

almost half of all American families have not seen their incomes return to the same purchasing power as they had before the 1990 recession. With so many people having stagnant incomes and only a few reaping most of the gains from the economy, we risk splitting our society in two.

Although many forces lie behind the growing inequality of income and wealth in America, it is clear that both government and corporate America have roles to play in narrowing the gap. For this reason, I am introducing the Income Equity Act of 1999. This legislation addresses the problem by encouraging corporate responsibility. For too many years, the trend in corporate America has been to pay top executives lavishly, while thinking of other employees as an expense or not thinking of them at all. My legislation will encourage companies to take a closer look at how they compensate their employees at both ends of the income ladder.

The Income Equity Act would place a new limit on our government's practice of subsidizing excessive executive pay through the tax code. My bill would enhance the current \$1,000,000 cap on the tax deduction for executive compensation with a cap set at 25 times the company's lowest full-time salary. For example, if a filing clerk at a firm earns \$18,000, then any amount of executive salary over \$450,000 would no longer be tax deductible as a business expense. This bill will not restrict the freedom of companies to pay their workers and executives as they please. It will send a strong message, however, that in return for tax deductions, the American taxpayer expects companies to compensate their lowest-paid workers fairly.

Economic inequality is a problem that will, if not addressed, tear apart the fabric of our democratic society. Our government has every reason, and every right, to encourage responsible corporate citizenship. The Income Equity Act is not the ultimate answer to the widening gap between the rich and the poor, but it is an important step toward ensuring that all Americans can share in our nation's prosperity.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE MONROE ALLEN

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 11, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 13, 1999, the State of Missouri lost a distinguished citizen. It is with great sadness that I inform the House of the death of George Monroe Allen of Harrisonville, MO.

Mr. Allen worked in the banking industry for 49 years. He served 21 years as president of the Citizens National Bank and then at the Commerce Bank of Harrisonville until his retirement in 1976. After his retirement Mr. Allen was elected State Representative of the 124th District of Missouri and served there until 1986. He also served with the Harrisonville Fire Department for 55 years, including 33 years as fire chief. An Army veteran, Mr. Allen

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

served his country with distinction during World War II, earning the Bronze Star for Valor.

Mr. Allen was an active member of the community. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, member and past commander of both the VFW Post #4409 and the American Legion Post #42, Cass Masonic Lodge #147 A.F.&A.M., past president and member of the Kiwanis Club, Harrisonville Civic Association, and the Harrisonville Area Chamber of Commerce.

I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his wife, Kathleen; his son, Nelson; his daughters, Linda and Trudy; his three grandchildren; and his great-grandson.

HINDU NATIONALISTS CONTINUE TO ATTACK CHRISTIANS IN "SECULAR" INDIA

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 11, 1999*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed by recent reports that there has been renewed violence against Christians in India. First a missionary and his two very young sons were burned to death in their jeep, then another nun was raped. Now the bodies of two more Christians have been found in the state of Orissa. Hindu nationalism is on an out-of-control rampage in India!

The Sunday, February 7 issue of the Washington Times reported that the Archbishop of New Delhi, Alan de Lastic, blamed "mercenaries" for these hate crimes. He called on the government to take strong action to stop these things from occurring. These "mercenaries" are associated with organizations like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a militant Hindu organization that comes under the militant, extremist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the party that leads the governing coalition, is also part of the RSS.

Several Christian churches, prayer halls, and religious missions were destroyed in the last couple of months by Hindu extremists affiliated with the VHP. How can the Indian government be expected to take strong action against the perpetrators of these vicious acts when the perpetrators are part of their own political network?

The violence forced many Christian congregations to cancel New Year's celebrations for fear of offending the Hindu militants, which could lead to further violence. Is this the secularism that India boasts about? Clearly, there is no religious freedom for these Christians in India.

Unfortunately, these are just the latest incidents of violence against Christians in India. Four nuns were raped last year by a Hindu gang. The VHP described the rapists as "patriotic youth" and called the nuns "antinational elements." To be Christian in secular India is to be an antinational element! At least three priests were killed in 1997 and 1998, and in

*February 11, 1999*

1997 police opened fire on a Christian festival that was promoting the theme "Jesus is the Answer."

Apparently, the Hindu Nationalists are afraid that the Dalits, or "Untouchables", the aboriginal people of South Asia who are at the bottom of the caste structure, are switching to other religions, primarily Christianity, thus improving their status. This undermines the caste structure which is the foundation of the Hindu social structure.

The Indian government has killed more than 200,000 Christians since 1947 and the Christians of Nagaland, in the eastern part of India, are involved in one of 17 freedom movements within India's borders. But the Christians are not the only ones oppressed for their religion.

India has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984 and over 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, as well as many thousands of other people. The holiest shrine in the Sikh religion, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, is still under occupation by plainclothes police, some 14 years after India's brutal military attack on the Golden Temple. The previous Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Gurdev Singh Kaunke, was killed in police custody by being torn in half. The police disposed of his body. He had been tortured before the Indian government decided to kill him.

The Babri mosque, the most sacred Muslim shrine in the state of Uttar Pradesh, was destroyed by the Hindu militants who advocate building a Hindu temple on the site. Yet India proudly boasts that it is a religiously tolerant, secular democracy.

This kind of religious oppression does not deserve American support. We should take tough measures to ensure that India learns to respect basic human rights. All U.S. aid to India should be cut off and we should openly declare U.S. support for self-determination for all the peoples of the subcontinent. By these measures we can help bring religious freedom and basic human rights to Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and everyone else in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I submit an article on the archbishop's statement from the February 7 Washington Times into the RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, February 7, 1999]

#### MERCENARIES BLAMED FOR ATTACKS IN INDIA

NEW DELHI—A prominent Catholic archbishop yesterday blamed "mercenaries" for a spate of attacks on Christians here and blamed the Indian government for tardy action against the perpetrators.

New Delhi Archbishop Alan de Lastic, in a scathing attack on national and state governments, called for justice for the growing number of Christian victims of murder, rape and battery in India.

A nun was raped Wednesday night in the eastern state of Orissa where Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were burnt to death in their car by a Hindu mob on January 22.

The rape and the Staines' murders followed a spate of anti-Christian violence in the western state of Gujarat over Christmas.

Radical Hindu groups linked to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's ruling BJP party have been blamed for inciting the attacks.