India's feet to the fire.

States and the international community to hold a plebiscite on the future of political status of Kashmir, Khalistan, Kashmir, and other nations of India. Remember that the people of Kashmir have no faith in the Indian government," said Herod Malik, the head of the United Forum. 'We want to see a country that the United States should be proud of,' 

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it is not just Christians who are suffering atrocities and persecution. Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits, and others are oppressed in a similar fashion, although Christians seem to be the primary targets at the moment. We can help these people to live in freedom and in the assurance that their rights will finally be respected. If Indian promotes terror against its religious and ethnic minorities, it is not a country that the United States should be supporting. Cutting off aid is one message we could send. We should also declare our support for self-determination through an internationally-supervised plebiscite on the future of political status of Christian Nagaland, the Sikh homeland, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and Kashmir. Remember that the people of Kashmir were promised a plebiscite in 1949 and it has never been held. It is time for the United States and the international community to hold India's feet to the fire.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the Newsroom.com article of June 15 into the Record for the information of my colleagues.

[From Newsroom.com, June 15, 2000]

CHRISTIANS IN INDIA SEEK HELP FROM ABROAD

A wave of church bombings and murders of clergy has prompted Christian leaders in India to appeal for international help, according to Catholic World News. The United Forum of Catholics is a group that has been involved in the struggle for human rights in India. The Forum of Catholics and Protestants of West Bengal claimed Tuesday that the Indian government and police have ignored the wave of terror against Christians since Christmas 1998. They have also requested help from Amnesty International in stopping these atrocities.

"We are scared," said Herod Malik, the leader of the United Forum. "We have to go to international organizations because we have no faith in the Indian government." Just a few days ago Hindu nationalist militants murdered five Christians in four churches. Some Christians who were peacefully distributing Bibles and Christian religious literature were savagely beaten, one so badly that he may lose his arms and legs. These are just the most recent incidents.

The head of the United Forum, Mr. Malik, said that the attacks are the work of the Sangh Parivar, the organisation parties, however, assert that the bombings are the work of the Sangh Parivar, the extended family of Hindu organizations.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee promised a delegation of Christian leaders on Monday that his government would investigate the incidents fully.

Christians charge that the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), considered the ideological parent of the BJP, have engaged in a campaign against Christians since the BJP came to power two years ago and forced to miss two votes.

The Telugu-based United Christian Forum for Human Rights says that in the past year it has documented 120 attacks by Hindu fundamentalists against Christians, individuals, churches, and schools.

Indian government officials deny having any influence on the aggression. The CWN said a senior interior minister, speaking on condition of anonymity, insisted the Christian community had nothing to fear and the government was taking steps to prevent such attacks.

HONOR OF THE WOMAN'S BOOK CLUB OF HARRISON, ARKANSAS

Hon. Darlene Hooley of Oregon, Ms. Hooley of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 19, I was unable to vote on the motion and forced to miss two votes.

If present, I would have voted "yes" on the motion that the Committee rise on H.R. 4635 (Vote 292).

I would have voted "yes" on agreeing to Mr. Waxman's amendment to H.R. 4635 (Vote 292).

HONOR OF THE WOMAN'S BOOK CLUB OF HARRISON, ARKANSAS

Hon. Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Woman's Book Club of Harrison, Arkansas. This month marks the one-hundred-year anniversary of the club's founding.

On June 25, 1900, twelve women in Harrison, Arkansas, founded a small book club, each contributing a single book. Soon after, a small library, consisting of a few shelves in the back of a newspaper office opened to members on Saturday afternoons. From these humble beginnings, the Woman's Book Club opened the first public library in north central Arkansas in 1903.

With support from the Woman's Book Club, the Harrison Public Library continued to grow and expand, moving several times to keep up with the demand for library services. In 1944, it became one of the first regional libraries in Arkansas and today contains over 58,000 volumes.

Mr. Speaker, the Woman's Book Club of Harrison is one of the largest private civic contributors to education and good works in my state. Over the past century, thousands who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to learn have been touched by its work. On behalf of all Arkansans, I would like to commend each of the many women who have been involved in the Harrison club. I look forward to another century of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHELBY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Hon. David D. Phelps of Illinois, Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate one of my district's hospitals. For the second year in a row Shelby Memorial Hospital in Shelbyville, IL, has been recognized by the HCIA and the Health Network as being one of the top 100 facilities in the nation for clinical excellence and efficiency.

Each year the HCIA and the Health Network compare hospitals across the nation in search of hospitals that focus on clinical excellence and efficient delivery of care. The study places hospitals into categories by size. Shelby Memorial Hospital fits into the category for small hospitals, consisting of 25–99 acute care beds in service. The HCIA and Health Network based their study on quality of care, efficiency of operations, and sustainability of overall performance. They ranked 1266 small hospitals based on: risk adjusted mortality index; risk adjusted complications index; severity adjusted average length of stay; expense per adjusted discharge, case mix, and wage adjusted; profitability (cash flow margin); proportion of outpatient revenue; index of total facility occupancy; and productivity (total asset turnover rate). The scores are then computed, and the results are then published in Modern Healthcare Magazine. The top 100 hospitals stand out above the rest by having superior care at lower costs.

According to CEO John Bennett, Shelby Memorial Hospital's main focus is on patient care, not Finances. Plans are already being made to improve the hospital's rating. The hospital will soon have a new, ER, lab, X ray and physical therapy departments, and new patient rooms.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say congratulations to Shelby Memorial Hospital on their excellent accomplishment. Due to the hospital's excellence in serving its community, it is clear that Shelby Memorial Hospital is an asset to Illinois and our nation's health care system.