

of budget negotiations and any budget deal reached with the President.

It is time for the Congress to deliver on our promise and give tax relief to hard-working, overtaxed middle-class American families.

FORTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF
TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, in acknowledgment of the 41st anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Tunisia, I wish to help commemorate March 20, 1997 as an historic day of celebration for the people of Tunisia. This year is particularly important, as Tunisia will be commemorating the bicentennial of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation that was signed on August 28, 1797.

Tunisia has taken bold steps toward a more democratic system of government by broadening political debate, advancing social programs, developing economic programs encouraging privatization of the banking and financial sectors, and improving the quality of life for the people of Tunisia, in spite of instability emanating from neighboring countries. Further, Tunisia has acted as leader and catalyst for peacekeeping missions in suffering countries, contributing military contingents to operations in Cambodia, Somalia, the Western Sahara and Rwanda. Tunisia has been a voice of moderation in the Arab-Israeli peace process had has called for greater international efforts to fight terrorism.

Tunisia has, and continues to be a success story in a very volatile region of the world. I am pleased and proud to witness stronger relations between the U.S. and Tunisia. I have had the fortunate opportunity to spend time with Tunisia's Ambassador, His Excellency Azouz Ennifar, and have the strong impression that Tunisia is emerging as a healthy, independent and politically secure country. I encourage and support continued commitment and cooperation between our two countries and urge my colleagues to take this occasion to salute the Tunisian Government and its people.

COMMEMORATION OF VENTURA
COUNTY CHILDHOOD CANCER
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate the week of April 14 through April 20 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week" in Ventura County, CA.

Through the unwavering dedication of Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for Children, which he founded, the lives of countless children suffering from cancer have been touched. This organization has brought the issue of childhood cancer in the United States to the forefront and heightened community involvement in social services to families in need.

Each year, approximately 10,000 children in the United States are diagnosed with cancer, the leading cause of death by disease among children in this country. Incited to action by these staggering numbers, the American Cancer Fund for Children has not only worked to heighten awareness, but to provide financial assistance for medical procedures, food, clothing, transportation, prosthetic devices and social service programs to young people in treatment at hospitals throughout Los Angeles County and serving residents of Ventura County.

The American Cancer Fund for Children has accepted the challenge of meeting the demand for patient and family services to help promote the chances of survival. These services provide a variety of patient psycho-social services designed to foster self-esteem, encourage peer interaction, and develop special patient communication.

I would especially like to thank Steven Firestein who, out of the death of his friend, began his mission to improve the lives of other children stricken with cancer. From this personal tragedy rose an array of services and programs to assist childhood victims of cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding efforts of the American Cancer Fund for Children in conjunction with Ventura County during Childhood Cancer Awareness Week.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS'
AND GIRLS' CLUB OF CLIFTON

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the momentous occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Boys' and Girls' Club of Clifton, NJ.

Founded in 1947, the Boys' Club of Clifton provided recreational activity opportunities to young men in the community. These recreational programs were held after-class hours in the local school until 1958, when the current building on Clifton Avenue was opened and became a center for the children in town.

In 1966, the Girls' Club was founded to provide similar recreational activity opportunities for young women in the community and in 1979, the Girls' Club initiated Clifton's first after-school day-care program for 30 children.

Since 1986, the two clubs consolidated, becoming the Boys' and Girls' Club of Clifton, Inc. The Boys' and Girls' Club still occupies the Clifton Avenue building, but over the years additions to the building were constructed to house the executive offices and the teen program. An adjacent building contains the pre-school area and a recreational facility.

The current facilities are right now at maximum capacity as they serve approximately 1,400 children from Clifton and the surrounding communities at any given time, and provide services to more than 2,000 children yearly. After several years of exploring various expansion options, the Club's Board of Trustees finally settled on plans to add an addition that will connect the existing buildings as well as extensively renovating the facilities now in use.

The new addition will house a modern pool, learning center, computer room, counseling area, and offices. The renovations will allow for the Boys' and Girls' Club to redesign their current program space to provide new program areas and make the entire facility accessible for handicapped and senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, the members of the Boys' and Girls' Club of Clifton, and the city of Clifton, in recognizing the momentous occasion of the 50th anniversary founding of the Boys' and Girls' Club of Clifton, Inc., as they commemorate the founding with a groundbreaking celebration on Sunday, April 6, 1997.

IN RECOGNITION OF STATE ROAD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor State Road Elementary School of Parma, OH, on its 75th anniversary. State Road Elementary has been the starting place for thousands of proud, educated and involved Parmanians. They have grown to become leaders in their unions, respected members of their churches and capable and loving parents.

State Road Elementary began humbly as a small school. But it grew with the neighborhood. It fit in with the neighborhood's character. State Road Elementary is located in a neighborhood where family values are strong. These are families that work hard at their jobs, support one another, look out for one another and stand up for what is right. State Road Elementary prepared children to be active and outstanding members of their community.

For three-quarters of a century, this Parma neighborhood has sent its daughters and sons to start their education at State Road Elementary. I see no reason not to think that another four generations of families will be able to count on State Road Elementary for a healthy start and a head start for their children.

EXPEDITED RESCISSIONS ACT OF
1997—AN EFFECTIVE AND CON-
STITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVE TO
THE DISCREDITED LINE-ITEM
VETO ACT

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining three other Members in introducing a bill to give the President and Congress new, effective—and constitutional—powers to weed out wasteful Government spending.

This bipartisan approach, the "Expedited Rescissions Act of 1997," is being cosponsored by the gentlewoman from New Jersey, MARGE ROUKEMA; the ranking Democrat on the Budget Committee, JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.; and CHARLES W. STENHOLM, a long-time leader in the fight for a balanced budget. I am very pleased to have their support for this measure.

We all know that sometimes a large appropriations bill includes an item that could never

pass if it had been considered on its own. Being able to cut that kind of unnecessary spending out of a bill is essential to be prudent in how we spend taxpayer money, to get the Federal budget under control, and to restore public faith in Congress. The line-item veto was supposed to be a way to deal with that. But while the diagnosis was right, the proposed remedy went too far—further than the Constitution permits. That's why it's been struck down in court.

Our bill is a better prescription—one that will work and that will pass constitutional muster.

Under our bill, whenever the President wants to cut a particular spending item in an appropriations bill, he would be able to require Congress to reconsider and vote separately on rescinding that item, under tight deadlines and without amendment.

So, like the line-item veto act, our bill would let the President throw a bright spotlight onto spending items and have Congress vote on them separately, up or down, without changes and in full public view. Since the wasteful spending we're trying to get at is the kind of project that would never pass on its own, this process will be a completely reliable and effective way to block that kind of waste of taxpayer money.

Our legislation is patterned after, but stronger than, the enhanced-rescission authority passed by the House in 1993. Unlike the 1993 bill, our approach does not let the Appropriations Committee come up with its alternative way to rescind the same amount of money that would be cut by the President's proposed rescission. Our legislation requires that the actual rescission proposed by the President—that one, without any amendment, and with no alternative to it—be voted on by the Congress.

Unlike the line-item veto, our bill is constitutionally sound. It does not attempt to give to the President the basic law-making authority that the Constitution vests solely in the Congress.

Constitutionally, the line-item veto act could not be effective—it wasn't real. This bill would give the President authority that could be used effectively—it is real.

The administration has said it will ask the Supreme Court to reverse Judge Jackson's decision striking down the line-item veto. I do not believe appeal will be successful. Judge Jackson's unusually emphatic opinion makes it clear that he was completely convinced that the line-item veto is profoundly unconstitutional. I'm confident the Supreme Court will agree.

We in the Congress ought to pass this new bill. That way, when the Supreme Court does sound the final death knell for the line-item veto act, we will have an effective, constitutionally valid alternative in place and ready for use. A majority of Congress wants a mechanism to cut out of appropriations bills that spending that could not withstand a separate up-or-down vote; the President wants that mechanism; a majority of the American people wants us to have that mechanism. This bill will give us that.

INDIA MUST STOP KILLING SIKHS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Sikh Nation a happy Vaisakhi Day. Vaisakhi Day is the birthday of the Sikh Nation, the anniversary of its founding by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. The Sikhs have always been a tough, freedom-loving people, and I take this opportunity to salute them.

However, not everyone shares my enthusiasm for the Sikh Nation's love of freedom. From 1984 to 1992, according to the Punjab State Magistracy, which represents all the local judges in the state of Punjab, the Indian regime murdered more than 200,000 Sikhs. Since then, the Punjab Human Rights Organization reports that more than 50,000 have been murdered by the brutal Indian regime. That means that in excess of a quarter of a million freedom-loving Sikhs have been murdered since 1984 by "the world's largest democracy."

One recent case will illustrate the brutality of India's methods in occupied Khalistan. On March 15, a 26-year-old Sikh named Kashmir Singh, who was the publicity secretary of the Akali Dal—Amritsar—in the district of Hoshiarpur, was picked up in the middle of the night along with his father. The police threw them into a van. Somewhere down the road, Kashmir Singh's father was thrown from the van while it was still moving. Kashmir Singh was then tortured and murdered and his body was dumped at the Hoshiarpur district hospital at 4 in the morning for a post mortem.

The police falsely claimed that Kashmir Singh was killed in an encounter with the police. This claim is so ridiculous that even the pro-Government newspaper the Indian Express could not accept it. The Indian Express described the murder of Kashmir Singh as a cold-blooded killing.

Unfortunately, the murder of Kashmir Singh is not an isolated incident. It is part of a pattern of intimidation designed to put a fear psychosis in the minds of Sikhs both in Punjab, Khalistan and outside in order to scare them into dropping their demand for freedom. An ongoing incident which has been closely watched in this Congress is the case of Jaswant Singh Khalra, who was kidnaped by the police on September 6, 1995, after he published a report exposing the fact that over 25,000 young Sikh men have been abducted by the regime, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies have been declared unidentified and cremated. In many cases the family members have never been notified. The Punjab and Haryana High court described this policy as worse than a genocide.

Eighteen months after Mr. Khalra was kidnaped, Khalra's whereabouts remain unknown. The Khalra case and his findings are discussed in detail in a video released last year called "Disappearances in Punjab," produced by a Hindu human rights activist named Ram Narayan Kumar. Recently, Mr. Kumar was himself detained overnight at the Delhi airport when he attempted to fly to Austria to be with his wife. The regime even detained an American citizen, Balbir Singh Dhillon, for 9 months on trumped-up charges, apparently

because he advocates an independent Khalistan.

Mr. Speaker, these are not the tactics of a democracy. The oppression of the Sikhs, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, the black "untouchables" known as Dalits—the aboriginal people of the subcontinent, the Assamese, Manipuris, and others continues at a feverish pace.

On October 7, 1987, the Sikhs declared their independence from India and named their independent country Khalistan. India has responded to the peaceful movement to liberate Khalistan by stepping up the repression.

This kind of repression is not acceptable in any country. It especially offends us when that country proclaims its commitment to Democratic values. In that light, it is appropriate for the United States to take measures to bring democracy to all the people of South Asia. We should publicly declare our support for an internationally supervised plebiscite on the question of independence for Khalistan, similar to the periodic votes we hold in Puerto Rico. The United States should also cut off all aid to India. These actions will begin to bring freedom to the subcontinent.

A SHOCKING TRAGEDY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I am placing the Council of Khalistan's press release on a recent tragedy into the RECORD. Press reports have recently stated that in attempting to capture an alleged terrorist, Indian police officers killed two adults and a 3-year-old child. The death of a 3-year-old child must shock the conscience of the international community.

I call on the Indian Government to conduct a full and exhaustive investigation into this tragedy and to punish all those responsible. Justice delayed is, truly, justice denied. We must always remember, in the eloquent words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that an injustice anywhere is an affront to justice everywhere. [From the Council of Khalistan, Dec. 17, 1996]

INDIAN REGIME MURDERS 3½-YEAR-OLD LABELS TODDLER "TERRORIST"

WASHINGTON, DC.—A story in the December 10 issue of *The Hitavada*, an Indian newspaper, reported that a 3½-year-old Sikh boy was murdered by the police, then the police claimed that he was a "terrorist" who was killed in an "encounter."

According to the story, the police murdered little Arvinder Singh, his father Jaswinder Singh, and the young boy's maternal uncle along the Grand Trunk Road to collect bounty money which was offered for the killing of militants. These Sikhs were not militants. The family has not been given the bodies because they were cremated. The police attached phony identities to the bodies of these victims using the names of known militants. Then they claimed bounty money for killing these militants. When the boy's grandfather brought a complaint against the police, Punjab and Haryana High Court Justice Iqbal Singh stated that a three-year-old boy could not be a "terrorist," according to the article. According to the *Hitavada* article, witnesses were coerced into supporting the police version of the incident by testifying that the bullets which killed these Sikhs did not come from the police weapons.