

UNITED STATES-INDIA RELATIONS: THE NEED FOR UNITED STATES AID

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the current status of United States-India relations.

Over the past decade the relationship between our countries has been increasingly positive. United States trade and business investments in India have grown to an all-time high. This growth should continue, for India recently reaffirmed its commitment to democracy by conducting the largest democratic election in history. Over 65 percent of India's 640 million eligible voters participated in the election.

At such a time, with so many positive developments, it is a serious misreading of history for us to even consider freezing aid to India, as some are now proposing. I urge those who are so inclined to listen to the warnings of Ambassador Frank Wisner, senior career ambassador to India, who recently said India would view such an attempt by Congress to be "a very negative message."

Undeniably, there have been human rights abuses in India in years past. But progress in this area is being made, as reflected most dramatically by the election results in Punjab Province. There, the ruling party which allegedly committed abuses against Muslims was thrown out by a Muslim-leaning party. Another reflection of progress was the decision by both the State Department and the United Nations to commend India for its recent resolution of human rights problems. These are trends to be encouraged, not discouraged by denying additional assistance.

In fact, a cutoff of United States developmental assistance would hurt the very people who most need help, hampering the intentions of newly elected Prime Minister Deve Gowda to improve the living conditions of the poorest citizens of India.

Finally, India's geographic position continues to be of great strategic importance in light of recent transactions between China and Pakistan.

For these reasons, and more, I believe those who want to send a symbolic message are jeopardizing our relationship with India and putting at peril United States national security interests in and around that region of the world.

CELEBRITY READ PROGRAM A GREAT SUCCESS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to invite my colleagues to join with me in congratulating and thanking the United Way of Essex and West Hudson. The United Way held their annual Celebrity Read Program which encourages inner-city youth to broaden their horizons and have hope for their futures. The program asks adults, both famous and not so famous,

to attend classrooms and read passages from their favorite book about the accomplishments of people of color.

This year's program had a phenomenal level of participation, with twice as many reading volunteers as last year. Their words of inspiration touched the lives of more than 10,000 children. Among the more well-known participants were news reporters; Terrie Williams and Reggie Harris and former New York Giants football player, Harry Carson. One of the aspects of the program is that their definition of celebrity includes local business people, entrepreneurs, and everyday citizens from the community. This program makes it possible for individuals to take part in their community, share their wealth of knowledge and experience, and be a source of inspiration to our inner-city youth.

It is wonderful to see that this outstanding program has not just continued but grown since last year. I urge other communities, nationwide, to follow their lead and motivate children with programs such as this one. The Celebrity Read Program is one that should take place in as many cities as possible. I would also like to extend a most sincere thank you to the Celebrity Read Program and to the 400 celebrity readers for taking the time to interact with the leaders of the next generation. We should celebrate children for they are our greatest resource.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me this opportunity to share with my colleagues some of the exciting events that are taking place in the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey to ensure our future.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL BARRETT

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this amendment, which would emphasize the need for farmers and processors affected by the Karnal bunt quarantine to know exactly how the Federal Government intends to provide compensation and assistance.

This amendment is for the benefit of those who are currently subject to special restrictions as a result of Karnal bunt infestation, but have not yet been informed what action the Government plans to take to compensate them. While USDA already has taken steps to offset costs to producers in many areas, there are areas where USDA has not yet taken that action and those producers are anxiously awaiting this important information. It is reasonable to expect the Government, which imposes the quarantine and restrictions on mar-

keting wheat in the areas afflicted, to also provide a plan for compensation in a timely matter to all affected.

USDA has been aggressive in identifying and taking steps to control and eradicate Karnal bunt. This has been critical in protecting producers in areas not afflicted with Karnal bunt as well as in preserving our export markets. For this, I commend USDA's efforts.

Nevertheless, I understand the concerns of producers and processors in areas where USDA's job is not finished and I urge my colleagues join me in support of this sense of Congress.

REMEMBERING ISRAELI MIA'S

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the Israeli soldiers captured by the Syrians during the 1982 Israeli war with Lebanon.

On June 11, 1982, an Israeli tank unit battled with a Syrian armored unit in the Bekaa Valley in northeastern Lebanon. Sgt. Zachary Baumel, 1st Sgt. Zvi Feldman and Cpl. Yehudah Katz were captured by the Syrians that day. They were identified as the Israeli tank crew, and reported missing in Damascus. The Israeli tank, flying the Syrian and Palestinian flags, was greeted with cheers from bystanders.

Since that terrible day in 1982, the Israeli and United States Governments have been doing their utmost to obtain any possible information about the fate of these missing soldiers, working with the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations, and other international bodies. According to the Geneva Convention, Syria is responsible for the fates of the Israeli soldiers because the area in Lebanon where the soldiers disappeared was continually controlled by Syria. To this day, despite promises made by the Syrian Government and by the PLO, very little information has been forthcoming about the condition of Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz.

June 11 marked the anniversary of the day that these soldiers were reported missing in action. Fourteen pain-filled years have passed since their families have seen their sons, and still President Assad has not revealed their whereabouts.

One of these missing soldiers, Zachary Baumel, is an American citizen, from my district in Brooklyn, NY. An ardent basketball fan, Zachary began his studies at the Hebrew School of Boro Park. In 1979, he moved to Israel with other family members and continued his education at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies are integrated with army service. When the war with Lebanon began, Zachary was completing his military service and was looking forward to attending Hebrew University, where he had been accepted to study psychology. But fate decreed otherwise and on June 11, 1982, he disappeared with Zvi Feldman and Yehudah Katz.

Zachary's parents Yoni and Miriam Baumel have been relentless in their pursuit of information about Zachary and his compatriots. I have worked closely with the Baumels, as well

as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and the American Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers. These groups have been at the forefront of this pursuit of justice. I want to recognize their good work and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts. For 14 years, these families have been without their children. Answers are long overdue.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION JUNE
21, 1996

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate one of Connecticut's most treasured African-American celebrations to be held in Hartford, CT, on June 21, 1996—the Annual Juneteenth Celebration.

Juneteenth is celebrated traditionally on June 19th and is this Nation's oldest African-American celebration. Originally celebrated in Texas, whereas in 1865 that enslaved Africans were formally notified of their freedom, literally 2½ years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln.

This Texas celebration has become the model to similar events in other States. Held annually at the Wadsworth Atheneum, Juneteenth attracts thousands to the museum and proudly preserves and furthers the rich heritage and traditions of Connecticut's African-Americans. A 2-day celebration, Juneteenth offers a parade, historical perspectives, the Discovering Ellis Ruley exhibition, family day festivities, vibrant musicians, and benefits the Wadsworth Atheneum Amistad Foundation's African-American collection. Viewed by some as one of the Nation's outstanding records of the black experience in America, this 6,000 piece collection illuminates the brilliance of African-American artists and their contributions to American art and culture.

This gala affair is presented jointly by the Wadsworth Atheneum's Amistad Foundation director and curator Deirdre Libby and the 1996 Juneteenth Jubilee Committee. Thanks should be given to all the members of the 1996 Juneteenth Committee, who have worked so hard to make this year's event a wonderful success. Special thanks goes to: 1996 cochairs Barbara Alleyne and Peter Roach, and members Sylvia Alexander, Charles Barrow, Alvin Bingham, Sondra Brittain, Carolyn H. Burney, Kristen Clark, C. Jeanne Costley, Diane Jackson, Ann Jennings, Darlene Leak, Winnie Johnson, Bunny Jones, Alice and Duane Luster, Claire Odoms, Genie Odoms, Loretta Pair, Joyce Peoples, Kelly Pittman, Alyce T. Rawlins, Randolph Ricketts, Sara Roach, Andrea B. Seldon, Tanya Sharpe, Mildred Smith, Marilyn Strong, Carolyn Thomas, Patricia Wiggings, and Alberta Mendenhall.

All Americans are enriched by the African-American experience. The courage, the faith, the fortitude in the face of enormous obstacles, and above, all, the dedication to freedom should inspire all of us. The Juneteenth celebration is a joyful and uplifting community event, one that will strengthen our ties to our fellow Americans.

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE SHARON L. GIRE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and my State representative, Sharon Gire. I am pleased and proud to have Sharon represent the district that I served in the 1970's. Sharon will be honored on Friday, June 14, at the Daughters of Isabella, Queen of the Skies Circle No. 683 annual testimonial dinner in Mount Clemens. This event is held each year to recognize a community leader or outstanding service and to raise funds for charity.

Sharon has always been a strong advocate for victims of domestic abuse and a staunch supporter of children's rights. Her long commitment to children is apparent when you consider her background. She has served as the Macomb area supervisor of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization, and was also the program director at the YWCA. As a State legislator, she continues to focus on the immediate concerns of women and children. One of her proudest moments was the development of a 14-bill package aimed at reforming domestic violence laws. Recently, she assisted members of the Macomb Domestic Violence Council with legislation regarding personal protection orders.

Taking an active role in one's community is a responsibility we all share, but few fulfill. Sharon has dedicated much of her life to this endeavor. I deeply admire her strong values and outstanding example of civic involvement. Among the many organizations that she is currently serving are the Clinton Township Goodfellows, Catholic Social Services Advisory Committee, and Citizen's for Better Care. Her time, talents, and energy are appreciated by all of us. I thank Sharon for all her efforts and commend her for her good work.

I applaud the Daughters of Isabella for recognizing Sharon Gire. She has provided outstanding leadership to our community and I know she is proud to be honored by this fine organization. On behalf of the Daughters of Isabella Queen of the Skies Circle No. 683, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting State Representative Sharon L. Gire.

TRIBUTE TO PIA HARRIS, SAN MARCOS, CA, TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mrs. Pia Harris, a teacher at Alvin Dunn Elementary School in my congressional district, who has been named San Marcos, CA, Teacher of the Year.

Excellent education gives our young people a fighting chance at the American dream. Our communities and our country benefit from the work of outstanding teachers. As a former teacher and coach, as a dad, and as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, I am thankful for Mrs. Harris' work.

I ask that the permanent Record of the Congress of the United States include the following article, from the May 1, 1996, North County Times, in appreciation for the honor bestowed upon Pia Harris by the San Marcos Unified School District.

[From the Northern County Times, May, 1996]

DUNN ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTOR NAMED SM TEACHER OF YEAR

(By Sandra San Agustin)

SAN MARCOS.—After raising 10 children, Pia Harris decided he had enough practical experience to become a teacher.

She had been a PTA member, a Brownie leader and a school aide.

When she hit her 40s, she went back to school and obtained a college education and her teaching credential.

On Friday, the Alvin Dunn Elementary School teacher received the "Teacher of the Year" award at the San Marcos Unified School District's employee recognition dinner.

"I'm very, very honored to be chosen for such a wonderful award," said the Swedish native. "There are so many excellent teachers out there that also deserve it."

Harris' husband, Pat Ebert and a handful of parents surprised the fifth-grade teacher with a small party in her classroom on Tuesday morning.

Former students joined Harris' class in congratulating her for winning the award.

"It was because of each of you that I was chosen (Teacher of the Year)," a teary-eyed Harris told the group.

Parents and students alike said Harris deserved the award because she makes learning fun and sincerely cares for the children.

"If you always complete your work and forget something one day, she lets you slide by," said Kyle Dodson, 11. "She always gives you a chance."

When Kathy Rocha's 10-year old daughter, Caity, entered the fifth grade, Rocha pushed to have her placed in Harris' class.

Her other daughter, Lisa, had been Harris' student a few years back.

"(Harris) loves her students with all her heart and is always hugging them," Rocha said. "At this age, the children are usually standoffish, but they love her."

Harris moved to the United States when she was 21 and settled in Southern California.

A champion of higher education, she decided to become a teacher because of the influence she would have on children.

"Education doesn't stop within the classroom," said the 26-year San Marcos resident, "I often encourage students and their parents to get involved in the community."

Besides teaching, Harris is also president of the San Marcos teacher's union, a member of the San Marcos Educational Foundation, direct of the North County Transit District board, and is serving her fourth term as a San Marcos City Council member.

IN HONOR OF THE BRAVE CREW OF THE RB-29 #44 61810

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. FOX. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 1952, alone, unarmed, and unafraid, a crew of 12 men flying a sensitive reconnaissance mission over the Sea of Japan was engaged and shot down by two Soviet MIG-15 jet fighters, near