Corruption scandal engulfs Indian government

HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the world has been shocked by the recent news stories about a corruption scandal that has engulfed the Indian government. Already, the president of the ruling BJP and the Defense Minister have been forced to resign after they were caught taking bribes from two internet news reporters posing as arms dealers in regard to a fake defense contract. The opposition is calling for the government to resign.

The resignation of Minister George Fernandes is no loss for friends of democracy. Mr. Fernandes is the man who led a meeting in 1999 with the Ambassadors from China, Cuba, Russia, Libya, Serbia, and Iraq aimed at putting together a security alliance "to stop the U.S." This meeting was reported in the May 18, 1999 issue of the Indian Express.

Those of us who have been following Indian and South Asian issues are not surprised. The Indian Government has demonstrated many times before how deeply it is infected with corruption. In India, people have come up with a new word for bribery. They call it "fee for service." It has become necessary to pay a fee to get services that are mandated to be provided. In India, corruption is endemic as is tyranny and massive human-rights violations. There is, however, something that America, as the world’s only superpower, can do about it.

America can stop sending aid to India and support self-determination for the people of Kashmir. Mr. Speaker, I insert into the RECORD an article from the current issue of The Economist about the latest Indian Government bribery scandal. I commend it to all my congressional colleagues who care about spending our foreign aid dollars wisely.

[From The Economist, Mar. 24, 2001]
and making labour law more flexible. The reforms announced along with the budget, most controversial but valuable elements of which are expected to bring down prices of essential items, have been perceived as a move towards privatization.

Swayamsevak Sangh (Association of National Students), a key constituent of the National Democratic Alliance, has been consistently critical of the government's policies. And although the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a right-wing ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has not directly called for the resignation of any minister, it has been vocal in its criticism of the government's handling of various issues.

Pressure for their dismissal, some call a crisis of governance, which compounds nearly every public service, from defence to the distribution of subsidised food to the generation of electricity. Tehelka.com has simply rubbered Indians' faces in it.

Politicians, in honest moments, admit this. Kapil Sibal, a prominent member of Congress, says "the system is thoroughly corrupt." Pranab Mohan, the minister of communications, says that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), thinks the voters face a choice "between good and bad. It is between bad and worse." With tension, real or imagined, between the government and the opposition, the voters face a choice "not between good and bad, but between bad and worse."

With turpitude so common, removing one head of the home ministry, thought to be the fate of his closest advisers, widely resented. The outcome, a symposium, "Lessons for the New Millennium From the Legacy of the Country Doctors," was presented by Phyllis W. Hatcher, President, the Great Plains Foundation and the Arkansas Country Doctor Museum at the Lincoln Community Health Center.

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Dr. Herbert Boyer, Edward Forrest Ellis, William Hugh Mock and P.L. Hathcock practiced in Washington County, and were honored in this historic event. The late William Hugh Mock spoke of recollections of his honored dad, Dr. Jesse Wood of Ashley County. The honored country doctors reflect a common concern of a noble, medical profession: commitment, care, conviction and compassion in alleviating mankind's ills and sufferings. Their dedication to patients and profession has been told in years of community service.

Dr. Herbert Boyer (Nov. 13, 1866–June 12, 1978) practiced for more than 60 years.

Dr. Edward Forrest Ellis (Aug. 18, 1863–Sept. 10, 1926) practiced there for 10 years and in 1896 moved to Springfield where he practiced until 1904 when he moved to Fayetteville. He was the first doctor to practice in the county.

Dr. William Hugh Mock (July 24, 1874–July 18, 1971) practiced a life-time in Prairie Grove.

P.L. Hathcock (Dec. 31, 1878–Aug. 27, 1969) practiced in Harrison in 1901 and moved to Lincoln April 10, 1902. He moved to Fayetteville in 1921 and practiced until he was 83 years old.

Dr. Jesse Thomas Wood (Dec. 25, 1878–Sept. 8, 1969) practiced in his hometown of Foutain Hill about 10 years and in Crossett for 25 years before returning to Fountain Hill in 1943 to resume practice until three years before his death.

Additional "Lessons for the New Millennium From the Legacy of Country Doctors" are related in the following biographical excerpts:

The Lincoln Clinic started by Dr. Lacy Bean in 1866 evolved to a rural maternity clinic and later an emergency center. Dr. Bean practiced here 10 years. Dr. Herbert Boyer, who practiced there until the early 1920s, developed this clinic. Dr. Bean had a son, Dr. Harold Boyer, a dermatologist, his Las Vegas colleagues and others, the Arkansas Country Doctor Museum came to fruition. Thus, the museum establishes continuity with the past, which is so important to the future of medical practice.

Dr. P.L. Hathcock followed the advice of his physician father, Dr. Alfred Monroe Hathcock, to settle in a small town and "work up." He practiced a short time with Dr. Lacy Bean in Harrison (U.S. Census Star township [sic] population 1,517) after graduating from Vanderbilt University Medical School in 1901. As previously noted, he opened an office to practice in Lincoln (U.S. Census Star township [sic] population 728).

Long before continuing medical education became mandatory, the country doctor attended the medical colleges. He attended the medical college and made a living as a country doctor. A country doctor had to be a general practitioner and he was expected to be a generalist in the true sense of the word. A country doctor had to be a generalist in the true sense of the word.

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