

plan following the closing of three major Navy facilities in the 1990's—naval hospital, naval station, and naval shipyard. With the loss of the Navy, thousands of jobs were lost. Beginning in March 1988, and the end of the cold war, 400,000 jobs in aerospace were lost in Los Angeles County alone. With 450,000 residents, Long Beach is the second largest city in the county.

EDA has also provided \$3 million to help establish the California State University, Long Beach Research Park on land formerly belonging to the Long Beach Naval Station. So the newer technologies will grow in place of the old thanks to the EDA which agreed with the community's vision.

EDA has helped provide funding to perform feasibility studies of bridges as part of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Project. That is the major intermodal in the Nation.

The Economic Development Administration is a proven vehicle to bring together Federal and local government, small and large business, so that the end result is a better community which provides opportunities for residents and visitors alike. EDA means a better future.

CONGRATULATING ALLISON
BECKWITH

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Allison Beckwith for her winning entry in the National Business Plan Competition. Ms. Beckwith, who hails from Redmond, Washington, is one of five young women whose business plan was selected by women business owners to receive this distinguished award. She will be recognized at the Women's Economic Summit during the Young Entrepreneur Awards luncheon on Thursday, October 15.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of Ms. Beckwith and her achievement. In her business plan, Ms. Beckwith envisions an online "catazine" (catalog and magazine combined) venture through which teenagers can buy merchandise and read articles written by other teenagers. This entrepreneurial spirit is one of the reasons why women are starting businesses at twice the rate of men and are a powerful and growing economic force in the global marketplace.

I also applaud Independent Means, Inc., sponsor of the National Business Plan Competition, for giving young teenage women the opportunity to turn their dreams of starting a business into reality. By engaging girls in entrepreneurship with female role models and placing an emphasis on the importance of economic self-sufficiency, Independent Means helps thousands of young girls become independent women.

When girls are given the tools and information they need to make informed decisions, they will act responsibly. I believe that we must continue to invest in teaching and inspiring young women in America—for they are our future.

On behalf of the Eighth Congressional District in Washington State, I again congratulate Ms. Beckwith for her outstanding accomplish-

ment and wish her much success in her future pursuits.

SIKH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST
CALLS PUNJAB A POLICE STATE
(PEOPLE'S COMMISSION MUST
BE SUPPORTED)

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, many of us have spoken out over the years about the ongoing human-rights violations by the Indian government in Punjab. I have recently come into possession of a very interesting document on that subject. Thanks to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, I have seen a letter written by Professor Jagmohan Singh, General Secretary of the Akali Dal (Amritsar), in which he declares that Punjab is still a police state, even under the Akali-BJP government of Chief Minister Badal.

"Human rights abuse in Punjab in the last decade and a half has shattered the lives of a number of individuals and their families," Professor Singh wrote. "Effectively, Punjab has been administered as a police state," he added. "No fresh legal or political initiative has been taken to reinforce rule of law and protect the most endangered primary fundamental right—the right to life."

Jagmohan Singh writes that five false cases are still pending against longtime Sikh activist Simranjit Singh Mann, a political opponent of the Badal government. His is just one prominent case among many. Tens of thousands of Sikhs remain in Indian jails; with no charges pending against them. Alarming, some of them have been rotting in jail since 1984! Human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa, who exposed the Indian government's brutal policy of mass cremations of Sikhs, was killed in custody by the police, according to a police witness. Jaspal Singh Dhillon, another prominent human-rights activist, was picked up by the police on a false charge as recently as July of this year. And if that wasn't enough, the police even picked up his attorney! Mr. Speaker, the judicial system in Punjab is a joke, no one is given an ounce of justice.

Jagmohan Singh points out that no action has been taken to punish the police who have committed these atrocities against the Sikhs. In fact, the Badal government even boasts that it has taken no action against these police officers. More than 150 atrocities have been documented since the Akali government took power in Punjab in February of 1997.

Professor Singh cites 15 separate ways in which human rights are violated in Punjab. Mr. Speaker, allow me to list just a few of these horrible and inhumane acts that police commit upon the innocent people of Punjab. Professor Singh has included, among other despicable acts, the promotion of police officers based upon the number of Sikh youth they have killed; bounties offered for the murder of particular individual Sikhs; forces occupation of public places, including houses of worship, like the Golden Temple in Amritsar; extrajudicial killings of political workers, relatives of political leaders and activists; and the planting of illegal weapons and explosives on unsuspecting

people who are then labeled as "militants" or "terrorists."

Jagmohan Singh strongly defends the work of the People's Commission in exposing the tyranny of the Punjab police, and supports its continuation. The Commission has come under vigorous attack from the Punjab government, which is desperately trying to interfere in its mission and close it down. The Commission issued 90 citations against police officers and has taken on 3,000 more cases. Now the government has gone to court to stop the People's Commission. I agree with Professor Singh that the Commission's work must continue so that police atrocities can be exposed, and will cease to be covered up by India's political sponsors.

Mr. Speaker, Professor Jagmohan Singh's letter is a chilling description of the ongoing police state in Punjab. I am placing it into the RECORD, and I recommend to my colleagues that they read it carefully.

JAGMOHAN SINGH, GENERAL SECRETARY, SHIROMANI AKALI DAL (AMRITSAR),

Rahon Road, Ludhiana, September 24, 1998.

Rtd. Justice V. K. KHANNA,

Chairperson, Panjab State Human Rights Commission, Kendriya Sadan, Sector 9A, Chandigarh.

DEAR JUSTICE KHANNA: Is Panjab still a police state?

Human rights abuse in Panjab in the last decade and a half has shattered the lives of a number of individuals and their families. Effectively, Panjab has been administered as a police state. The situation did not change even after the election of Beant Singh's Congress government in 1992 and diminution of alleged extremist activities. The people of Panjab expected that the political and human rights environment would change with the election of the Akali Dal Badal-BJP government in February 1997.

Panjab, however, continues to be a police state. The Panjabis now realize that all along they were chasing a mirage. For the last 18 months, the Badal-BJP government has taken no steps to undo the wrongs perpetuated during the last decade. No fresh legal or political initiative has been taken to reinforce rule of law and protect the most endangered primary fundamental right—the right to life.

Let us examine the scenario in present day Panjab:

1. Release of Detenues: No political detainee, including those who have been languishing for more than 8-10 years without trial or protracted trial, has been released from the jails of Panjab. Their cases have not been reviewed. No attempt has been made to bring back detainees from Panjab languishing in the jails of Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. There are five false cases still pending against party president, Simranjit Singh Mann.

2. Trial of Police Officers: No attempt has been made to expedite the trial of police and other security force personnel against whom cases of human rights abuse are pending in various courts, including cases in the Panjab and Haryana Court and the Supreme Court. Actually, the prosecution has been delayed under one pretext or the other.

3. Speedy Trial of the Guilty: To ensure speedy trial, it was necessary to constitute a Tribunal with instructions to conduct day to day proceedings to try the guilty police officers, bureaucrats and politicians responsible for executing and directing crimes against humanity. Despite the poll promise to do so, the present government has failed to take any initiative in this direction.