

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 10, 2000, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather and therefore unable to be present and to cast votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 373, "no" on rollcall vote 374, "yea" on rollcall vote 375, "no" on rollcall vote 376, "yea" on rollcall vote 377, and "no" on rollcall vote 378.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to the weather, I was unavoidably detained during the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 373, on the Coburn amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall vote 374, on the Royce amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall vote 375, on the Crowley amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall vote 376, on the Royce amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall vote 377, on the Coburn amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

Rollcall vote 378, on the Sanford amendment to H.R. 4461, I would have voted yea.

MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SOURCING ACT**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 4391, the Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act. This legislation simplifies and modernizes a confusing web of contradictory tax codes involving wireless communications primarily by giving a common locus for taxation purposes.

It is the result of the outstanding work by state and local government representatives, in conjunction with members of the telecommunications industry. It will reform confusing tax laws involving the state and local taxation of wireless phone services. While I regret that the Commerce Committee did not have a more active role in this floor discussion, I am pleased that this legislation creates a uniform procedure for deciding where wireless services occur for purposes of taxation.

The representatives from state and local governments along with members of the telecommunications industry should be complimented for the work they have done in helping to develop this legislation. They were faced with many of the same issues that confronted the Advisory Commission on Electronic

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Commerce—numerous conflicting tax jurisdictions, strong industry interests, state and local revenue needs. Yet, after two years of extensive discussions and negotiations, these groups were able to come together and resolve the problem—whereas the ACEC failed to reach a similar consensus on Internet taxation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the various groups who seek to solve the Internet tax issues will see that good legislation that solves complicated fiscal issues can be accomplished with hard work and good faith efforts. The legislation before us today shows that a solution is possible which is acceptable to both members of the industry and taxing authorities—and which benefits the consumer.

I urge a strong "yes" vote on this legislation and I hope it will serve as a model for addressing similar issues in the future.

DECLARE INDIA A TERRORIST
STATE**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on June 28, the Washington Times published an excellent letter from our friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, calling for strong action to end religious persecution in India.

The letter cited the recent incident in which a Hindu woman poured boiling oil on militant Hindu fundamentalists who were attacking her tenant, a Catholic priest. The Hindu nationalists who carried out this attack are allies of the ruling BJP. It also refers to several other incidents, including the recent savage beating of some Christian missionaries, one so severely that he might lose his arms and legs.

The letter also made reference to a letter sent by 21 members of this House in which we asked the President to declare India a terrorist state because of its reign of terror against Christians which has been going in full force since Christmas 1998, as well as its oppression of Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it is not safe to be a minority in India.

India should be declared a terrorist state, its aid should be stopped, and the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and the other minorities of the subcontinent should enjoy self-determination. It is the responsibility of the Congress to speak out in support of these things.

I submit Dr. Aulakh's letter to the Washington Times for the RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, June 28, 2000]

OPPRESSION OF CHRISTIANS CONTINUES IN
INDIA

(By Gurmit Singh Aulakh)

We commend the Hindu woman who poured boiling oil on militant Hindu fundamentalists who were attacking her tenant, a Catholic priest ("Hindu woman protects Christian priest," World, June 25). This is an act of religious tolerance, which is very rare in India these days.

Last week, a bipartisan group of 21 members of the U.S. Congress wrote to President

Clinton asking him to declare India a terrorist state because of its oppression of Christians and religious minorities. They took note of the pattern of violence against Christians that has been going on since Christmas 1998.

Last month, four Christian missionaries who were distributing Bibles and religious pamphlets were beaten severely by militant Hindu fundamentalists. The beating was so severe that one of the victims may lose his arms and legs. In April, Hindu fundamentalists affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a pro-fascist organization that is the parent organization of the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), attacked a Christian group and burned biblical literature. In March, a Sikh family saved a group of nuns whose convent had come under attack from Hindu fundamentalists. On Easter, a group of nuns who were going to Easter services were run down by Hindu fundamentalists on motor scooters.

Churches have been burned, prayer halls and Christian schools have been destroyed, nuns have been raped, and priests have been murdered by the militant Hindu nationalists advocating "Hindutva," a Hindu culture, society and nation. Hindu fundamentalists chanting "Victory to hannuman," a Hindu god, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, to death while they slept in their Jeep. The Indian government, led by the Hindu nationalist BJP, has not taken action to punish the persons responsible for any of these atrocities.

Christians are the primary targets of the militant Hindu nationalists, but they are not the only ones who are suffering. In March, 35 Sikhs were murdered in the village of Chithi Singhpora in Kashmir. India promptly blamed Kashmiri "militants" and killed five Kashmiris, claiming that they were responsible. However, two independent investigations have established clearly that the Indian government's counterinsurgency forces carried out this massacre. India has since admitted that the five Kashmiris the government killed were innocent.

The Sikhs who were murdered in Chithi Singhpora join more than 250,000 Sikhs who have been murdered by the Indian government, according to "The Politics of Genocide," by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. In addition, the Indian government has killed more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits (the dark-skinned "untouchables," the aboriginal people of South Asia) and others. Tens of thousands of Sikhs are rotting in Indian jails as political prisoners without charge or trial.

This is nothing less than a campaign of terror designed to wipe out minority peoples and nations from the Indian subcontinent and achieve hegemony in South Asia. The United States should declare India a terrorist state because of these ongoing atrocities. It also should cut off American aid and trade to India and openly declare its support for self-determination for the minority peoples and nations of South Asia through an internationally supervised plebiscite on the question of independence. If India wants to be seen as a democratic nation and a major world power, it will stop its reign of terror against its minorities and allow them to exercise their democratic rights. Until then, America must hold India's feet to the fire.