

the continued campaign of terrorism against innocent civilians in Jammu and Kashmir is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of Kashmir frequently gets mentioned in the geopolitical calculations over the larger India-Pakistan conflict. There is overwhelming evidence of Pakistani covert support for the continued terror campaign in Jammu and Kashmir. There has, at the same time, been an overt Pakistani effort to internationalize this issue by bringing the United States, or other world powers and international organizations, into the negotiations. The one aspect of this tragedy that frequently is overlooked is the plight of the Hindu community of this region, the so-called Kashmiri Pandits.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to reiterate my calls for increased American and world attention to the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits, victims of massacres and displacement, such as the atrocity of last month.

As I have gotten to know the Kashmiri-American community and hearing about the situation facing the Kashmiri Pandits, I have become increasingly outraged, not only at the terrible abuses they have suffered but at the seeming indifference of the world community.

At the same time, I am impressed by the dignity and the determination that the Kashmiri Pandits have maintained despite these horrible conditions. I am touched by the deep concern that the Kashmiri-Americans feel for their brothers and sisters living in Kashmir or in the refugee center set up in India to accommodate the Pandits driven from their homes in the Kashmir Valley.

Recently, my colleagues in the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans asked me to co-chair a Task Force on Kashmir. I look forward to working with my colleagues to focus increased Congressional attention on this issue.

Some of my colleagues and I have already been pressing these issues, but clearly we need to give the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits greater recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked India's National Human Rights Commission to consider declaring the Kashmiri Pandits an Internally Displaced People and provide conditions for the safe return of the Pandit community to the Kashmir Valley.

I have also asked the Commission to substantiate the ongoing genocide that the Pandits are suffering. I would also encourage the Indian government to consider officially recognizing the Kashmiri Pandit community as a minority under Indian law to provide additional benefits and protection.

Mr. Speaker, the Kashmiri Pandits have an ancient and a proud culture. Their roots in the Valley run deep. Virtually the entire population of 300,000 Kashmiri Pandits has been forced to leave their ancestral homes and property.

Today, only 2,000 Kashmiri Pandits remain in the Valley. Threatened with violence and intimidation, they have been turned into refugees in their own country.

Although Pakistani officials maintain that their country only provides "moral and political support" for the insurgency, evidence shows that Pakistan has been playing a direct role in arming and training the militants who have converted the Kashmir Valley from an earthly paradise into a living hell.

Last year, I urged Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to raise the Kashmiri Pandit issue whenever Kashmir is discussed by the United States and India. I have also asked the Indian government to bring up the Pandits issue in any bilateral discussion between India and Pakistan.

The United Nations Human Rights Commission also needs to address the Kashmiri Pandit issue, including it in its periodic reports on Kashmir, as well as through the Commission Subcommittee on Minorities. I will also continue urging action by UNICEF to provide educational grants to benefit the Kashmiri Pandit children and the World Health Organization support to improve health and sanitation.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, in the great international debate over arms control and security issues, it is sometimes all too easy to overlook the so-called small problem of one persecuted ethnic group. I just hope that the United States and India, as the world's two largest democracies, will show determination to finally address this humanitarian catastrophe that the Kashmiri Pandits are facing in an effective and humane way.

PROMISES MADE AND PROMISES KEPT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, in 1995, we talked about promises that were made and promises that we needed to keep. We talked specifically about the budget. It is hard to remember, but just 4 years ago, the deficit was nearing \$300 billion. The debt was skyrocketing. What did that mean to Americans? That meant that interest rates on mortgages, on cars, on college loans were soaring through the roof. In fact, it looked like there was no end in sight to deficit after deficit after deficit.

So we stepped up to the challenge. We presented the first plan to balance America's budget in a generation. We heard the President. We heard the Vice President. We heard many Members on the left. We heard the media talking about how balancing the budget under our plan in 7 years would destroy the economy. In fact, that is what the President said.

Well, we did not listen to the naysayers. We fought. We passed our plan. The President still objected. In fact, that fall, he vetoed nine bills,

shut down the Federal Government and, as only the President can do, blamed it on us.

Well, we kept the fight alive. Finally, in 1997, amid troubling reports that if the President did nothing the budget would balance itself, he decided to come to the table and sign the plan that would balance our budget for the first time in a generation.

We listened to Alan Greenspan in 1995. Greenspan said, in 1995, if we followed the Republican plan, the John Kasich plan to balance the budget, we would see unprecedented growth in our time. We would see college loans and interest rates go down. We would see mortgages interest rates going down. We would see economic explosion. Well, we kept our word. We kept the fight alive. Finally, the President came to the table. We signed the plan, and the economy has prospered because of it.

Now, 2 years later, we are again faced with a decision. Do we follow political expediency? Do we follow the easy route that was followed by the Democratic Chamber in this House for 40 years? Do we play the game the way they used to play the game? Or do we keep our word on budgetary issues?

We laid out budget caps in 1997. We said, this is how we are going to run our Federal Government for the next 5 years. It was very simple. The caps were laid out. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) said, this is the way we need to go. Well, I agreed with him then, and I agree with him now.

We have to continue remaining fiscally disciplined. If we do that, we will not only see the economy continue to explode, we will not only continue to see interest rates going down, we will see something else happen that has not happened in Washington for a long time. We will see a group of leaders who are truly respected across the country for keeping their word.

Because, in the end, this is not about a deficit. This is not about budgetary issues. This is about whether our elected leaders in Washington, D.C., say what they mean and mean what they say. Promises made, promises kept. It made sense in 1995, and it makes sense in 1999.

SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, last week, we had Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in front of the Committee on International Relations delivering an address detailing activities of the Department of State over the last year, identifying all of the hot spots in the world where American interests were at stake, identifying what the United States of America was doing about them.

It was intriguing, Mr. Speaker, because, in over half an hour of a normal presentation and certainly maybe 20 or