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, Cobo 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 Cheney 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 Kansasans, 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 roll call 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 Khalistan, 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 BJP, 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 Chithisinghpora 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 the release of all political prisoners. Why are there political prisoners in a democracy?

India has murdered Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, Muslims, and other minorities by the tens of thousands. Should the United States be supporting such a country, especially when it tries
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WASHINGTON, DC, July 17, 2001.—Indian hypocrisy was exposed to the international community when they refused to mention the word Kashmir during the bilateral talks between Pakistani President Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee. The Indian Foreign Ministry’s press spokeswoman, Niruparna Rao, did not even list Kashmir among the items discussed. Aides to President Musharraf said that three drafts of a joint statement had been approved by both nations but were held up by the Indians. In August 1999, India secretly cremated the bodies of deceased 14-year-old Arif Masood and 12-year-old Arif Masood’s sister, Karuna. Both were killed in a firing incident in Srinagar in Kashmir.

“India must keep its promise of a plebiscite in Kashmir, which it agreed to in 1948 in a United Nations resolution,” said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for independence. “India does not want any peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue.”

“In the early 1980s, the ruthless Indian gouvernment murdered more than 50,000 Kashmiris and the expenditure of over $2 billion a year have not extinguished the flame of freedom which is burning in the hearts of the people of Kashmir,” he said.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan’s press release about the breakdown of the India-Pakistan talks into the RECORD at this time.

HONORING EUDORA WELTY

WASHINGTON, DC, July 24, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Maranda Phillips Holmes of Charleston, South Carolina, a recent recipient of a National Jefferson Award. Mrs. Holmes is greatly admired for her outstanding community and volunteer service. Mrs. Holmes is the first recipient of a Jefferson Award in Charleston County in expressing our deepest gratitude for everything she has done and continues to do.

Mrs. Holmes, who is often known as “Mother Teresa,” has been a church and community volunteer for more than forty years. She has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Neighborhood Housing Service Commission where she helped provide loans and grants to those wishing to renovate their homes. She is an extraordinary person and has served Charleston County in expressing our deepest gratitude for everything she has done and continues to do.

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