Asia, that is not only in our national interest, it is the right thing to do. Fortunately, there are measures we can take to help bring freedom, peace, and stability to that part of the world. The time has come to stop providing American aid to India—remember, this is public money—until India begins to treat all its people fairly and ends the repression against the minorities. The other thing that we can do is use our influence to get Pakistan to stop aiding Khalistan, Nagalim, and everywhere else that people seek their freedom. This will help to defuse the tense situation in South Asia and enhance America’s national security by bringing us new allies in the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to support the resolutions in Kashmir, Khalistan, Nagaland, and all the other nations seeking their freedom from India. I urge you to press the Indian government on this issue and help them hold a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence, monitored by the international community. This would go a long way towards establishing stability, peace, and freedom in South Asia.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh,
President, Council of Khalistan.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, certainly one of the milestone events in the history of our nation was the adoption of the Constitution by a convention of the states in 1787. But another significant event in our history took place that year. Congress, operating under the governing document known as the Articles of Confederation, approved a plan for the growth of the United States known as the Northwest Ordinance.

I call these facts to mind, Mr. Speaker, because the Northwest Ordinance spelled out the world that the United States planned to settle the areas that would eventually become Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and my own state of Michigan.

Despite this early commitment by the young nation to expand, settlement came late to many of these areas. In my congressional district the Village of Vanderbilt is celebrating its centennial, making it a young community even by the standards of this young nation. The community plans to mark its celebration with three days of festivities at the end of July.

Communities like Vanderbilt sprang to life in the North Woods, much as the writers of the Northwest Ordinance had planned. Within a decade of 1879 the community acquired three hotels, a two-story school, three mills, and a store and post office. Among other professionals and tradesmen, it had a taxidermist, a shoemaker, a constable, a milliner, a barbershop, among an impressive druggist, blacksmiths, wagon makers and two justices of the peace. Though not yet incorporated as the Village of Vanderbilt, by 1887 a community had sprung to life in the North Woods, much as the writers of the Northwest Ordinance had envisioned 100 years before.

Elizabeth Haus, village president, has said that residents have planned “an old-time celebration” to mark the milestone 100 years. In addition to celebrating the centennial of Vanderbilt’s incorporation, the community will also mark the 100th birthday of the Vanderbilt Community Church building, one of the centers of community life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my House colleagues join me in wishing the people of Vanderbilt a joyous centennial celebration and that the community can thrive and continue to be a great place to live, work and raise families.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD AND SALLIE MCCLAIN

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward and Sallie McClain of Charleston, South Carolina, who have been chosen as the South Carolina Parents of the Year for 2001. Reverend and Mrs. McClain will be honored on July 25, 2001 with this prestigious award at the seventh annual Congressional Parents’ Day Celebration cosponsored by The American Family Coalition and The Washington Times Foundation.

Reverend and Mrs. McClain have been married for 42 years and they have three children, twenty grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. All of their children lead successful lives, ranging from personnel directors and electrical engineers to Olympian basketball players and college students. I have no doubt their success is due in part to the selfless and unconditional love bestowed upon them by their parents and passed on to their children.

In addition to this complete and absolute devotion to their family, Reverend and Mrs. McClain continually extend their hearts to the Charleston community. Reverend McClain, a former educator and minister of Calvary African Methodist Episcopal Church, serves on the local school board. Reverend McClain is also one of the founders of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, in which Mrs. McClain plays an integral role as well. Reverend and Mrs. McClain began a soup kitchen that has operated for 17 years. They hold special church services every year to honor the young people in their church who have achieved academic excellence, and have been leaders in a highly effective program against drug dealing in their neighborhood. These examples are only a fraction of the contributions Reverend and Mrs. McClain have made to the Charleston community.

MARKING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE VILLAGE OF VANDERBILT, MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, certainly one of the milestone events in the history of our nation was the adoption of the Constitution by a convention of the states in 1787. But another significant event in our history took place that year. Congress, operating under the governing document known as the Articles of Confederation, approved a plan for the growth of the United States known as the Northwest Ordinance.

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TRIBUTE TO EDWARD AND SALLIE MCCLAIN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

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Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Edward and Sallie McClain. The distinguished couple has continually put their children, their church, and their community before their own needs. Reverend and Mrs. McClain are examples of passionate parental role models in an age when such models are becoming both more rare and more crucial.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN R. THUNE
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity this last April to travel around my home state of South Dakota and visit just a few of the hard-working local charities that would benefit from the Community Solutions Act, H.R. 7. I am continually amazed by the kind hearts of the neighborhood saints who work and volunteer at these organizations. Day in and day out these folks serve the poor, the weak, and the victimized.

I have also been witness to the bureaucratic processes of the welfare state. The question that seems to always work its way into my head is, "why is there such a visible difference between our government services and local organizations?"

First of all, local charities and organizations are efficient. Money is almost always scarce in this line of work, so they must learn to stretch every penny they receive.

Secondly, local charities and organizations are exactly what local. Folk here in Washington can devise a system to deal with the National Substance Abuse Problem, but what works in Canton, South Dakota? I have a feeling those who have lived there know the unique local factors that contribute to substance abuse and can make a difference in people's lives.

Thirdly, local charities and organizations are compassionate. A deep sense of calling can be the only reason why the armies of compassion continue to serve. Their calling shows itself in the care that is shown.

Because of what I have seen and heard from those who work and volunteer at these local organizations, I am convinced that we must take every opportunity we can to support them. And by passing H.R. 7 today, we will be one step closer to achieving that goal. Through the expanded tax deductions, incentives would be put in place for individuals to give to the charitable groups they deem worthy of their hard-earned income. Any increase in charitable donations is well worth the decrease in taxes the government would receive.

Why? Because these groups are performing many of the same duties our government would have to otherwise provide. Let's foster the charitable spirit alive in our constituents and allow all of our civil society the opportunity to serve.

TRIBUTE TO THE IRON WORKERS LOCAL UNION NO. 25 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of a proud organization. On Saturday, July 21, 2001, the loyal and hard working members, contractors, dignitaries and their families of the Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 joined together in celebration of the largest iron workers' local in the country, a dedicated group of over 4,500 members.

Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 has been a charter member of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers since July 18, 1901. They are a local union for bridge, structural, ornamental, reinforcing, rigging, pre-engineered, pre-cast, glazing, fence, siding and decking, conveyor and canopy construction workers. Jurisdiction stretches from the State of Michigan to parts of Canada, however most of the Union's early work displays itself in the city of Detroit. Buildings such as the American Car & Foundry plants, Dime Savings Bank, Broadway Theater, Cobol Hall, City County Building, and the Renaissance Center give testament to their dedication and tireless efforts. They pride themselves in saying "We Built Detroit." I most sincerely agree.

The organization has been a trailblazer for fair wages, benefits, shorter workdays and safety for the trades. Ensuring strength and solidarity in thirty-four counties including both Macomb and St. Clair, Local Union No. 25 is certainly worthy of applause and recognition. Today, the organization has a membership of approximately 4,500. After 100 years of honorable service, Local Union No. 25 celebrates this remarkable milestone with a grand celebration that I was honored to attend.

On the 100th Anniversary of the Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 we celebrate the people who have made this organization remarkably successful, Local Union No. 25 for their outstanding dedication, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE
OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, Vice President Cheneey invited me to participate in an event in Kansas City, Missouri, that took note of the impending mailing of tax rebate checks to millions of Americans, including 877,000 Kansans, as the result of the enactment of H.R. 1836, which I supported.

For this reason, I was absent during the consideration of H.R. 2216, which made supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2001. Had I been present for rollcall 256, which was final passage of this conference report, I would have voted "yes".

BREAKDOWN OF INDIA-Pakistan TALKS SHOWS INDIA’S CONTEMPT FOR DEMOCRACY, PEACE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I think we were all distressed by the breakdown of the talks between India and Pakistan aimed at reducing tensions in South Asia, one of the most troubled areas in the world. The fact that the talks broke down increases the danger and the instability in that region.

It looks as if much of the blame for the breakdown goes squarely to the Indian government. As Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Kashmir, put it, “It is very clear that India does not want a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem.” An Indian Defense Ministry spokeswoman did not even mention Kashmir among the topics under discussion.

Three drafts of a joint statement were vetoed by the Indian cabinet. As you know, the Indian government is run by the militant, Hindu nationalist, B.J.P., a branch of the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which has said that everyone in India must be Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism. The RSS published a booklet last year showing how to implicate Christians and other religious minorities in false criminal cases.

India’s human-rights violations have been well documented. It has killed over tens of thousands of Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Dalits, and other minorities. It has burned churches, prayer halls, and Christian schools, destroyed the most revered Muslim mosque in India, and attacked the seat of Sikhism, the Golden Temple. It has killed priests and raped nuns. Indian troops were recently caught in a village in Kashmir trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes. This atrocity was prevented by the joint action of Sikh and Muslim villagers. The Indian government killed 35 Sikhs in Chithisngtopora in March 2000. In 1997, Indian troops broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

India admitted to holding over 52,000 Sikhs in illegal detention without charge or trial under the repressive TADA law, which expired in 1995, according to a recent report by the Movement Against State Repression. It was routine to rearrest people released under TADA and to file charges in more than one state simultaneously to deter prisoners from contesting charges. Amnesty International notes that there are tens of thousands of Sikhs and others being held as political prisoners, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities are also held as political prisoners in large numbers. A few months ago, the Council of Khalistan called on the political prisoners to run for office from their jail cells. This might be the most effective action that the political prisoners and minority political leaders can take.

I call upon President Bush to press India for implementation of the Joint Declaration of Principles, which was signed in 1994 and which required India to end the genocide of Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, and other minorities in Kashmir and end the political arrests. I urge the Administration to do everything in its power to help bring peace to South Asia, a region that is much too stable and secure to face a nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan.

BRAHMIN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a situation that is not only a violation of human rights but is also a serious issue for the future of India and Pakistan.

Brahmin Human Rights Commission recently released a report on the human rights situation in India and Pakistan. The report highlights the persecution of minorities, particularly Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs, in both countries. It also notes the increased violence against minorities in India, which has been fueled by the policies of the ruling Hindu nationalist party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The report states that in 2001, there were over 1,000 reported cases oflynchings, rigged elections, and political violence against minorities. The report also notes that the Indian government has been slow to investigate and prosecute these crimes.

In Pakistan, the report highlights the persecution of the Sikh minority, which has been under constant threat from the militant Hindu nationalist organization, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The report notes that in 2001, there were over 300 reported cases of lynching, burns, and other forms of violence against Sikhs.

The report calls for an end to the Indian government's policies of persecution and discrimination against minorities. It also calls for international pressure to be placed on the Indian government to respect the human rights of all citizens, regardless of their religion or ethnicity.

In conclusion, we must work to ensure that the human rights of all citizens in India and Pakistan are respected and protected. We must continue to support organizations such as the Brahmin Human Rights Commission that work to protect the human rights of minorities.

Thank you.