served India well during his term as Ambassador.

Of course, Ambassador Ray has not achieved all of these successes by himself. He possesses another invaluable asset: his lovely wife, Maya, who also is a noted barrister and former elected official. Maya Ray has been a gracious host, trusted advisor and articulate spokesperson. Together, they have proven to be a superb team.

Mr. Speaker, later this month, Siddhartha Shankar Ray will leave his position as Ambassador to the United States to return to Calcutta, his home city, to stand for election to the Lokh Sabha, India's House of Parliament. While it would be improper for any Member of this body on either side of the aisle to endorse a candidate for office in India, I am certain all of my colleagues agree that Ambassador Ray will approach the coming campaign with the same level of energy, dedication and articulate persuasion that were the hallmark of his years in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in wishing Siddhartha Shankar Ray and Maya every good wish in the months and years to come. We invite them to visit us in Washington often to witness the fruits of Ambassador Ray's labor as the Indo-United States relationship continues to grow and prosper.

SUPPORT PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY: SUPPORT HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 136

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, 1995, I joined the chairman of the Helsinki Commission, CHRIS SMITH, in introducing H. Con. Res. 136, legislation which advocates a peaceful end to the conflict between the Government of Turkey and Kurdish militants. I urge my colleagues to join us as cosponsors of this important resolution aimed at ending a vicious cycle of violence and terror which has claimed so many lives over the past decade and has eroded the impressive strides made by a government committed to achieving full-fledged democracy.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade Turkey's citizens, especially those residing in the southeast, have suffered the horrors of terrorism and the excesses of a government committed to eradicating terrorism at any cost. More than 20,000 people have died in clashes among security forces, the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] and shadowy Muslim fundamentalist groups. Turkish troops in southeast Turkey have forcibly evacuated or destroyed more that 2,650 Kurdish villages, burned crops, killed livestock, and displaced more than three million people. Citizens are detained, tortured, extrajudicially executed or disappear without a trace. The PKK has also killed innocent civilians, mined local roads, and set off bombs in populated areas—contributing to the cycle of violence and the climate of fear that pervades southeast Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, European newspapers printed color pictures of Turkish soldiers posing with the heads of decapitated Kurdish guerrillas. These gruesome and despicable photos all too graphically underline the hatred and brutality fueling this conflict. But even more, the pictures reinforce the urgent need for reconciliation. Violence and terrorism will not resolve this conflict. Only dialog can help overcome bitterness inspired by 12 years of war. House Concurrent Resolution 136 promotes an end to violence and a beginning for efforts promoting reconciliation and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman SMITH and I are sending letters to officials of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] urging them to initiate and support steps to resolve the escalating conflict in Turkey. We believe the OSCE should establish a million of long-duration to monitor human rights abuses and help defuse sources of conflict and have asked that the OSCE chairman-in-office send a personal representative to develop recommendations concerning the mandate and scope of future OSCE activities in Turkey. We have also asked the president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to designate a parliamentary delegation to Turkey to assist in this task. The OSCE has played a critical role in conflict prevention, mediation, and human rights monitoring in the former Yugoslavia, the Caucasus, the Baltic States, and elsewhere. An OSCE presence in Turkey would be especially helpful as local non-governmental organizations, international humanitarian groups, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, and even journalists are not allowed by authorities to operate freely in this region.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey and Israel are the only functional democratic states in the Middle East. Turkey is a NATO ally and OSCE member. The government's inability to peacefully and democratically resolve the Kurdish conflict jeopardizes Turkey's democratic foundations, drains a stumbling economy, threatens regional stability, and makes closer relations with Europe and the United States problematic. Our Government has been instrumental in helping resolve conflicts in the Middle East, the Balkans and elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, if we truly value our strategic, economic and political partnership with Turkey, and I believe we do, we must act now to help end this brutal conflict. It is precisely because of that partnership that we seek to assist Turkey in ending this conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to review House Concurrent Resolution 136. I believe it represents a balanced and thoughtful first step that our Government can and should take to promote peaceful resolution of a difficult and divisive conflict. I call on all my colleagues who value human rights and our partnership with Turkey to cosponsor this resolution. We must try to help stop the violence.

THE STATE OF THE UNION

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, January 31, 1996 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Declaring that the era of big government is over, the President embraced a centrist view of government in his State of the Union address. The speech had no soaring rhetoric, and it was rather blandly written and probably too long, but he delivered it forcefully and appeared robust and strong. By complimenting his chief political opponent he came across as gracious and fair minded. As usual, he threw about everything into the speech. Most observers felt that he had a very good night.

OVERVIEW

He gave an upbeat view of the nation, saying that the state of the union is strong and that America has made progress in reducing the deficit, creating new jobs, and keeping unemployment and inflation low. He emphasized that the crime rate, teen pregnancies, high school drop out rates, poverty and welfare rolls are all down, and that we have had great success in lowering air pollution, cutting tons of pesticides from water and food supplies. He emphasized progress made abroad, with the United States leading toward peace in Haiti, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, and the Middle East.

But the President did not dwell upon the progress; he emphasized the challenges that are before us—to balance the budget, keep families together, provide educational opportunities and economic security, continue the fight against crime and drugs, protect the environment, continue American world leadership, and make our government and its democracy work better for less money.

SIZE OF GOVERNMENT

Throughout the speech the President highlighted the theme of smaller government, saying that big government does not have all the answers, that there's not a program for every problem. He's right. He said that we need a smaller, less bureaucratic government in Washington, one that lives within its means, and he noted that the federal workforce is now at its lowest level in 30 years. He laid out the challenges for an age of possibility. He hit hard on the point that the government shutdowns are a mistake, also now acknowledged by Speaker Gingrich, and he challenged Congress never to shut the federal government down again. The President was equally sharp in his comments on the efforts to threaten the full faith and credit of the U.S. to try to force presidential budget or other policy concessions.

ECONOMY

The President was both optimist and critic of the American economy. He mentioned the impressive list of economic statistics that now characterize the American economy. The economy overall is in good shape, with low inflation and interest rates, steady growth, and relatively low unemployment. Yet at the same time, many Americans are fearful of layoffs, concerned about the growing gap between the rich and the poor, worried that wages are not keeping up with inflation, and doubtful about the future of the American dream.

MAJOR POINTS

As usual in a State of the Union address there was something in it for most everybody. The President hit very popular themes emphasizing a balanced budget, a strengthened American family, moving people from welfare to work, making health care more available to every American, and supporting the efforts of state and local police to catch criminals and prevent crime. He also stressed improving educational opportunities, reducing the drug problem, working with business to cut pollution, curbing the influence of special interests in politics, attacking the problem of illegal immigration, and maintaining America's role as a peacemaker in the world.

Strongly applauded were his references to education and cultural values, and his calls

for responsible parents, decency on television and in the movies, and a crackdown on gangs. Reiterating themes he has often expressed in the past, he put heavy emphasis on working together as a community and reaching across the lines that divide us in order to find common ground and to make America work better. Again and again he said that the future can only be achieved by teamwork between Republicans and Democrats and between government and the private sector.

He spent remarkably little time talking about the protracted struggle over the budget, sounding at times as if the fight was already over. His eyes were clearly focused on the future and not the contentious and hostile battles going on with Congress. He did not lambast the Republicans, indeed he complimented their commitment to a balanced budget and took the high road throughout his speech.

The speech was significant in that it proposed few if any bold new initiatives and basically repeated calls the President has made in the past. He is clearly constrained by the fact that he has little money to play with and his emphasis on the limitations of government. The prominence of the traditional values of family and work were strong themes in his speech. A significant omission in the speech was any reference to his and the First Lady's problems with Whitewater.

PROTECTING AGAINST EXCESSES

I think the President sought to portray himself as a reasonable man who shared many of the goals of his political opponents but thought their means were too harsh. He conceded that government programs had become too costly and inefficient, but he did not abandon the fundamental obligations to the people who rely on Medicare and Medicaid, stating: ''America cannot become stronger if they become weaker.'' I think the President is saying that he will cut back big government but he will do it compassionately, that he will keep many government programs but he will run them more efficiently.

CONCLUSION

The themes the President hit in his speech—limited government, an optimistic view of the future of America with great challenges and possibilities—hit responsive chords among Americans. In outlining the challenges to the country, the President for the most part chose not to attack his political opponents' positions but rather to emphasize common ground, and that also was well received. The key test for the President will be whether he is able to follow through on the themes and vision he laid out.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER RUSSELL F. PITKIN

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, in March, one of California's finest law officers will retire after 31 years of dedicated service. Russell F. Pitkin has been an integral part of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office for more than three decades, providing the kind of leadership and excellence that sets the standard for his peers.

During the course of his career, Mr. Pitkin participated in the 99th session of the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA. A holder of a master's degree in public administration, he rose from being a deputy sheriff to becoming undersheriff, and has served in every rank in the investigation division.

One of the highlights of his career came when he was involved in the felony investigation involving members of the Symbionese Liberation Army, which resulted in the arrest warrants for the kidnappers of Patty Hearst. His diligence in this effort was characteristic of his assiduous performance throughout his time in the sheriff's office.

The men and women who daily put their lives on the line for our safety and well-being are among the true heroes of our time. Russell Pitkin is one of the foremost of these heroes, and all Contra Costans owe him a debt of gratitude for all he has done to make the east bay the wonderful place it is. I am honored to recognize him today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and to wish him every success in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO H. E. AMBASSADOR SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, Ambassador Siddhartha Shankar Ray, India's envoy to the United States. During his 4 years in the United States, Indo-United States relations significantly improved. Ambassador Ray's efforts on behalf of his nation helped to educate so many of us in the Congress about the important economic reforms currently being implemented in the world's largest democracy. A distinguished diplomat, gentleman, and friend, Ambassador Ray and his wife, Maya, will be missed in Washington.

Prior to coming to Washington, both Ambassador and Mrs. Ray had distinguished legal careers and both also served their nation as Members of Parliament. Immediately preceding his current post, Ambassador Ray served with distinction as Governor of Punjab. Those of us who closely follow events in South Asia fully recognize the challenges Ambassador Ray faced in Punjab. Despite the seemingly intractable problems in that region, Ambassador Ray left Punjab, as he now leaves Washington with an impressive list of accomplishments.

Mr. Ray was appointed Ambassador to the United States on October 10, 1992, with the rank of Federal Cabinet Minister. That appointment, at that level, demonstrates Prime Minister Rao's confidence in Ambassador Ray. As chairman of the House International Relations Committee, I fully agree that the Prime Minister's confidence was well-placed.

It was during Ambassador Ray's tenure in Washington that Prime Minister Rao addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress—the highest honor our Nation can convey upon a foreign dignitary. It was during Ambassador Ray's tenure in Washington that the United States and India moved beyond almost all of the difficulties of the cold war. The improved climate in Indo-United States relations can be tangibly measured by the number of high-level United States official visits to Washington.

It is with great regret that we bid farewell to Siddhartha and Maya Ray. We commend the Ambassador and Mrs. Ray for their outstanding work in Washington and we wish them success in all of their future endeavors.

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in a very succinct and incisive interview with Middle East Insight president and editor George Nader in the magazine's 15th anniversary issue in December President Clinton articulated his vision for the future of the Middle East and for American interests in the region. The President said, "We want to see the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous region in which all nations and people can live in freedom and security."

Real progress made in the Middle East peace process under the Clinton administration has been unprecedented. As the Israeli-Syrian talks continue to move ahead, and our attention remains focused on further process toward lasting peace in the Middle East, I commend the entire interview to my colleagues.

[From Middle East Insight, November-December, 1995]

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

(By George A. Nader)

In this 15th Anniversary issue, President Bill Clinton gives an exclusive interview about U.S. interests in the Middle East to Middle East Insight editor George A. Nader. This interview is a follow-up to President Clinton's first interview with Middle East Insight as President-elect.

President Clinton's term in office has been marked by historic agreements between Israel and the PLO, a formal peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, ongoing negotiations under U.S. auspices between Israel and Syria and Lebnanon, and continued enforcement of dual containment of Iraq and Iran. President Clinton had developed a warm and productive relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before his assassination last November, and will now be working closely with his successor, Shimon Peres, on many vital areas of interest to the United States in the Middle East.

We are privileged to have President Clinton share his views below on these subjects as well as his vision for the future of the region.

Q: Mr. President, as spiral of violence in the Middle East, capped by the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, has challenged the peace process. What are your thoughts about the impact of this assassination on the state of the peace process?

A: The tragic death of Prime Minister Rabin was an attempt to stop the historic progress which has been made toward a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But the reaction in Israel, the Middle East, and around the world to this crime demonstrates the marginalization of those who would use violence to achieve their ends and the overwhelming support which exists for the peace process. The world lost a great man and I—along with all Americans—a great friend in Yitzhak Rabin. A champion of his nation in conflict, he became a hero for reconciliation