

intent when the reauthorized program is implemented. Sometimes a change in the law is required to resolve the problem. This is especially true of the impact aid program which relies on a fairly complicated formula to distribute Federal funds to compensate school districts for the education of federally connected—mostly military—children.

H.R. 3269 makes such changes to assure that certain school districts are treated fairly under the impact aid law. I won't mention every change, but would like to mention the provisions in this bill which clarifies congressional intent in regard to the treatment of Hawaii in the impact aid formula.

The State of Hawaii has only one local education agency [LEA]. However, for the purpose of calculating Federal grants under many education programs the Department of Education treats Hawaii's seven administrative districts as separate LEA's. This is true for title I and was true of impact aid prior to the last reauthorization.

In the last reauthorization the Congress did not intend to change this policy, but language specifying that Hawaii should continue to be considered as having seven districts was not specifically included in the reauthorization legislation. The formula calculations which were provided to us at the time of reauthorization were based on calculations treating Hawaii's seven administrative districts as separate LEA's, even though the language included in the final bill did not reflect this policy. I would note that it was not the committee's intention to specifically leave out language specifying that Hawaii's seven administrative districts would be recognized as LEA's, but we operated under the presumption that the U.S. Department of Education would continue to treat Hawaii in the same manner as it has previous to the 1994 reauthorization.

Because that has not been the case, the result is that Hawaii stood to lose over half of its impact aid funds once the 2-year hold harmless ran out and the new formula was fully implemented, which is fiscal year 1997.

I want to thank Chair GOODLING and Chair CUNNINGHAM for all of their assistance in resolving this issue for Hawaii and for their work on this bill. Chair GOODLING made a commitment very early on when we first discovered this problem to help resolve it. He joined me in writing to the Department on the issue and when we found out a legislative change was needed, he and his staff have been most helpful in finalizing our legislative language and moving this bill forward.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill which will assure that many school districts around the country get a fair share of the much needed impact aid education funds.

THE SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT/MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN
OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of "The Small Business Job Protection Act/Minimum Wage Increase" conference report.

Because of the high number of small businesses and minimum-wage workers in the

First Congressional District of Arkansas, I have consistently supported the 90-cent minimum-wage hike, as well as small business tax breaks that include expanded tax credits for restaurants and increased tax deductions for business-related equipment services. The inclusion in conference of a \$5000 tax credit for adoptions and the \$2000 homemakers IRA make this an exceptionally well-rounded piece of bipartisan and bicameral legislation.

Men and women across the country who own small businesses and those who work for them are facing more economic uncertainty as they see their hard-earned dollars paying for less. This legislation is an opportunity to increase their earning power. Together with welfare reform, I am convinced that the minimum-wage increase will give low-income Americans a chance to work their way out of poverty.

TRIBUTE TO TOM AUTH

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special member of the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey.

During the summer of 1996, every American applauded the Olympic struggles of the U.S. gymnastics team and awed at the stunning achievements of Michael Johnson and Carl Lewis.

However, Mr. Speaker, there are some remarkable athletes that never reached the television screens in the homes of American families, but nevertheless deserve our recognition and admiration. One of these athletes, a member of the U.S. rowing team, is a constituent of our very own congressional district.

Tom Auth of Maplewood, NJ, in the Eighth Congressional District, participated in the lightweight double sculls events. In fact, he reached the semi-finals of the competition. Furthermore, Tom is not only a great athlete who has succeeded on the field, or in this case, in the water, but also a bright, young scholar. Tom is a graduate of the Columbia Law School of Harvard University.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Auth heartily embraces the true spirit of the Olympic flame. He is not only a credit to his hometown, but also a role model for the children of Maplewood. As recognition for these achievements, Tom will be honored with a parade in Maplewood, NJ, on September 7, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Tom Auth in the House of Representatives. I ask you and the other Members of this body to help me salute Tom for his illustrious performance in the 1996 Summer Olympics Games.

MASS CREMATIONS OF SIKHS TO BE INVESTIGATED

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, on August 2 India West reported that the mass cremations of Sikhs would be probed by India's Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI]. This is the inves-

tigation which led the Indian Supreme Court to describe the policy of mass cremation as worse than genocide.

On September 6, 1995, a year ago this Friday, Jaswant Singh Khaira was kidnapped by the police from his home in Amritsar for publishing a report exposing these mass cremations. Here in America, reporters often write stories questioning official findings. Can you imagine the outrage if these journalists were picked up by the police and made to disappear? That is what happened to Mr. Khaira a year ago.

The Reuters article in India West, which I am inserting into the RECORD, quotes a senior CBI official as saying that innocent Sikhs were killed in the 1980's and confirms that the Indian regime paid cash rewards for killing Sikhs. In 1994 the State Department reported that more than 41,000 of these bounties were paid in a 3-year period from 1991 to 1993.

As vice chairman of the International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee, I will continue to monitor this investigation and I urge every Member of Congress to join me in this effort. The United States must be willing to do whatever we can to insure that the people of the world are free from persecution and are afforded their basic human rights.

[From Reuters, Fri., Aug. 2, 1996]

CBI TO PROBE CREMATION OF 1,000 BODIES IN PUNJAB

AMRITSAR—The Punjab police said July 25 they would cooperate in a federal investigation into charges they secretly disposed of almost 1,000 "unidentified" bodies between 1990 and 1995.

The claim against the police was made in a public interest litigation filed at the Supreme Court by the human rights wing of the Akali Dal.

The party has accused the police of torturing, killing and then cremating Sikhs.

"Whatever record is asked for by the Central Bureau of Investigation will be handed over without delay to the concerned authorities," Deputy Inspector General of Police B.S. Sandu told Reuters.

"We will provide all necessary help to the CBI to speed up the investigations," he added.

Earlier in the week, the CBI submitted a report to the court which said 984 bodies had been cremated by the Punjab police.

"The police confirmed the existence of these bodies, but we have yet to ascertain who they are and how they got killed," a senior CBI official said.

He said it was normal for police to cremate bodies they have been unable to identify.

Senior Punjab police officers, who declined to be named, told Reuters that innocents were killed during a violent Sikh separatist insurgency in the 1980s—when rewards were offered for the capture of guerrillas.

Akali Dal lawmakers staged a sit-in on the floor of the Lok Sabha in Delhi July 25 to protest against the government's silence on the cremated bodies claim, the United News of India agency said.

The speaker of the house placated the protesters by promising to look into the case and, if necessary, publish a report on the probe's findings.

An Akali Dal activist and a vocal critic of the police, Jaswant Singh Khaira, was abducted from his house last September and has been missing ever since.

His disappearance has prompted reactions from human rights organizations and even U.S. President Bill Clinton, who wrote a letter to a radical Sikh leader expressing concern.