIRI RICKSHAW
DRIVER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently a Kashmiri rickshaw driver was killed by Sikh police officers. In retaliation, five Sikhs were killed, and later, a sixth Sikh was murdered at a peaceful protest rally. These killings are tragic, and I know every member of the U.S. House of Representatives condemns these murders.

I have recently met with representatives of several minority groups from within India who

claim that these murders are part of the Indian government's deliberate strategy of setting minorities against each other for the purpose of keeping them within India and under the boot of Indian tyranny. According to these representatives, the Indian police have been recruiting members of the Black Cats, a notorious criminal terrorist gang in India, into the police force. They are apparently handing out these plum positions in the police force as a reward for the "good work" the Black Cats have done for the government. Tragically, this "good work" consists mainly of killing Sikhs and other minorities. It is these Black Cats, often dressed as police, who often carry out these minority-targeted murders.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has put out a press release condemning these murders. He points out that the killings serve no one's interest but that of the Indian government. "When these things happen, just as in Chithi Singhpora, you have to ask the question: Who benefits?" Dr. Aulakh said. According to him, "In all these cases, the answer is the same: the Indian government. Neither the Sikh Nation nor the Kashmiris benefit in any way from the murders of Sikhs or Kashmiris." He noted that there were some threats to destroy a Muslim mosque in retaliation for the murders. It is the Indian government that has a record of attacking, desecrating, and destroying Christian, Sikh, and Muslim religious places. Dr. Aulakh urged both communities to keep their cool and not to be sucked into the Indian government's strategy. "The Indian government has shown its disregard for basic human rights," said Dr. Aulakh.

Mr. Speaker, the hard-working American taxpayers should not be taxed to support this kind of a government. American principles of freedom require that we help these people. We should stop all aid to India until it stops repressing its minorities and we should put the Congress on record demanding a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in predominantly Christian Nagaland, and anywhere else where people seek their freedom from India. These actions will go a long way towards bringing freedom to the subcontinent. I urge this Congress and President Bush to act now in support of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following press release from the Council of Khalistan's about this terrible incident; into the RECORD. I urge all my colleagues to read it carefully. It is very revealing about the true nature of Indian "democracy."

SIKHS CONDEMN KILLINGS IN KASHMIR, APPEAL TO BOTH COMMUNITIES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT—DO NOT BECOME PART OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S DIVIDE AND RULE STRATEGY—INDIA SHOULD FREE KASHMIR AND KHALISTAN INSTEAD OF MURDERING PEOPLE

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 6, 2001—The Council of Khalistan today condemned this week's killings of five Sikhs and the murder of a Muslim scooter driver by Indian Sikh security force personnel in Kashmir. "These killings are reprehensible," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh Nation's struggle for independence. "Neither Sikhs nor Muslims nor any other people should be killed because of who they are," he said. "These killings only advance the Indian government's divide and rule strategy," he said. "I urge both the Sikh community and the Muslim community not to get worked up and

commit more violence against each other," said Dr. Aulakh.

"When these things happen, just as in Chithi Singhpora, you have to ask the question: Who benefits?" Dr. Aulakh said. "In all these cases, the answer is the same: the Indian government. Neither the Sikh Nation nor the Kashmiris benefit in any way from the murders of Sikhs or Kashmiris."

Members of the violent Black Cats commandos have been recruited into the police due to their "good work"—killing Sikhs and other minorities. These Indian agents have infiltrated Sikh organizations and Muslim organizations. "They were the ones who threatened to destroy a mosque in retaliation for the killings," Dr. Aulakh noted. "No Sikh would ever destroy anyone's religious places. But the theocratic Hindu militant government of India has a record of doing so," he said. He noted that the BJP destroyed the Babri mosque and still plans to build a Hindu temple on the spot. A mosque in Kashmir was also destroyed. Hindu militants affiliated with the RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP, have burned Christian churches. The Indian government attacked the Golden Temple and 38 other Sikh Gurdwaras in Punjab in June 1984.

Tens of thousands of Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. India is in gross violation of international law. The government of India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 200,000 Christians since 1947, over 70,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." Government-allied Hindu militants have murdered priests, and raped nuns. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) described the rapists as "patriotic youth" and called the nuns "Nantinational elements." Hindu radicals, members of the Bajrang Dal, burned missionary Graham Stewart Staines and his two sons, ages 10 and 8, to death while they surrounded the victims and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god.

"India is not a democracy for Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, and other minorities," said Dr. Aulakh. The rights guaranteed in the Indian constitution are not enjoyed by non-Hindus," he said. "Congressman Rohrabacher was right when he said that for minorities 'India might as well be Nazi Germany.'" Police witnesses have confirmed that the police tortured and murdered the former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Gurdev Singh Kaunke, and human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra.

Sikhs ruled Punjab up to 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent. Sikhs were equal partners during the transfer of power from the British. The Muslim leader Jinnah got Pakistan for his people, the Hindu leaders got India, but the Sikh leadership was fooled by the Hindu leadership promising that Sikhs would have "the glow of freedom" in Northwest India and the Sikhs took their share with India on that promise.

Sikhism was not even recognized in the Indian constitution as a separate religion, while Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc. were recognized. Discrimination against the Sikh Nation took place in every sphere. After the Golden Temple attack, the Sikh Nation stepped up its struggle to achieve its God-given right to be free. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared the independence of its homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution. The Sikh Nation demands freedom for its homeland, Khalistan.

"Democracies don't commit genocide," Dr. Aulakh said. "In a democracy, the right to

self-determination is the sine qua non and India should allow a plebiscite in Kashmir and Punjab, Khalistan," he said. "Only freedom will bring peace and justice in South Asia."

THE DEATH OF J.J. JOHNSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life and work of jazz great James "J.J." Johnson. A legendary trombone player, J.J. Johnson made an indelible mark on bebop jazz. He died on February 4th at the age of 77.

During his six decade career, Johnson played with some of the most influential musicians in jazz, including Benny Carter, Dizzy Gillespie and, one of my personal favorites, Charlie Parker. Early in his career, he joined Benny Carter's big band and recorded his first professional work with it. Johnson revolutionized the playing of the trombone, ensuring its place in the world of jazz music. He was one of the first musicians to successfully integrate the trombone into the intricate rhythms and phrasing of bebop. In later years, he worked as a composer and arranger, and during the 1970s wrote scores for several television shows and feature films.

Jazz is a national treasure and true American art form. In turn, jazz musicians should be lauded for their many contributions to American culture. It is in that vein that I salute the life and work of one of the jazz greats, James "J.J." Johnson.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION MANOOGIAN-DEMIRDJIAN SCHOOL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Armenian General Benevolent Union Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Canoga Park, CA.

On February 2, 1976, a concerned group of leaders from the Armenian General Benevolent Union, an international philanthropic organization headquartered in New York, established the Manoogian-Demirdjian private school in Van Nuys, CA with 19 students and 3 faculty members. I am pleased to inform you today that it now stands in Canoga Park, CA, with a student body of 958 and 104 faculty members.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian General Benevolent Union Manoogian-Demirdjian School is now the largest Armenian School by population in North America. The high standards and academic achievements of the students have made it one of the most well-known private schools in southern California. I would like to mention that among this year's 60 Seniors, one received a perfect SAT score of 1600, one has been nominated to the Presidential Scholars Pool, and two others are National Merit Scholars.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in extending our congratulations to the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School on its Silver anniversary and wish them continued success in future endeavors.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES FRANCO MINERVINI FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish today in recognition of Franco Minervini for his dedication to the cause of social justice for Italian-Americans. I applaud the achievements he has made fighting prejudice as an active member of his community and a positive contributor to our society.

Throughout his distinguished career as an artist, educator, and business owner, Franco Minervini has been a tireless advocate for central New Jersey's Italian-American community. As a member and former State Chairman of the Commission for Social Justice, the anti-defamation arm of the Order Sons of Italy in America, Franco has made it his lifelong goal "to fight our society's relaxed attitude toward prejudice."

Franco's achievements have won him praise from such organizations as the Ocean Township's Italian American Association, the National Police Defense Foundation and the Order Sons of Italy in America.

In addition to being a champion for Italian-American issues, Mr. Minervini is a nationally renowned sculptor and proprietor of the Freehold based Dependable Machinery Company. Franco has served as the program coordinator of "Italy's Heroes of the Holocaust", "A Debt to Honor", and "Yours is a Precious Witness" exhibits shown at both Brookdale Community College and Rowan University.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of Franco Minervini and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his steadfast commitment to serving our community.

EFFECTIVE DATES FOR AWARDS TO VETERANS' SURVIVORS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which would permit the families of veterans who died as a result of a service-connected injury to collect benefits from the date of the veteran's death.

On August 27, 1984, L.H. Bailey died in the VA Medical Center in Honolulu of lung cancer. Mr. Bailey had served in the Vietnam theater and received the Vietnam Service medal. In 1993 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determined that lung cancer was a medical condition related to Agent Orange exposure.

Following the announcement of the Secretary's determination, Mr. Bailey's widow filed

for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation based on the Secretary's determination and was granted benefits from August 6, 1993, the date the VA received her claim. However, she received no benefits for the nearly nine years between Mr. Bailey's death and the date the VA determined that as a matter of law the lung cancer was caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

It is unfair to deny the families of veterans benefits due solely to a delay on the part of the VA to acknowledge that the veteran died as a result of his military service. Mr. Bailey and other veterans died as a result of their service to their country. Their families should not be punished because the VA was slow to recognize the cause of their death.

My bill corrects this unfairness. It requires the VA to grant the families Dependency and Indemnity Compensation awards from the date of the veteran's death, regardless of when the VA acknowledged the service-connection of the veterans death.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in co-sponsoring this legislation.

ALASKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA PROGRAM

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, in 1992 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council established, and the Secretary of Commerce by regulation began implementing, the western Alaska community development quota (CDQ) program. Over the past nine years, the CDQ program has made a valuable contribution to improving economic and social conditions in the small Alaska Native villages on the coast of the Bering Sea that participate in the program.

In 1994 a question was raised whether the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorized the Council to establish and the Secretary to implement the CDQ program. In response, in 1996 I sponsored a provision that the 104th Congress enacted as section 111 of the Sustainable Fisheries Act that amended the Magnuson-Stevens Act to explicitly authorize the CDQ program.

The provision—section 305(i)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act—settled the authorization question; however, it does not provide guidance to the Secretary for implementing the CDQ program, nor does it authorize the state of Alaska to assist the Secretary to implement the program or establish the terms and conditions for the state's participation.

In addition, over the past nine years the business activities of the six groups that the eligible communities have organized to participate in the CDQ program have become increasingly sophisticated. Initially, each CDQ group simply contracted with an existing fishing company to harvest the share of the total allowable catch of Bering Sea pollock that the group was allocated. In exchange, the group received a royalty payment from the company, as well as employment opportunities for village

residents and other local economic development benefits. However, today the CDQ groups are participating in all Bering Sea directed fisheries through substantial equity interests in established fishing companies. In addition, in 1998 when it enacted the American Fisheries Act the 105th Congress created a loan program—contained in section 211(e) of the American Fisheries Act—that encourages CDQ groups to make additional investments.

It is important that the implementation of the CDQ program reflect these new realities. For that reason, Congress needs to provide the Secretary, the CDQ groups, the fishing companies in which the CDQ groups own equity interests, and the state of Alaska clear guidance regarding how the CDQ program should be implemented.

Last October I introduced H.R. 5565 whose enactment would have amended section 305(i)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to provide that guidance. Unfortunately, there was not enough time for the U.S. House of Representatives to consider H.R. 5565 prior to the adjournment of the 106th Congress. For that reason, I today am reintroducing the legislation in the 107th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, this bill identifies that the objectives of the CDQ program are to provide eligible western Alaska communities the fair and equitable opportunity to participate in Bering Sea fisheries that Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standard 4 requires, and to assist eligible communities to achieve sustainable long-term diversified local economic development. The bill requires the Secretary to allocate to the CDQ program the same percentages of the total allowable catches and guideline harvest levels of Bering Sea directed fisheries that Congress through section 206 of the American Fisheries Act and the Secretary by regulation already have allocated to the program.

In 1998 Congress directed the National Academy of Sciences to study, and then to report to Congress regarding, the CDQ program. In 1999 the National Research Council delivered that report and, in part, recommended that the process through which the state of Alaska assists the Secretary in implementing the CDQ program should be clarified.

Pursuant to that recommendation, this legislation establishes a process for implementing the CDQ program. The bill I am introducing today establishes the terms and conditions for the state of Alaska's assistance to the Secretary in implementing the program. The bill also affords the CDQ groups an opportunity to decide among themselves the percentages of each Bering Sea directed fishing allowance that each group will harvest during a fishing year. If the CDQ groups cannot agree, the bill affords the groups an opportunity to jointly develop the criteria that the Secretary shall apply to allocate fishing opportunities among the groups (as well as for the state of Alaska to apply in developing its recommendations to the Secretary regarding the allocation of fishing opportunities).

On October 4, 2000 the General Counsel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a legal opinion that concluded that the text of the definition of the term "CDQ project" in 50 CFR 679.2 is ambiguous regarding whether programs and activities of fishing companies in which CDQ groups

own equity interests are "CDQ projects". For that reason, this bill defines the term "CDQ project" to clarify that a program or activity that is administered or initiated by a subsidiary, joint venture, partnership, or other entity in which a CDQ group owns an equity interest is not a "CDQ project" over which the Secretary may assert oversight authority if the program or activity is funded by the assets of the subsidiary, joint venture, partnership, or other entity, rather than by the assets of the CDQ group. The definition also clarifies that a program or activity that is administered or initiated by a CDQ group is not a "CDQ project" over which the Secretary may assert oversight authority if the program or activity is not funded by revenue that, during the duration of a community development plan, the group derives or accrues from harvesting the share of the percentage of the total allowable catch or guideline harvest level of a directed Bering Sea fishery that the Secretary authorized the group to harvest when he approved the group's plan.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in response to my introduction of H.R. 5565, at its December 2000 meeting in Anchorage the North Pacific Fishery Management Council voted to organize a committee to review the Secretary and the state of Alaska's administration of the CDQ program and to identify needed changes. I am pleased that the Council did so, and I look forward to considering the committee's suggestions. However, the committee's work is not a substitute for action by Congress.

ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA—MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to two individuals from New Jersey whose outstanding community service has earned them the title of "Man and Woman of the Year" and the seats of honor at the Order Sons of Italy in America dinner February 11 in Hazlet, New Jersey.

This year's Woman of the Year is Manalapan Mayor Mary Cozzalino, the youngest female Italian-American elected official in the State of New Jersey. In addition to the many official, civic and volunteer contributions she is making to the citizens of Manalapan, she is also Police Commissioner, overseeing the security in this still-expanding Monmouth County Community.

This year's Man of the Year is Franco Minervini, a nationally-renowned sculptor whose highly-acclaimed works of art frequently express his Italian-American heritage. Mr. Minervini not only being honored for his artistic achievements. As former commissioner of the Commission for Social Justice, he is being honored for his hard work on fighting and exposing discrimination against Italian Americans.

Almost all of us who serve in the House are fortunate to have Sons of Italy lodges in our district, so it is important that we be occasionally reminded of the tremendous services the

Sons of Italy perform for our community and for health and education of our families. During the past 38 years, the Sons of Italy foundation has awarded over \$25 million in scholarships to Italian-American students. The Sons of Italy also provide funding for medical research on genetic diseases, homes for orphans, victims of natural disasters, international issues, and law enforcement support projects.

So, I would like to congratulate the Sons of Italy for its many years of commitment to helping others and for the selection of Franco Minervini and Mary Cozzalino, two individuals who embody the ideals and the goals of this fine organization.

SIKHS, MUSLIMS MURDERED IN KASHMIR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed when I read that more violence is taking place in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Some Sikh policemen murdered a Muslim rickshaw driver after he demanded that they pay their fare. In retaliation, five Sikhs were killed by a Muslim gunman. Then one more was killed while participating in a protest march. Now the Indian government has imposed a curfew in Jammu and Kashmir.

Recently, the Indian government has been recruiting members of the terrorist, vigilante commandos called the Black Cats into the police. This is apparently a reward for doing a good job of killing Sikhs and other minorities. The police who carried out the rickshaw murder are former Black Cats. It is an open secret that the former Black Cats have infiltrated Sikh and Kashmiri organizations for the purpose of setting them against each other.

As in the case of last March's massacre of 35 Sikhs at Chithi Singhpora, the relevant question that must be asked is who benefits? Mr. Speaker, neither the Sikhs nor the Muslims benefit from these killings. The only beneficiary is the theocratic, fundamentalist Hindu nationalist government of India and its divide-and-rule strategy. This looks like a clear effort to set the Sikhs and the Kashmiri freedom fighters against each other to keep both movements weak, divided, and unable to liberate their people. Sikhs have not usually been targets of the violence in Kashmir. These murders and the tragedy at Chithi Singhpora are the only recent incidents involving Sikhs. They are outside the usual pattern.

In addition, some of the participants in the protest threatened to harm a mosque. The Sikhs have not harmed any religious places, but the Indian government has a pattern of it. They invaded the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple, and 38 other Gurdwaras in 1984. The BJP destroyed the Babri mosque to put a Hindu temple where it sat. Since Christmas 1998, Christian churches and prayer halls have been attacked and burned. All of these acts have been carried out by the Indian government or by persons associated with the RSS, which is the parent organization of the BJP, the party that leads the coalition govern-

ment. BJP officials have said that anyone living in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus.

These murders have been condemned by the Kashmiri freedom fighters and by the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh freedom movement. No organization has come forth to take responsibility for the killings, another parallel to the massacre at Chithi Singhpora.

Mr. Speaker, one doesn't have to look very hard to find the hand of the Indian government on these terrible killings. This appears to be part of the Indian government's pattern of terrorism and repression against Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, and other minorities. In that light, this Congress should cut off American aid to India until the repression ends and human rights are restored and we should support a free and fair plebiscite to decide democratically the future of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and all the countries seeking their freedom from India. That is how to let the glow of freedom shine all over South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit an article from Reuters News Service on the Kashmir murders into the RECORD.

[From the Reuters News Service, Feb. 5, 2001]

KASHMIR CAPITALS PUT UNDER CURFEW AFTER KILLINGS

JAMMU, INDIA, Feb. 4 (Reuters).—Indian authorities imposed curfews on the two capitals of troubled Jammu and Kashmir state on Sunday after gunmen shot dead six Sikhs and wounded five others.

Srinagar, the state's summer capital, was brought under a curfew from Sunday following the killing of the Sikhs in the city's Mahjoor Nagar area the day before.

Similar measures were announced in the winter capital Jammu. "An indefinite curfew has been imposed in Jammu city from Monday in view of the heightening tension following the killing of the Sikhs," Deputy Commissioner of Police R.K. Goel said.

He said the curfew was imposed after Sikh groups had called for a general strike on Monday. A group of Sikhs threw stones at shops and cars and blocked traffic in Jammu on Sunday to protest against the killings.

A police official said in Srinagar that security had been tightened in Sikh areas of Kashmir, the only Indian state with a Muslim majority.

Separatist rebellion broke out in the Himalayan region in 1990, among Islamic groups seeking either independence or union with neighbouring Pakistan.

Authorities say more than 30,000 people have died in the conflict since.

The Sikh minority, who make up 300,000 of the state's eight million people, have usually been spared violence, which pits Islamic rebels against government forces, Hindus and pro-Indian Muslims.

No group claimed responsibility for Saturday's gun attack on the group of Sikhs. Last March, 35 Sikhs were shot dead by unidentified gunmen as U.S. President Bill Clinton visited India.

KASHMIRI SEPARATISTS CONDEMN KILLINGS

Several Kashmiri separatist groups expressed grief over the latest killings and said they were aimed at harming their struggle for freedom from Indian rule.

"We appeal to the Kashmiri Sikhs not to leave the (Kashmir) Valley and foil the designs of those who want to malign our freedom struggle," Abdul Majid Dar, chief commander of the guerrilla group Hizbul

Mujahideen, said in a statement. Kashmir's main separatist alliance, All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, condemned the killings, a spokesman of the alliance said.

The attack on Sikhs came a day after Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan's General Pervez Musharraf held their first talks in more than a year, prompted by the devastating earthquake in Western India.

In New Delhi, Bangaru Laxman, president of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, said the killings were a desperate attempt by militant groups to sabotage Vajpayee's peace initiative.

India recently extended a unilateral ceasefire which began last November 28 in Kashmir. Most militant Muslim groups rejected it and vowed to press on with their fight.

"The terrorist organisations must understand that the Indian government has the necessary will and the capabilities to completely crush the evil designs of the terrorist," Laxman said.

"Therefore, the government's peace initiatives need not be misunderstood as government's weakness."

Vajpayee is sending a three-member team to Srinagar on Monday to investigate the incident.