

and comfort on the family during this time of sorrow.

ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH 84TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 2000*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and high regards that I congratulate St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana, as it celebrates its 84th anniversary as a parish this coming Sunday. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Reverend Everett Gray on this magnificent occasion.

From modest beginnings, St. Paul's has emerged as a cornerstone of the Gary community. The church was organized in 1916 through the efforts of six dedicated pioneers. The first structure was a portable building of the 21st Avenue school. Through the hard work of Reverend Martin VanBuren Bolden and the six founders, the membership continued to grow, and on July 17, 1917, two lots were purchased at 1938 Adams Street. It was there that St. Paul's began to flourish as both a religious and a social institution.

During the Great Depression, the people of St. Paul's saw the needs of those around them and reached out a helping hand. The church basement was used as both a medical facility and a place where those in need could go for food. Their generosity was exemplified when the church donated money to those who could not afford the burial expenses for loved ones that had recently passed away. St. Paul's shaped the lives of many people during those hard times and still stands as a pillar of our community.

On May 1, 1943, St. Paul's welcomed Dr. Lester Kendal Jackson as its pastor, who made an immediate impact on his congregation. Under his leadership all outstanding debts were paid, and a significant balance was put into the treasury. He helped to organize many groups which would inspire the youth of the parish, including a literary society, Girl and Boy Scout teams, and a drama club. Dr. Jackson also fought for the rights of African Americans throughout the city of Gary, and was later inducted into the Steel City Hall of Fame for his contributions to the community.

After a fire in 1963 destroyed the building that they had used for over 45 years, the people of St. Paul's erected a new church at 2300 Grant Street on January 16, 1966. It is here that the church came under the direction of Reverend Everett Gray, or Pastor Gray, as he prefers to be addressed. Under Pastor's Gray's guidance, St. Paul's has continued to thrive, both in terms of spiritual growth as well as practical improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me congratulating the parish family of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, under the guidance of Pastor Gray, as they celebrate their 84th anniversary. All current and former parishioners can be proud to say that they belong to the second oldest

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Baptist church in Gary, Indiana. They have weathered many storms in order to make countless significant contributions to their community throughout the past 84 years.

NEW MASSACRE OF SIKHS IN  
INDIA

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 2000*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today, as President Clinton began a visit to India, a new act of political violence occurred in Kashmir, as 35 Sikh villagers were rounded up and killed by gunmen. The New York Times reports in the enclosed article that this was the first major attack on the small Sikh community in Kashmir since an insurgency by Kashmiri Muslims against Indian rule began 10 years ago. Sikhs had previously lived peacefully in the only predominantly Muslim area of India. It should be noted that in India, government security forces have been implicated by international human rights organizations in the murders, disappearances and torture of thousands of Sikhs.

The village of Chati Singhpura Mattan, 42 miles from Srinagar, is controlled by Kashmiri groups that abandoned the rebellion and were recruited by the Indian army as a counterinsurgency militia force. The Indian government has blamed Islamic radicals controlled by Pakistan for this heinous crime. However, the Indian government's control of this specific area has caused many Sikhs in the United States to believe that the gunmen were agents of the Indian government's Research and Intelligence Wing [RAW] posing as Kashmiri militants. There are more than 700,000 Indian security forces stationed in Kashmir, which has been called the most militarized area of this planet.

A fair and impartial investigation by international monitors is necessary to resolve this case and other acts of brutality committed in Kashmir. I have repeatedly advocated that fair elections, free of violence, that would permit the people of Kashmir to determine their own destiny is the best means to end this conflict. In addition, a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue would have a significant impact in easing the conflict between India and Pakistan.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 21, 2000]

35 MASSACRED IN SIKH TOWN IN KASHMIR

Srinagar, India, Tuesday, March 21 (AP)—Gunmen rounded up and killed 35 Sikh villagers in the disputed state of Kashmir, the police said today as President Clinton began a visit to India.

The massacre on Monday night was the first major attack on the small Sikh community in Kashmir since separatist Muslims started their insurgency 10 years ago. Sikhs are considered a neutral minority, but Indian officials had warned earlier of violence by Muslim militants hoping to draw attention to Kashmir during Mr. Clinton's visit.

Both India and Pakistan claim the Himalayan territory and have fought two wars over it.

The gunmen were not immediately

*March 21, 2000*

Mr. Clinton arrived in New Delhi, 400 miles to the south, on Monday evening after a visit to Bangladesh. He has said that reducing tensions between India and Pakistan is one of his objectives of the trip.

Many Kashmiris were hoping that the president's visit would lead to a breakthrough in the long deadlock on the region's future.

Mr. Clinton's spokesman, Joe Lockhart, expressed outrage over the killings, saying in a statement that "out most profound sympathies go out to the victims of this brutal massacre."

The attackers entered the village of Chati Singhpura Mattan after dark and forced the residents from their homes, police officials said.

The assailants separated the men from the women, announcing that they were conducting a "crackdown." Indian security forces operate similarly when searching a neighborhood for militants that they suspect may be hiding there. The gunmen then opened fire on the men, killing 35 of them. One man was critically wounded.

Sikhs have lived mostly undisturbed in the Kashmir Valley, the only area in predominantly Hindu India with a Muslim majority. Many run the trucking companies that supply the valley.

In the last six months, attacks by the militants have focused on army bases and patrols rather than random terrorism, and have shown a higher degree of training and expertise, senior army officers have said. They said about 3,500 militants were in Kashmir, and many of them had infiltrated the ceasefire line from Pakistan, with the help of the Pakistan army. Pakistan denies giving active aid to the militants.

The area of the Sikh village is about 42 miles from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, and is controlled by armed Kashmiri groups that abandoned separatism and were recruited by the Indian army as a counterinsurgency auxiliary force.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 21, 2000]

NEAR CLINTON'S INDIA VISIT, VIOLENCE  
FLARES IN KASHMIR

(By Pamela Constable)

Srinagar, India, March 20—While their government and most of their countrymen are hoping President Clinton will play down the sensitive topic of Kashmir during his visit to India this week, people in this depressed, wintry city at the political heart of the disputed, violence-torn region are praying for just the opposite.

Today, in the worst single attack on civilians in a decade of guerrilla war, unidentified gunmen massacred 35 Sikh men in the Kashmiri village of Chati Singhpura Mattan, wire services reported. Security officials had feared that armed Pakistan-based insurgents, who have stepped up attacks here in recent months, might stage a dramatic attack during Clinton's stay in India.

Clinton condemned the attack in Kashmir. "On behalf of the president and all Americans let me express our outrage at the attack on a village in Kashmir last night," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart told reporters in New Delhi.

Many Kashmiris believe that only a world leader of Clinton's stature can put pressure on Indian officials to start meaningful negotiations with Pakistan over the mountainous, predominantly Muslim border region where separatist sentiment is strong, guerrilla violence is rapidly rising and

"If Mr. Clinton can make a difference in places like Chechnya and Bosnia, why not in

Kashmir?" said Shah Khan, 22, who sells shirts and pants in the teeming alleys of Lal Chowk bazaar. "We are happy because at least his visit will bring some attention to our problems, but we wish he would come to Kashmir and see for himself. Then we would all tell him one thing: we want freedom."

But this message is highly unlikely to reach Clinton's ears or the Indian capital this week. On Sunday, about 50 Kashmiri independence activists were arrested and jailed as they tried to board buses that would take them to New Delhi for a protest rally near Parliament, where Clinton is scheduled to speak Wednesday.

In a brief interview in jail today, the group's leader Shabir Shah, 44, said they had been tear-gassed and dragged into police vans as they prepared to leave. He said the group, which seeks Kashmiri independence from India, had planned to stage a peaceful rally and a symbolic hunger strike.

"President Clinton says he wants to help ease tensions in the region, and he will be talking with India and Pakistan, but we wanted to tell him that it is futile until we Kashmiris are taken into account," Shah said.

Kashmir, which is divided between India and Pakistan, has been the major source of friction between the two neighbors and nuclear powers for a generation. Since the early 1990s, the Indian-occupied part has been the site of a violent conflict between anti-India insurgent groups and Indian security forces, which has cost tens of thousands of lives. Last summer, a 10-week border conflict in the Kargil mountains left hundreds dead.

Today's attack on the Sikhs seemed to represent an especially gruesome escalation of violence and attempt at ethnic cleansing in the Kashmir Valley, where Muslims dominate the population and the insurgency has become increasingly directed by Islamic groups based in Pakistan. The victims were separated from their families by unidentified gunmen who entered their village after dark and shot them.

In the past, Kashmiri insurgent groups have concentrated on military targets and have denounced terrorism against civilians. But in recent weeks, there have been a half-dozen attacks on Hindu truck drivers and on scattered villages of Kashmiri Pandits, or local Hindus, many of whom were violently driven from the region years ago. Now Sikhs, who have lived peaceably in northern Kashmir for years, appear to have become their latest target.

Clinton, who had called Kashmir "the most dangerous place in the world," has repeatedly expressed interest in helping to defuse the tensions and to nudge India and Pakistan back toward dialogue. But Indian authorities are adamantly opposed to any foreign intervention in the dispute, and have declared they will not resume talks with

Pakistan until it stops arming and training Kashmiri insurgents.

In interviews over the weekend, some Srinagar residents said they were skeptical that Clinton's talks with Indian leaders could make any difference. They said the United States was too concerned with bigger issues, such as trade and nuclear non-proliferation, to let Kashmir become an irritant to improving relations.

"Clinton is coming as a guest, so he won't want to embarrass his hosts. What he says in America about Kashmir may not be what he says here," said Masood Ahmed, 30, another shopkeeper in Lal Chowk. "He already knows that thousands of people have been killed in Kashmir, but he is only coming to see the Taj Mahal."

TOBACCO LEGISLATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing two bills today relating to the regulation of tobacco products.

Today the Supreme Court recognized that tobacco use "poses perhaps the single most significant threat to public health in the United States."

Unfortunately, the Court also ruled that Congress has not given the Food and Drug Administration explicit authority to regulate tobacco. So now Congress must act to deal with this enormous problem.

The first bill I am introducing is comprehensive legislation that represents what our country genuinely needs to reduce tobacco use by children. It explicitly authorizes the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products; it establishes an innovative and effective performance standard that gives the tobacco industry meaningful economic incentives to reduce the numbers of children that smoke; it establishes a national policy on environmental tobacco smoke; and it creates a new nationwide public education campaign on tobacco.

None of these measures alone are the answer to reducing tobacco use—but taken together, they will succeed in reducing the number of children who smoke. They are what we need to do in our battle against the deadly toll of tobacco, and will save millions of lives for generations to come.

I am concerned, however, that some may try to avoid acting on tobacco legislation by arguing there's not enough time in this session to deal with a comprehensive bill. And I'm

concerned that some may try to avoid dealing with this urgent issue by pretending that comprehensive legislation makes it more difficult to deal quickly with today's Supreme Court decision.

So I'm introducing a second bill that only deals with the question of FDA jurisdiction over tobacco. This legislation explicitly authorizes the FDA to regulate tobacco products, and does not address any of the other issues that Congress must confront in crafting effective national tobacco legislation.

The policies in both bills have been before Congress for many years. We've held years of hearings on these issues and tried to examine carefully every possible consequence of legislation. The time to act is now.

In 1998 I reached a comprehensive agreement with Congressman TOM BLILEY, the Chairman of the Commerce Committee, to reduce smoking by children. For reasons I still don't understand, the Republican leadership blocked that legislation from ever being considered.

Now, once again, the Republican leadership has the sole power to bring legislation to the floor. I hope they won't miss another opportunity to protect our children.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC, March 21, 2000.

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN,  
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WAXMAN: The American Lung Association is pleased to endorse the Child Tobacco Use Prevention Act of 2000 and the FDA Tobacco Jurisdiction Act of 2000. These bills will grant explicit authority to the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products. Full, unfettered, FDA authority is needed to protect the public health and provide oversight on how tobacco products are manufactured, labeled, distributed, advertised, sold and marketed.

We strongly support the additional public health provisions included in the Child Tobacco Use Prevention Act. Company-specific performance standards to reduce child tobacco use, smokefree environments and tobacco prevention and education programs complement full FDA authority and greatly enhance the effort to reduce the disease and death caused by tobacco.

Congress must act quickly and pass this critical public health legislation this year. Full, unfettered FDA authority over tobacco products is the top priority for the American Lung Association. Thank you for your continued leadership to protect children from tobacco.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. GARRISON,  
Chief Executive Officer.