

be declared a violator of basic religious rights, with all the penalties that entails. It must be declared a terrorist nation, as 21 of us wrote to President Clinton earlier this year, and a hostile country, as 17 of us wrote in another letter. Given this abysmal record the United States must stop its aid to India and demand a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and throughout India to decide the future of these Indian-held states in a democratic way. These measures will help to ensure that the glow of freedom can finally shine on all the people of South Asia.

I would like to submit the Council of Khalistan's open letter on this incident into the RECORD at this time. It is very informative, and I urge everyone to read it.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, December 7, 2000.

POLICE HARASS SIKH PILGRIMS TO DISCOURAGE THEM FROM VISITING NANKANA SAHIB

THERE IS NO PLACE FOR SIKHS IN INDIAN "DEMOCRACY"—PROFESSOR DARSHAN SINGH SAID AT NANKANA SAHIB, "IF A SIKH IS NOT A KHALISTANI, HE IS NOT A SIKH"

KHALSA JI: Last month, it was my privilege to attend the 531st birthday celebration of Guru Nanak Sahib. I would like to thank everyone involved for their hospitality. However, some Sikh pilgrims from Punjab who tried to attend this important religious event were not so cordially treated. A majority of the Sikhs were stopped at the Attari railway station on the border by 6000 police with lathis. 3200 pilgrims were beaten by the police and tear gas was used. Only 800 were allowed to visit Nankana Sahib. It was very clear to the Sikhs that the Indian government does not want Sikhs to visit Guru Nanak's birthplace. These Sikhs from Punjab realize that they need a free and independent Khalistan so that no one can ever again stop them from participating in the birthday celebration of Guru Nanak in Nankana Sahib.

This harassment of Sikhs shows us again that we need a sovereign, independent Khalistan to visit our holy shrines, to protect our rights, our security, and our dignity. Under Indian rule, Sikhs are not even allowed to visit Guru Nanak's birthplace to celebrate his birthday. Sikhs are slaves under Indian rule. As long as India continues to occupy our homeland, our slavery will continue. There is only one solution: a sovereign, free, and independent Khalistan. Only in a free Khalistan can Sikhs live in freedom, dignity, prosperity, and peace. Without political power, nations perish. Professor Darshan Singh Ragi, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." We must reclaim our lost sovereignty. If the BJP wants Hindu Raj, then why does it object to Khalsa Raj?

The Sikh Nation is sovereign and ruled Punjab up to 1849 when the British took over. Punjab was recognized by most of the world's major powers at that time. It was a truly democratic, truly secular state, rule of the Punjabis, by the Punjabis, for the Punjabis. Maharajah Ranjit Singh had Muslims and Hindus in his cabinet and among his generals. Under his rule, religious shrines of all religions were built, with his support. This is the kind of state that India claims to be, but is not. Behind the pretense of secular democracy, India is a Hindu theocratic state that oppresses Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others.

The Sikhs outside India are Khalistanis. They are the ones who will free Khalistan.

The present Akali leadership is under Indian government control. India will only allow Akali leaders to come out of India if they toe the line of the Indian government. These Akali leaders are not welcome in foreign countries.

None of the political parties will lead Punjab, Khalistan to freedom. The Shiromani Akali Dal, under the leadership of Chief Minister Badal, is in political coalition with the militant Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is part of the RSS, an organization founded in support of Fascism. Badal has not even kept the modest promises that he made to get elected: to free the political prisoners and to hold police officers responsible for their actions in the genocide against the Sikh Nation. Gurcharan Singh Tohra, leader of the All-India Akali Dal, worked with the Indian government prior to the attack on the Golden Temple and surrendered to the Indian forces when they came into the Sikh Nation's holiest shrine. Simranjit Singh Mann was elected to Parliament with the support of Badal after promising not to mention Khalistan. At the Sikh Day Parade in New York, Mann would not join in when the crowd chanted "Khalistan Zinbabad." Even U.S. Congressman Major Owens joined in. Yet Mann would not do so. This revealed his true colors. In 1989, he wrote to the Chief Justice of India pledging his support for India's constitution and territorial integrity.

The Congress Party is no better. It is the party that conducted the invasion and desecration of the Golden Temple. Recently, former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said that there is no difference between the BJP and Congress, and he is right.

India's genocide against the Sikh Nation highlights the problem the Sikh Nation faces without our own raj. The Indian government continues its effort to try to wipe the Sikh religion out of existence. A free Khalistan is essential for the survival of the Sikh Nation.

There are still 50,000 Sikhs rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Yet the Sikh leaders have remained silent. According *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government according to the Punjab State Magistracy, yet the Sikh leadership remains silent. Why can't they start a *Shantmai Morcha* to free the Sikh political prisoners?

The massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chithi Singhpora shows that without sovereignty, the Indian oppression of the Sikh Nation will continue. Two exhaustive investigations have proven that the Indian government is responsible for this massacre. Now the Indian government has even admitted that the alleged militants they killed were innocent. This atrocity underlines the need for a sovereign, independent Khalistan. The Indian government has demonstrated that it can conduct massacres of Sikhs whenever and wherever it wants. The Khalsa Panth must answer this wake-up call and free Khalistan.

Punjab is a police state. None of the political parties will bring us Khalistan. If we do not show courage and liberate Khalistan, the coming generations of Sikhs will also live in slavery. They will not forgive us if we do not liberate our homeland.

In Panjab, they will not procure your rice crop. Farmers are forced to buy fertilizer at extremely high prices; then the government buys up all their produce at artificially low prices to keep the farmers poor even though Panjab, with just two percent of the population, produces over 60 percent of India's wheat and rice reserves. The farmers of Pun-

jab should not have to live that way. In a free Khalistan, we can sell our produce anywhere in the world to maximize our profit. We will not have to have our water diverted to non-riparian states. Free Khalistan will bring economic prosperity for the farmers of Punjab in particular and other Punjabis in general. Indian rule only means economic deprivation and slavery.

India claims that it is a democracy, but there is more to democracy than elections. Democracies don't commit genocide. If India is a democracy, then why won't it allow the people of Punjab, Khalistan, Kashmir, and the other minority nations it occupies to vote on their political status in a free and fair plebiscite?

India is very unstable. India is on the verge of disintegration. It will disintegrate by the year 2010. Kashmir is going to be free from Indian control soon. As soon as Kashmir is free, Khalistan will follow it. The only way to escape Indian slavery is to liberate Khalistan. New Sikh leadership must emerge to free the Sikh Nation. They should demand self-determination. They should raise the slogan "India Quit Khalistan" and start *Shantmai Morcha* until we achieve freedom. We have now seen how the India government controls Sikh institutions and the entire Sikh leadership in Punjab.

Unless the Sikh Nation brings back the Sikh spirit and fight for truth and justice as practiced by Guru Nanak, the Khalsa Panth will not prosper. Remember Guru required the Khalsa to remove evil. Only in a free Khalistan will Sikhs be able to live as required by the Guru. Only in a free Khalistan can the Sikh religion flourish. Only then can the Sikh Nation finally enjoy the glow of freedom that is our birthright. Let us join hands to accomplish our goal of a free Khalistan by 2010.

Khalsa Ji, the responsibility is ours. We must start a Khalsa Raj Party and begin a *Shantmai Morcha* to liberate Khalistan. We must stop supporting leaders who are under the control of the brutal Indian government. We must remember our heritage, "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah." Let us commit ourselves to liberate Khalistan and control our own destiny so that the Sikh Nation can flourish and prosper. Support only those new leaders who are honest, dedicated, fearless, and committed to freedom for Khalistan. Any other course is support for keeping the Khalsa Panth in slavery.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,

President,

Council of Khalistan.

TRIBUTE TO ALLAN HOWE (D-UTAH), FORMER MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to pay special tribute to a gentleman whom I—and many of my colleagues—knew and respected for many years. Our good friend Allan Howe (D-Utah) passed away today, December 14, 2000, after a valiant struggle with heart disease. Some of you may recall Allan from his service in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1975–77. Earlier this

year, Allan retired from his position as Washington Representative for the National Park Hospitality Association after decades of valuable service. At NPHA, Allan worked tirelessly to make sure that we in the Congress understood the concerns of the many businesses, large and small, that work as partners in serving the millions of visitors to our National Parks. We are grateful for those efforts. We also salute his years of public service, starting back home in Utah, where he worked as a city, county and state attorney, as Executive Director of the four Corners Regional Development Commission, and as an aide to the governor. Here on Capitol Hill he served the people of Utah as well, as an administrative assistant to Senator Frank Moss, and then as a Member of Congress himself, serving on what are now the Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. After leaving the Congress, he remained in Washington and worked on a variety of important issues, including solar energy, prior to focusing on National Park matters.

Allan's career was marked by a deep love of this country and a strong appreciation of its magnificent natural wonders, both nurtured from his earliest days as a boy in Utah. That love of country and the great outdoors served him and the people of this country very well for very many years. So, thank you, Allan, and Godspeed.

PERSONAL SOCIAL SECURITY
ACCOUNT ACT OF 2000

HON. JOHN R. KASICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2000

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Personal Social Security Account Act of 2000." Since its inception in 1935, Social Security has provided financial independence and retirement security for millions of senior citizens. Unfortunately, Social Security is on the road to bankruptcy. Just fifteen years from now, Social Security will not collect enough payroll taxes to pay promised benefits. This is not a temporary problem limited to the retirement of the baby boomers. Americans are living longer and having fewer children. There will be fewer workers to support each retiree even after the baby boomers are gone.

Social Security faces a cash shortfall of more than \$130 trillion over the next 75 years. While these deficits will not affect today's seniors, our children face three choices—raise payroll taxes by 50%, reduce promised benefits by 30%, or face a crushing burden of debt. We must not let Social Security's tidal wave of red ink be our legacy to America's children. We must find a way to protect our seniors' retirement security without sacrificing our children's standard of living. That's why I have introduced the "Personal Social Security Account Act of 2000." This legislation would increase future benefits by prices instead of wages, and it would allow workers to create their own personal savings account.

Under current law, initial benefits for new retirees are increased each year by the growth in wages. As a result, over the next 75 years,

promised benefits will nearly double, even after adjusting for inflation. Under this legislation, benefits for workers under the age of 55 will be increased by the consumer price index. Switching from wage indexing to price indexing will eliminate the Social Security shortfall and avoid future payroll tax increases while at the same time guaranteeing today's level of benefits for future retirees.

Workers under the age of 55 will also be given the option to invest an average of 2% of their wages in their own personal savings account. The exact amount each worker can invest will be related to their wages in order to maintain the progressivity of the current Social Security system. Based on historical rates of return, most workers who choose to set up a personal account will earn far greater benefits than the government could ever afford to provide under current law.

Today's economic prosperity provides us with an historic opportunity to preserve Social Security for three generations—our parents, ourselves, and our children. We must seize this opportunity and build a bipartisan consensus for Social Security reform.

HONORING JOANNE LOTHROP

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Joanne Lothrop, a longtime community activist in San Leandro, where she has served on the city council since 1996.

Her involvement in public service began nearly 22 years ago as a volunteer with the Girls, Inc. program. As a staff member, she learned the importance of being a role model to youth and understood the importance of introducing life skills to young women to foster leadership and independence. She was a program director of Health Initiatives for Youth and has an extensive background in community organizing. Whether advocating on behalf of inter-city children, farm workers, or HIV positive youth, Joanne's focus is unwavering and her commitment is exemplary. Joanne is always available to lend a hand be it fundraising, advocacy, legislation, education, or community organizing.

As a San Leandro City Councilwoman, Joanne has worked toward a regional cooperative approach in the areas of environmental justice and sustainable communities. She brought together citizens, business leaders, and environmental interests to form the West San Leandro Advisory Committee to study the environmental impacts of both industrial and residential development. Joanne has demonstrated leadership in maintaining the jobs-housing balance in San Leandro and adjacent communities. She has worked to retain high wage employers in the city and attract new businesses to increase job opportunities for San Leandro and East Bay residents.

Joanne has received numerous awards and special recognition including five National Girls Inc Outstanding Program Awards. I join her colleagues in thanking her for her community service as well as her contributions to the city

of San Leandro during her tenure on the city council. Joanne has chosen not to run for another term on the city council. Her voice on the council will be missed but we look forward to many more years of her dedicated community service.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF CARE IN
ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the Institute of Medicine will shortly release a publication entitled, "Improving the Quality of Long-Term Care." A committee of our nation's leading experts in the area of long-term care compiled information on quality in various long-term care approaches, including assisted living.

The report finds that there are few studies of outcomes and quality in assisted living facilities, primarily because of the lack of a uniform definition of this category of facilities. Assisted living facilities can have enormous variation in services and environment, and the varying definitions from state to state make comparisons difficult.

The report also finds that the small body of research that does exist illustrates that "residential care facilities, including assisted living, present a mixed picture in terms of both quality of care and quality of life. Some offer individualized, high-quality care in facilities that afford privacy, dignity, and individualization. However, others appear to lack adequately trained staff, and offer neither sufficient amount of care nor privacy and 'homelike' settings. Also, there are indications that consumers may receive too little information to make informed choices regarding these facilities and the services provided."

Many consumers are drawn to the philosophy of assisted living, a model developed to combine the care of other long-term care settings with an environment promoting dignity and independence. This upcoming IOM report, though, highlights the disconnect that exists between the philosophy of assisted living and its implementation. It references a study that found only 11 percent of facilities provided high levels of both privacy and service, the philosophy of assisted living. On the contrary, the majority of assisted living facilities, 65 percent, offered low levels of service (e.g., no full-time registered nurse on staff) and 40 percent offered low levels of privacy.

Another disconnect between assisted living philosophy and practice is the concept of "aging in place." Despite the marketing claims of consumers being able to live out their lives in their assisted living homes, consumers are finding out they may not be able to obtain needed services or be allowed to stay if they develop conditions that require more care. The IOM report references a survey of assisted living facilities that found 76 percent of assisted living facilities would discharge anyone who needed skilled nursing care for more than 14 days, and 72 percent had already done so within the past 6 months.

The wide variation in definitions of assisted living facilities also poses problems for states