Sharif, who has been in military custody since he was deposed in the October 12th coup, has been moved to the port city of Karachi in a military aircraft in preparation for a court appearance.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, there are some who seem to welcome the seizure of military power by the military in Pakistan as a recipe for stability. I believe this is misguided thinking. First, as the rocket attacks against American targets last week indicate, the military regime is no better at maintaining stability and security than the previous civilian government. Furthermore, this year’s Pakistani attack on India in Kashmir demonstrates behavior that is highly destabilizing and could lead to a wider war that would devastate much of South Asia.

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Although initially skeptical about the breadth of this legislative approach, the administration eventually endorsed it, and I am particularly appreciative of the support of Secretary Summers in this cause. In Congress, a number of our colleagues have been instrumental in bringing this initiative to the floor, and I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Arkansas (Ms. BACHUS), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMY) on this side of the aisle, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LaPALLO), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) on the other.

That we are able to consider debt relief today is a result of extensive collaboration and dialogue with a coalition of non-traditional lobbyists. Such non-governmental organizations as OXFAM and Bread for the World have provided much needed impetus to the effort, and a group of some 200 religious groups embracing the entire spectrum of faiths and denominations have united under the banner of Jubilee 2000.

The term “jubilee” is particularly appropriate, as the Old Testament Biblical concept of restoration, providing a fresh start, in this case for the most abject poor, at the beginning of the new millennium. A central text is Leviticus 25, which contains the injunction, “and you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land... In the year of this jubilee, you shall return every man unto his possession.”

As the Book of Proverbs reminds, “If you refuse to listen to the cry of the poor, your own cry will not be heard.”

The Jubilee movement is worldwide, but American leadership is critical. In recent years we have demonstrated to the world our record in the use of force. Now we must show an equal commitment to leading in the delivery of compassion. In a world in which divisions between rich and poor daily become more accentuated, it is imperative that Jubilee relationships be righted, that the alternative to war and famine with their attendant social and capital costs be averted.

Just as the Marshall Plan symbolized practicality and generosity at the end of the greatest war in human history, debt relief under the Jubilee banner stands at the end of the second millennium after the birth of Christ as a critical moral response to social challenges in parts of the world where poverty is endemic and governments have proven unable or unwilling to serve well their people.

PROVIDING HOPE AND HELP TO FLOOD-RAVAGED NORTH CAROLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

As a result of the flooding, lives have been disrupted, disturbed, and disordered. Tens of thousands were forced from their homes. Mr. Speaker, 11,000 homes were destroyed, and hundreds are living in a state of virtual homelessness. One-third of our population continues to suffer from a disaster that is unprecedented in the entire history of the State of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, we faced record high floodwaters covering more than 20,000 square miles, an area greater than the size of the whole State of Maryland. Many people lost everything, their homes, their farms, their businesses, and their loved ones. The full amount of damage is still yet unknown.

As we begin to move from the phase of immediate relief to the phase of recovery and then rebuilding and reconstruction, many in the private sector have been helping as well. Certainly, the Red Cross and Salvation Army have been at work. Business enterprises have stepped forward with their support. Individual citizens from across the Nation have helped. The church community is doing its part and will do more. In fact, on December 19, the church community across the country will hold a nationwide effort to gather support from various denominations to help with the housing needs, especially for those who are the working poor, disadvantaged and senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I believe those Members and staffs who joined us on the November 6 now have a clear view of the needs of the people of eastern North Carolina. I believe those Members and staff now understand why this Congress must indeed pass an emergency rebuilding and reconstruction package when we return in January.

When Congress returns, I and others will put before the Congress a comprehensive rebuilding and reconstruction bill. At that time, we will seek the support of our colleagues in the House and Senate, as well as the support of the administration.

One aspect of the legislation we will introduce will be the provision of grants rather than loans for those homeowners and businessowners who simply cannot be helped by loans alone. Unless we are able to provide grants, there are many, many who owned homes before the storm will not
be able to afford replacement houses after the storm. Unless we are able to provide grants, there are many businesses, small farmers who were in business before the storm, but will not be able to return or remain in business because of the storm.

Over the years, America has come to the aid of many in foreign countries, as we should and as we must continue to do. We have helped to rebuild Europe. We have helped to boost the recovery of Japan. We have come and will continue to come again and again to the aid of Kosovo. Surely, Mr. Speaker, we can come to the aid of our fellow citizens in eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, America is at its best when conditions of our fellow citizens are at their worst. America was at its best on November 6 when those Members of Congress who happen to be from Texas and I had the honor of voting for, for whom I am very appreciative, although I was forced to vote against the bill because it did not contain $81 million promised by the Senate leadership for the agricultural cooperative that would have aided our tobacco farmers, our peanut and cotton farmers. There were indeed provisions in there that will provide a response to the Housing needs and additional resources for agriculture and loans and grants. I also want to thank the administration for its support.

With this budget, we have made a significant step, but only a step. Much, much more is needed before we can say that Congress has done its part. We must, indeed, do more.

TRAGEDY AT TEXAS A&M
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as one of the last speakers to speak in this chamber in this century in terms of other than the purely procedural motion, it is with great sadness that I rise this evening to talk of a terrible tragedy that happened earlier this morning in College Station, Texas.

The university where I graduated from in 1972 and where my father graduated from in 1947, where my son graduated from in 1993, and my daughter in 1997, has a tradition called Bonfire. But this year, and she hopes to attend Texas A&M truly is a family. There are over 250,000 living former students of Texas A&M, and the Aggie family, literally all over the world, is in shock and mourning for the students and their families, the students that were injured and killed and their families.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other Aggie traditions, one of which, unfortunately, will have to be utilized in the very near future. Silver Taps is a tradition at Texas A&M where any student that dies while an active student, there is a ceremony on campus where all of the lights are turned out in the evening, all the students gather at a common area in front of the academic building and Silver Taps are played. Sometime in December, there will be Silver Taps for the students that were killed earlier this morning and Aggies mourn their passing.

There is a memorial service that is going on as we speak. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), whose district Texas A&M is located in, flew down to College Station earlier this afternoon and he was the students there as they have that memorial service this evening.

The bonfire has been held every year but one year since 1909. In 1963, after the assassination of President Kennedy, the bonfire was canceled. That is the only time that it has been canceled until next week. Because of the tragic accident, there will be no bonfire at Texas A&M next week before the football game between Texas University and Texas A&M.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise in strongest sympathy this evening. I would ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pray for the families whose children have been killed or injured. I have one more daughter, Kristin, who is a senior in high school this year, and she hopes to attend Texas A&M. It is my hope that the A&M administration, President Bowen, who is an excellent academic leader and faculty leader at Texas A&M, will conduct a full investigation of this accident. If there is a way to find a cause and to prevent it from happening in the future, I know that he will do that, but I also hope that we do not cancel the bonfire in the future.

Again, hundreds of thousands of former students of Texas A&M have participated in the bonfire. With almost no exceptions, those who have participated have nothing but the highest regard, fondness, and support that the bonfire can continue in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues pray for the families of those students who lost their lives early this morning at Texas A&M.

GIVE A KID A CHANCE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Barton), to offer a sympathy to the families of the victims of the bonfire tragedy at Texas A&M University, those who lost their lives and those who were severely injured. My sympathy to my colleague, Congressman Brady whose district the university is in, and my sympathy to my constituents, many of whom attend Texas A&M and whose family members have attended Texas A&M. My prayers are with them and their families, and I hope that they will know that they are in our thoughts and that the university will proceed with a review of the circumstances. But I offer to them my deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the children of America, those children who suffer from severe mental health disorders. When we think of the tragedies that we have discussed over the past year, the hateful acts of students allegedly in Cleveland, Ohio; the tragedy of a killing of a middle school youngster in my own community; the enormous tragedy of Columbine; the killings in Fort Worth, Texas and Jonesboro, we do know that our children need help, need aid, need nursing, and need intervention.

The Child of America, the 13.7 million children in America suffer from severe mental disorders. I have long been an advocate for children's mental health services because I believe that good mental health is indispensable to overall good health.

Mr. Speaker, today I introduced Give a Kid a Chance Omnibus Mental Health Services Act of 1999. H.R. 3455 was offered and filed with over 42 original cosponsors. I believe that all children need access to mental health services, whether those services are provided in a private therapy session or in a group setting, in our communities, or available as an intervention method in our