

home," he said. "But you know there are still a lot of land mines in the ground, on the routes into Kosovo and in many of the communities. You have suffered enough. I don't want any child hurt. I don't want anyone else to lose a leg or an arm or a child because of a land mine."

The president neglected to mention that while the retreating Serb army left many of those land mines, much of the danger to returning civilians comes from unexploded "bomblets" from cluster bombs dropped by NATO planes.

Unexploded ordnance dropped by NATO aircraft floods the province. Two NATO soldiers died trying to deactivate some of it, and some children died when they tried to play with it. Cluster bombs contain 202 of the bomblets that scatter over a wide area.

The bomblets' purpose is to kill enemy troops. But of course, as with land mines, it is civilians who pay the price.

None of this is new. There are more than 100 million land mines in the ground around the world, many of them in unmarked fields where even the soldiers who put them there cannot find them. Most were sown during regional conflicts, such as the decades-long Angolan Civil War. Afghanistan and Angola have roughly 9 million land mines each. The mines kill or maim some 26,000 civilians yearly.

Despite full knowledge of these obscene numbers, Clinton refused to sign the land mines treaty two years ago, even though 100 other nations did sign it. Now here he is in Macedonia warning civilians and their children about land mines, the spread of which he did nothing to stop, and cluster bomblets, which NATO deposited on Kosovar land.

It is heartening to see the president of the United States acknowledging the danger of land mines. Perhaps now he will turn his attention to halting their further proliferation.

TRIBUTE TO J.B. WHITTEMORE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I wish to recognize the remarkable life and spirit of Mr. J.B. Whittemore of Pueblo, Colorado. With this, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Whittemore who embodied and exemplified hard work, dedication, and compassion. For more than half of a century, he dedicated his energy to ensuring the happiness of thousands of Pueblo children, never letting a lack of money keep children from enjoying the ride.

J.B. Whittemore was born in Pueblo, Colorado in 1914, the same year in which the City Park carousel was manufactured. With nickels earned by milking cows, Mr. Whittemore escaped the world by riding the carousel.

On March 1, 1943, he joined the City Parks Department staff—a job which became a career spanning 33 years. While working for the City Parks Department, Mr. Whittemore also worked nights, Sundays and holidays as the maintenance man and operator of the City Park carousel. Just as Mr. Whittemore cared about the happiness of children, he also cared about his family. He loved and appreciated his family and shared his light with all.

Mr. Whittemore was a man of kindness and generosity. Through his involvement in the community, he touched the lives of many. His smile, his devotion, and his zest for life will long be remembered and admired. Those who have come to know J.B. Whittemore will miss him greatly. I am confident however, that in spite of this profound loss, the family and friends of Mr. Whittemore can take comfort in the knowledge that he made a significant impact on the quality of life of the citizens of Pueblo.

SIKH LEADER'S LETTER EXPOSES CONFLICT IN KASHMIR

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, India has recently undertaken a military effort to eliminate the freedom movement in Kashmir. Supporters of freedom for all the nations of South Asia, especially neighboring Punjab, Khalistan, are concerned that if this conflict spreads, it could be a threat to other nations inside India's borders.

Recently, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, wrote a letter to the *Washington Times* which I am sure will be of interest to my colleagues. He pointed out that the air attacks are really an attack on the Kashmiri freedom fighters. "India has not yet learned that people struggling for freedom cannot be suppressed by force forever," he wrote.

Dr. Aulakh wrote that "the reason for these conflicts is the denial of self-determination by the country that proclaims itself 'the world's largest democracy.'" This is the cause not only of the conflict in Kargil, but many of the political problems in South Asia. India spends its money to build nuclear weapons and forcibly maintain its unstable, polyglot country while half its people live below the international poverty line. To make it worse, India convened a meeting last month with China, Cuba, Serbia, and other enemies of our country "to stop the U.S." Why are the overstressed taxpayers of America supporting this kind of government?

Only when free and fair plebiscites on independence are held in those regions that are seeking their freedom can India legitimately claim that it is a democratic power. India promised the people of Kashmir a plebiscite in 1948. It promised the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, that they would have autonomy. India claims it is democratic and that there is no support for independence in these places or in Nagaland or any of the other lands it occupies. Then why not simply have a vote?

The conflict at Kargil shows that India is unstable. It is falling apart in front of our eyes. We should get on the right side of history and support the freedom movements by cutting off aid to India and by calling for free and fair plebiscites for those seeking freedom.

I insert the Council of Khalistan's letter into the RECORD.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES,
June 8, 1999.

India's recent air attacks on Kashmir are really a war on the Kashmiri freedom move-

ment. Everything India has tried to put down the freedom movement has failed, so now it has resorted to an air war against the Kashmiris. Sikhs are concerned that neighboring Punjab or Khalistan could be next.

This war is designed to suppress the freedom fighters in Kashmir. India has not yet learned that people struggling for freedom cannot be suppressed by force forever. This is why more than 500,000 Indian soldiers are stationed in Kashmir. Another 500,000 are stationed in Punjab to suppress the movement to free Khalistan. India has already lost two Russian-made MiG fighters and two helicopter gunships.

To suppress the freedom struggle, the Indian government has killed more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1948, more than 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988 and tens of thousands of others.

The reason for these conflicts is the denial of self-determination by the country that proclaims itself "the world's largest democracy." America periodically conducts democratic votes on the status of Puerto Rico, with independence as an option. Canada does the same for Quebec, and Great Britain recently allowed Scotland and Wales to elect their own parliaments, moving them one step closer to a vote on independence. If self-determination is good enough for them, why shouldn't the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland and others seeking their freedom from India enjoy the same rights?

The United States, Canada and Great Britain are major world powers. Not only is a free and fair plebiscite the democratic way to settle these issues, it is how great powers conduct themselves. India claims that there is no support for Khalistan. Then why not hold a free and fair vote? If India wants to be a world power and if it claims that it is democratic, then it should allow the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland and the others seeking their freedom to hold a plebiscite under international supervision on the question of independence so that this issue can be settled in a free and fair vote.

The war against the people of Kashmir shows the inherent weakness of the Indian government. Now is the best time for the people and nations of South Asia to claim their freedom. America can support this by cutting off aid to India until it lets people live in freedom and by declaring its open support for the freedom movements of South Asia.

GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President,
Council of Khalistan.

IN MEMORY AND TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. "JIMMY" CREAMER

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay solemn tribute to a distinguished colleague and dear friend, James J. "Jimmy" Creamer. I must confess that I can hardly believe that this man, so full of life and love, is no longer with us. Just last week, I ran into Jimmy in the halls of the Rhode Island State House. We had a typical conversation, laughing at Jimmy's stories and humorous insights into Rhode Island politics, and then he passed