

our Ambassador in India has raised this issue with "high-ranking Indian officials," and that he will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, the human rights abuses—the murders, the rapes, the torture—that are being committed against the Sikh people are truly horrible. Our State Department, our Ambassador, and the President must continue to press the Indian Government on this issue. Congress must be involved as well. It is time for Congress to pass legislation conditioning aid to India on improving its human rights record in Punjab, in Kashmir, and in other areas. If we continue to confront the Indian Government on this issue, we can force them to stop the abuses and allow human rights, democracy and freedom to flourish.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, DC, November 15, 1995.

Hon. DAN BURTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BURTON: Thank you for sharing with me your recent letter to Prime Minister Rao of India regarding the situation in Punjab.

I too am concerned by the reports regarding Jaswant Singh Khalra. The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi has already made inquiries into these allegations with various Indian government agencies, and our Ambassador to New Delhi, Frank Wisner, has raised the issue with high-ranking Indian officials. We will continue these efforts. I appreciate your interest and concern on this issue.

With best wishes and warm regards.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

[From the Council of Khalistan, Nov. 28, 1995]

CLINTON CHECKS INDIA

(By James Mornson)

President Clinton has taken a personal interest in the fate of an Indian human rights activist held by the government in New Delhi.

Following a letter-writing campaign from 65 members of Congress, Mr. Clinton says his envoy to India has made inquiries into the fate of Jaswant Singh Khalra.

U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner has made it known in New Delhi that Washington is watching.

"I, too, am concerned by the reports regarding Jaswant Singh Khalra," Mr. Clinton wrote this month to Rep. Gary A. Condit.

The California Democrat organized the congressional letter to Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, a copy of which was sent to the White House.

Mr. Condit cited an Amnesty International bulletin of Sept. 7 that accused Indian police of abducting Mr. Khalra for investigating accusations that police in Punjab murdered thousands of Sikh men.

"The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi has already made inquiries into these allegations with various Indian government agencies, and Ambassador Wisner has raised the issue with high-ranking Indian officials," Mr. Clinton wrote.

"We will continue these efforts."

Mr. Condit's letter to the Indian prime minister noted that Mr. Khalra "had published a report showing that the Punjab police have arrested more than 25,000 young Sikh men, tortured them, murdered them, then declared them 'unidentified' and cremated their bodies.

"These atrocities are intolerable in any country, especially one that calls itself a democracy. . . .

"This abuse of police power is inexcusable."

The congressional letter was the product of effective lobbying by Gurmit Singh Aulakh of the Council of Khalistan, which represents Sikhs pressing for a separate homeland.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 19, 1995.

Hon. P.V. NARASHIMA RAO,
Prime Minister of India, Chankaya Puri, New
Delhi, India.

DEAR PRIME MINISTER RAO: According to an Amnesty International "Urgent Action" bulletin issued on September 7, Punjab police abducted Sikh human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra from his home in Amritsar on September 6. His whereabouts are unknown. As the general secretary of Human Rights Wing (Shiromani Akali Dal), Mr. Khalra had published a report showing that the Punjab police have arrested more than 25,000 young Sikh men, tortured them, murdered them, then declared them "unidentified" and cremated their bodies. These atrocities are intolerable in any country, especially one that calls itself a democracy. After the report was published, Mr. Khalra was told by the Amritsar district police chief, "We have made 25,000 disappear. It would be easy to make one more disappear." This abuse of police power is inexcusable.

The right to speak out and expose atrocities is one of the most fundamental rights of free individuals. As long as Mr. Khalra remains in detention, how can anyone in India feel secure exercising his or her democratic liberties?

Many of us wrote to you previously urging that the passports of Sikh leader Samranjit Singh Mann and Dalit ("black untouchable") leader V.T. Rajshekar be restored. Your government has not acted, and Mr. Mann and Mr. Rajshekar remain unable to travel. The right to travel is fundamental to a democratic nation.

Mr. Prime Minister, we call upon your government to release Mr. Khalra immediately. We also urge you to restore the passports of Mr. Rajshekar and Mr. Mann. If India is a democratic country, it must end these gross violations of human rights and democratic principles. Only then can democracy truly begin to flower. We await your response.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Condit, James A. Traficant, William Jefferson, Peter King, Randy "Duke" Cunningham, Roscoe Bartlett, Jack Fields, Donald M. Payne, Dan Burton, Phil Crane, Richard Pombo, Karen McCarthy, Neil Abercrombie, Wally Herger, Dana Rohrabacher, Esteban Torres,

Ronald V. Dellums, John T. Doolittle, Michael Forbes, Enid G. Waldholtz, Gil Gutknecht, Victor Frazer, John Porter, Sam Gajdenson, Bob Livingston, Edolphus Towns, Chris Smith, William O. Lipinski, Scott King, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Dick Zimmer, Collin Peterson, Pete Geren,

Joe Skeen, Duncan Hunter, Jim Ramstad, Floyd Flake, Bernie Sanders, Matt Salmon, Richard "Doc" Hastings, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Phil English, Richard Burr, Connie Morella, Carlos Romero-Barcelo, Sanford D. Bishop, Jim Moran, Martin R. Hoke, Jack Metcalf,

Amo Houghton, Jerry Solomon, Robert Torricelli, Ed Whitfield, Melvin L. Watt, Jim Kolbe, John Shadegg, J.D. Hayworth, James H. Quillen, Barbara Cubin, Charlie Norwood, Vic Fazio, Chris Cox, Joe Scarborough, Bill Richardson, Steve Schiff.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY A. PANKEY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Mr. Henry A. Pankey, who will be honored on Saturday at the Second Annual Holiday Ball of the Eternal Fellowship of African American Postal Workers for his dedicated career in the U.S. Postal Service.

The Eternal Fellowship of African American Postal Workers is a non-profit organization which was founded to celebrate the African-American culture and to advance the well-being of the African-American community. At their second Christmas ball, to be held at Marina del Rey in the Bronx, the members of the "Eternal Fellowship" will bestow upon Mr. Pankey an honorary membership for his lifetime career in postal service operations.

I had the opportunity of meeting young and cheerful Henry Pankey when we were classmates at Clark Junior High School in the Bronx. Mr. Pankey later graduated from Bronx Community College and completed courses at the University of Virginia, Bernard Baruch College, Hunter College, Lehman College and Duke University.

His 32-year career in customer service and postal office operations includes experience as Division General Manager/Postmaster in the Western New York Division and in the Newark Division, and as Officer-In-Charge of the Elizabeth New Jersey Post Office.

Today, Mr. Pankey holds the post of Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Area of the United States Postal Service. His philosophy has been "what comes in today gets sorted and dispatched today, and delivered tomorrow." Under Mr. Pankey's leadership, postal management has reached higher levels of efficiency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Henry A. Pankey's lifelong and dedicated career to the benefit of our communities.

THE MISSING COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN OR WHY CAN'T WE GIVE AT THE OFFICE?

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH says he likes charities such as Boys Town, but he's acting like the Grinch who stole Christmas when it comes to the Combined Federal Campaign for the House.

As we all know, the Combined Federal Campaign is the annual event enabling Federal employees to make donations to charities.

Virtually all Government agencies have completed their Combined Federal Campaign, and thousands of charitable causes and organizations are the beneficiaries.

But one Government agency is missing: the House of Representatives.

When December 1 rolled around, a concerned staffer in my office started making inquiries.