

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON—  
CONFERENCE USA CHAMPS

## HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize my alma mater, the University of Houston Cougars whose football team won the Conference USA Championship on December 1, 2006 against Southern Mississippi in front of a hometown crowd of 31,818, the largest crowd in the history of UH's Robertson Stadium. After being down at halftime by a score of 17–13, the Cougars rallied by to win by 34–20.

I am immensely proud of the Cougar football program, which in the space of 5 years has turned itself completely around from a winless season in 2001.

This lion's share of this tremendous success is attributed to Mr. Art Briles, the head coach of the Cougars—the brilliant architect of the turnaround. When Briles came to the Cougars in 2003, he found a team and school demoralized and devastated from years of mediocrity. A mere three years later, due to his leadership, the Cougs are conference champs and headed to the Liberty Bowl.

In football, statistics are misleading, because the game is above all a team effort. It is hard to describe the contribution of an individual player to such an effort through their statistics, because one's performance is mortally dependent on so many other variables—broadly speaking, the performance of every other player on the team. Therefore, it could be said that the most important, perhaps only, statistic that matters is that of wins and losses, which reflects the performance of the team, not the individual player. This statistic is really the coach's statistic—Mr. Briles is ultimately responsible for it. In this the Cougars excelled, with a record of ten wins and only three losses.

In recognition of excellence in leadership and performance, on December 6, Briles won the Coach of the Year award from the Conference USA—An award well-deserved.

Mr. Speaker, in football, extreme importance is paid to the position of the quarterback. In the realm of sports, the vitality of this position is matched only by the pitcher in baseball.

Fortunately, UH had an excellent quarterback in Kevin Kolb. In the championship game, Kevin completed 19–for–31 passes for 258 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for a 46-yard touchdown. But this was the continuation of an equally stellar season, in which Kevin completed 266–for–393 passes for 3,423 yards. He threw a league-high 27 touchdowns with only three interceptions. This touchdown-to-interception ratio was the second lowest in all of NCAA—I-A football. For these exceptional accomplishments, Kevin has deservedly won the C–USA Offensive Player of the Year award.

I must also recognize Vincent Marshall, who was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Vincent, a wide receiver, rushed for a touchdown and had 224 all-purpose yards—100 receiving, 22 rushing, and 102 yards on three kickoff returns. Also notable is the fact that Vincent has made a reception in 36 straight games, allowing him to be the Nation's top returning career receiver. He is also just 31 catches, and 557 yards, away from holding the UH record in both categories.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Coach Briles, Kevin, Vincent, and the entire Cougar football team for a superb season, a conference championship, and for making students of the University of Houston, past and present, proud to be a Cougar. I look forward to the Liberty Bowl, where the un-daunted Cougars will face the Southeastern Conference South Carolina GameCocks. They will meet for the first time since October 5, 1974, but whom the Cougars are 2–0 against. I look forward to a Cougar victory.

My pride goes to UH. "Eat 'em up, eat 'em up; rah, rah, rah," Mr. Speaker.

That's just the way it is.

## COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN URGES SIKHS TO WORK TO FREE KHALISTAN SEES DISINTEGRA- TION OF INDIA

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, last month, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, spoke at the Press Club in Lahore, Pakistan. In that speech, he predicted disintegration of India, according to the newspaper Dawn from Lahore. "There is nothing common in the culture of the Hindu living in Bengal and the one in Tamil area," the paper quotes Dr. Aulakh as saying. "A country having 18 official languages cannot hold its people together for a long time, especially when there is state sponsored suppression against minorities," he went on to say.

Dr. Aulakh cited the BJP's statement that if you want to live in Hindustan, you must be a Hindu. He discussed India's long record of violence against the minorities within its borders, including the murders of over a quarter of a million Sikhs, more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims around the rest of the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalit "untouchables", Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. He cited numerous other incidents, including the murder of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke, the kidnapping and murder by the police of human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira, the recent attack on the Convent of Loreto, the attack on the Babri mosque, and many other such events.

Dr. Aulakh said that the only solution to this situation is a free, sovereign, independent Khalistan, which was declared on October 7, 1987. It is time for the United States to help protect the dignity of all people in South Asia by helping them to live in freedom. There should be a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab on the independence of Khalistan, as well as a plebiscite in Kashmir, as promised to the United Nations in 1948, in Nagaland, and wherever people are seeking freedom from India. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. The United States Congress should be on record in support of that. In addition, we should stop our aid and trade with India until such time as the tyranny stops and all people there enjoy full human rights.

We seek good relations with India, but not at the expense of our principles. India must

spread the blessings of freedom and democracy to all its people, not just the ruling elite and its friends.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Dawn article and an article from The News concerning Dr. Aulakh's statement into the RECORD.

[From Dawn Lahore, Nov. 7, 2006]

## KHALISTAN COUNCIL SEES INDIA'S DISINTEGRATION

(By Our Staff Reporter)

Lahore, Nov. 6: India will break up in many states like the former USSR, says Council of Khalistan president Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh.

"There is nothing common in the culture of the Hindu living in Bengal and the one in Tamil area. A country having 18 official languages cannot hold its people together for a long time, especially when there is state-sponsored suppression against minorities," Dr. Aulakh said at a press conference at the Lahore Press Club on Monday.

The BJP had conveyed to all the minorities in the strongest terms that if they wanted to live in 'Hindustan', they have to become Hindus. Over a million people have been killed since independence merely because they were not Hindus. The Indian government has committed terrorism against its own minorities. More than 250,000 Sikh infants, children, youth, men, women and elderly had been murdered since 1984, in addition to more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country besides tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils and other minorities.

Indian police arrested human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs. Over 50,000 Sikhs were arrested, tortured, murdered and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated, said Dr. Aulakh.

Mr. Khaira was murdered in police custody and his body was not handed over to his family. No one was brought to justice for his kidnap and murder. The only witness to the Khaira kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randbawa, had been repeatedly harassed by the police, including having been arrested for trying to hand a note to the then British home secretary Jack Straw.

The Khalistan Council chief said 35 Sikhs were arrested in Punjab last year for delivering speeches in support of Khalistan and raising its flag. How can delivering speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?

The police never released the body of Gurdev Singh Kaunke, the former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, after SSP Swarn Singh Ghotna murdered him. The police officer had never been tried for the murder.

Mr. Graham Stains, missionary, was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted Hannuman ki jay (Victory to Hannuman). Another missionary, Joseph cope, was beaten so badly that he had to remain in an Indian hospital for a week. Later, the Indian government threw him out of the country and none of the people involved had been tried.

"Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire but the people who murdered priests, raped nuns and burnt churches had yet to be charged or tried. Recently, militants from the Bharatiya Januata Yuva, the youth movement affiliated with the BJP and the fascist RSS, attacked the Convent of Loreto.

"The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An

Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984. Militant Hindu fundamentalists destroyed the most important mosque in India, the Babri Masjid, but no one had ever been held responsible," said Dr. Aulakh.

"What good it did to the Sikh nation if the Indian government apologized for the Delhi massacres, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed? Where are the apologies for the Golden Temple attack, the destruction of the Akal Takht, the desecration of Darbar Sahib and the other atrocities? Where is the compensation for the victims' families?" asked a charged Khalistan Council chief.

Sikh farmers were expelled from Uttaranchal last year and their land was seized, police thrashed them, their homes that were built out of their life savings and by their own hands, were bulldozed by paratroopers. "We condemn this act of state terrorism by the government of Uttaranchal," he said.

Sikhs could not buy land in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh and now Uttaranchal had been added to the list while there were no restrictions on land ownership in Punjab by non-Sikhs.

India was trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. "It is now incumbent on the Sikh diaspora to free Khalistan. We must redouble our efforts. That is the only way to keep these atrocities from continuing and to protect the Sikh nation and the religion."

The Akali Dal, Dr. Aulakh alleged, conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs in June 1984 in Punjab.

In response to a question, he said the Indian prime minister was a puppet. "Mr. Manmohan Singh lied before the Geneva Commission in 1992 that there were no atrocities against Sikhs in India in spite of the fact that there were 52,000 Sikhs in Indian jails under the notorious TADA. He lacks the true Sikh spirit, if a Sikh is not Khalistani, he is not a Sikh," declared Dr. Aulakh.

Sikhs would never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India had mistreated the Sikh nation, starting with Patel's memo calling Sikhs 'a criminal tribe.'

"What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India. There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, democratic India. Our moment of freedom is closer than ever. Sikhs will continue to work to make certain that we shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom and dignity.

"The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of every Sikh and no force can suppress it. Recently, Dal Khalsa and the Shironment Khalsa Dal announced that they are uniting for sovereignty for Khalistan. The Punjab legislative assembly proclaimed the sovereignty of Punjab when it cancelled the water agreements. Only by liberating Khalistan can we put an end to the repression and terrorism against the Sikh nation by the Indian regime. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the liberation of Khalistan.

"The Sikhs are a free nation and they would neither compromise on their freedom nor they could be subjugated. Freedom is the right of every nation. We have been struggling for the independence of our homeland

from the day when the Golden Temple was attacked. We have been exposing the Indian atrocities worldwide since then," the Khalistan Council chief said.

[From The News International, Nov. 7, 2006]

#### SIKHS URGED TO WORK FOR HOMELAND

Sardar Gurmeet Singh Aulakh, president of Council of Khalistan, has said that it is the moral duty of Sikhs to establish free homeland and get freedom from India.

While addressing a press conference here Monday at Lahore Press Club, he said Sikhs had to come forward to get free homeland for the Sikhs living around the world. He said the foundation of Khalistan was laid after the attack on Golden Temple in 1984 adding that now the Sikhs were fighting for their birth right though the war was long but it has to meet logical end.

He said the biggest mistake which the Sikh nation had committed was that they did not accept the offer of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and for that they have to pay for few more decades.

He said their struggle was peaceful and political but India turned into violent by killing innocent Sikhs in East Punjab and tagged them as terrorists.

He said in India, 18 different languages were being spoken and when there was no commonality in cultures, the country was bound to be divided into parts like the USSR. He said on October 17, 1987, the resolution was passed by Council of Khalistan for free homeland and from that date the Sikhs were struggling to get their homeland.

He said Sikhs has no claim on that piece of land where they did not have any population but they want homeland on areas of East Punjab, Himachal and Haryana, where the Sikhs were in majority. About Kashmir issue, he said he was surprised to note that with so many Muslim countries around the world, the state was not freed yet as if the Sikhs have the same number of countries, they had freed their land from the cruel clutches of India.

About Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, he said he was a puppet PM and dance to the tunes of Sonia Gandhi and lacks confidence of Sikh nation.

#### CONGRATULATING THE MINNESOTA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the staff and patrons of the Minnesota Children's Museum on its 25th Anniversary. Since its inception on December 12, 1981, the Minnesota Children's Museum has welcomed more than 5 million children through its doors, giving young people hands-on experiences that offer a world of opportunities for children, youth and adults alike to explore and discover.

As the number of visitors has grown from 65,000 to 400,000 per year, the Minnesota Children's Museum has moved to larger space three times, from downtown Minneapolis to its current location in downtown St. Paul. Thanks to the vision and commitment of founders Marialice Harwood, Kate Donaldson and Suzanne Payne, the Children's Museum continues to expand as an innovative venue for educating and nurturing young children, and offer unique public spaces for civic and community engagement.

In the new En Mi Familia gallery, children learn the life stories and dreams of a young Mexican American author and artist, Carmen Lomas Garza. In the Habitat gallery, infants and toddlers ranging in age from six months to four years old can safely explore and crawl through the Habitat's pond, prairie, forest and bluff caves to enhance their cognitive, physical and social development. In the Rooftop ArtPark, where nature and art come together, young visitors experience the changing colors of leaves from treetops to changing weather conditions in Minnesota. In the World Works gallery, children explore and discover the fun of water by building boats and racing them through a water tube.

Through these imaginative approaches to lessons about society, science and art, the Minnesota Children's Museum shows young people that learning can be fun. Community investments like the Children's Museum provide the foundation for lifelong learning. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring all the people who have made the Minnesota Children's Museum a success for children's education.

#### FRANK CORRECTS HIS ERROR

##### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for Tuesday, December 5, 2006 I inserted remarks noting the justifiable honor that Georgetown Law School paid to our former colleague, Father Robert Drinan, by naming a Chair in Human Rights in his honor. Unfortunately, I marred that insertion by incorrectly naming the first holder of the Chair. In that insertion, I said that Professor T. Alexander Aleinikoff was holding the Chair. In fact, he is the Dean of Georgetown University Law Center and he spoke at the ceremony in recognition of the first Chair holder. That recipient of the honor of being the first holder of the Robert F. Drinan Chair is Judge Thomas Buergeenthal.

Mr. Speaker, because I think it is a very important step that one of our nation's leading law schools has so honored a man who pioneered in the important field of human rights, and further that the proceedings in which that occurred be fully and accurately portrayed here in this RECORD, I have submitted for printing elsewhere in the RECORD a copy that corrects my mistake. I ask separately that these remarks be included so that people who note that there were two versions of this important ceremony printed in the RECORD will understand why.

I apologize to Judge Buergeenthal for not having recognized initially his being designated as the holder of this Chair and I repeat my congratulations to Georgetown University Law Center for honoring a great man, former Congressman Father Robert F. Drinan, and a great cause to which he has donated and continues to donate so much of his talent and time.