

Only then can the Sikh Nation finally enjoy the glow of freedom that was promised to us so many years ago.

Khalsa Ji, the onus is on us. The time is now. We must start a Khalsa Raj Party and begin a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan. We must reclaim our lost sovereignty. New, young leadership which has dedication and the spirit of sacrifice must emerge. Support only these new leaders who are honest, dedicated, fearless, and committed to freedom for Khalistan. India is on the verge of disintegration. Kashmir is going to be free from Indian control. Let us make use of this opportunity to free Khalistan.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,  
*President, Council of Khalistan.*

TELEPHONE EXCISE TAX REPEAL  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of H.R. 3916, the Telephone Excise Tax Repeal Act. This tax is a regressive tax that now collects over \$5 billion each year from local and long distance phone calls. The working families of this country deserve lower taxes and this tax repeal will benefit them the most. This tax cut is also an issue that people care about. I wish to express my appreciation to Robert Fuchs, a constituent from the 10th District of Ohio, for bringing this issue to my attention. This tax cut is fair and is long overdue.

The taxation of Americans is necessary to pay for the service of our government. The difficult question is how to structure these taxes. Regressive taxes, which levy taxes regardless of one's ability to pay, are not fair. The telephone tax is a regressive and unfair tax. Progressive taxes, which levy taxes proportional to one's ability to pay, are much fairer. The income tax is a type of progressive tax. I believe that the current budget surplus is large enough to consider repealing other regressive taxes that harm lower-income Americans. As such, I remain committed to creating a more fair tax system.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY WILKINSON—  
EXTRAORDINARY LIBRARY AD-  
VOCATE

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize Larry Wilkinson for receiving the Extraordinary Library Advocate of the 20th Century award that is presented by the ALA/ALTA National Advocacy Honor Role. This award recognizes individuals who encourage and promote library services at both the state and national levels. Larry was one of five individuals chosen for this award.

Some of Larry's accomplishments, with regards to his library service, include initiating the inception of two public libraries in the State of Colorado. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the restoration of a former jailhouse into the current library in the town of Telluride. Today, Larry volunteers one day a week to continue his public passion and also serves on the Colorado Council of Library Development.

The many contributions that Larry has made have markedly improved the public's access to information, especially in the Telluride area. Before Larry's involvement and the creation of the library, residents would have to travel to the city of Montrose in order to obtain access to literary materials. Thanks to Larry, that is no longer the case.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Larry's efforts and to thank him for his work to provide access to information that is only available in public libraries. Larry is exceedingly worthy of this prestigious award and deserves the praise of this body.

WELLTON-MOHAWK TRANSFER  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2000*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today at the end of this long journey to fully support this legislation which transfers the title of the Gila Project/Wellton Mohawk Division facilities from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District.

I want to thank the Gentleman from Alaska, Chairman YOUNG, the Gentleman from California, Mr. MILLER, the Chairman of the Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power, Chairman DOOLITTLE, and the Ranking Member of that Subcommittee, Mr. DOOLEY, for their help in getting this legislation through the Subcommittee, through the full Resources Committee, and now on the Floor of the House.

I also want to thank my colleagues from Arizona for their help. Congressmen STUMP, HAYWORTH, and KOLBE joined me in introducing the legislation, and Congressman SHADEGG quickly joined them in seeing the wisdom of co-sponsorship. And in the other body, both Senators from Arizona joined to introduce the bill we are considering today.

The Gila project in Western Arizona was originally authorized for construction by President Roosevelt in June, 1937. Construction for the Wellton-Mohawk Division was started in August, 1949, and water from the Colorado River was turned onto the Wellton-Mohawk fields for the first time in May, 1952. The project was completed by June, 1957 and the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District fully repaid its project costs and was given its certificate of discharge on November 27, 1991. In 1998, the District and the Bureau of Reclamation signed a Memorandum of Agreement that covers the details of the transfer of title.

This bill, S. 356, which is virtually identical to the bill I introduced, H.R. 841, simply authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry out all provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement covering the transfer of title, including the authority to convey lands as required. It also requires the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Energy to continue to provide water and power as provided under existing contracts.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this has been a long road, but we are finally ending the legislative journey. This is simple legislation which will help shrink the role of the Federal government and shift the responsibilities for ownership into the hands of local entities. In short, passage of this legislation will ensure a smoother and more efficient operation, which in turn will better serve the American taxpayer and the citizens of Southwest Arizona.

I ask that my colleagues support passage of S. 356 and I look forward to watching the President sign it into law.

TEXAS' CHILD HEALTH  
INSURANCE PROGRAM

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2000*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on Texas' Child Health Insurance Program.

Today, our children should not have to fight to get the health care coverage they deserve. I am sad to say, in Texas they do. A child born in the year 2000 is far more likely to grow up healthy and to reach adulthood than a child born in 1900 was. Over the past 100 years, our nation's scientific, technological, and financial resources have built the most advanced health care system in the world. But the doors of the health care system are not open to everyone.

Millions of children have inadequate medical care. Ensuring that every child in our nation receives the best possible health care must be a top priority for the nation. Unfortunately, not all children have benefited equally from the medical, public health, and public policy achievements of the 20th century. To a large extent, health status is still determined by race, language, culture, geography, and economics. In general, children in low-income communities get sick more often from preventable acute and infectious illnesses such as measles, conjunctivitis, and ear infections. Low-income children and teens are also more likely to suffer from chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and asthma, the leading cause of school absences. In fact, the sharpest increases in asthma rates are among urban minority children.

Despite the tremendous advances in medical technology and public health, millions of children have less of a chance to grow up healthy and strong because of unequal access to health care. Children without health insurance or a regular source of health care are most likely to seek care from emergency rooms and clinics, which have long waits to see a provider, limited follow-up, and little or