

developed of any persons I have known. She stands out in a quiet and deliberate way, through hard work and thoughtful consideration of the complexities involved in human behavior."

In 1993, Ms. Gerson was appointed by Supreme Court Justice Tom Phillips as a member of the Texas team to attend the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Conference on confronting violence in the family. She was a leader in the effort to create the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, for which she has served as Treasurer of the Board since 1997.

In 1998, Ms. Gerson helped found the National Training Center on Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence, and she currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors. In only two years, she has helped the agency to grow to six staff members and an operating budget of over \$600,000.

Mr. Speaker, many victims of domestic violence have been touched by Rhonda Gerson's compassionate spirit. I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Ms. Gerson for a lifetime of dedication and commitment to the Houston community and to all victims of domestic violence.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER CONFIDENTIALITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters between myself and Chairman ARCHER regarding H.R. 3218:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, October 17, 2000.

Hon. DAN BURTON,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand that you have requested that H.R. 3218, the "Social Security Number Confidentiality Act of 1999," be scheduled for consideration on the House floor under suspension of the Rules. H.R. 3218 would ensure that Social Security numbers (SSNs) do not appear on or through the unopened mailings of Treasury checks. The bill as introduced was referred to the Committee on Government Reform.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over "National Social Security." The use of the SSN within the government sector falls within that subject matter jurisdiction, and the Committee has legislated in the past on the issue of the use of the SSN and its display. In fact a provision related to H.R. 3218 is found in section 101 of H.R. 4857, the Social Security Privacy and Identity Protection Act of 2000, which was ordered favorably reported by the Committee on Ways and Means on September 29, 2000. Accordingly, I have confirmed the Committee on Ways and Means has a valid claim on H.R. 3218.

Notwithstanding this determination, and in order to expedite consideration of this important time-sensitive legislation, I have no objection to its consideration by the House at this time. This is being done with the understanding that the Committee on Ways and Means will be treated without prejudice with respect to its jurisdictional rights dur-

ing future consideration of this or similar legislation in the future.

I would further request that you include a copy of this letter in the RECORD, as well as your written response. With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

BILL ARCHER,
CHAIRMAN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, October 17, 2000.

Hon. BILL ARCHER,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of October 17, in which you stated that your Committee would not be asserting jurisdiction over H.R. 3218, the Social Security Number Confidentiality Act.

As you know, your decision not to assert jurisdiction over this matter will help expedite consideration of this important legislation. I look forward to working with you on this and other issues throughout the remainder of the 106th Congress.

Sincerely,

DAN BURTON,
CHAIRMAN.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD STOP ITS STATE TERRORISM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on September 27, a letter from the Council of Khalistan was published in the Washington Times. It details the propaganda spread by the Indian government to discredit its opponents.

That propaganda is necessary for the Indian government to cover up the atrocities and state terrorism against Christians, Sikhs, and other minorities. Former Indian cabinet minister R.L. Bhatia admitted in 1995 that the Indian government is spending "large sums of money" to spread this propaganda and influence affairs in the United States.

Earlier this month, militant Hindu fundamentalists attacked the home of a priest. They beat him and his neighbor. The neighbor was beaten so badly that he died. Unfortunately, this kind of thing is not unusual. It is just the latest in a series of atrocities carried out by organizations under the umbrella of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling BJP. While Prime Minister Vajpayee was in New York during his recent visit to the U.S., he said, "I will always be a Swayamsewak."

Last week, former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said that there is no difference between the ruling BJP and the supposedly secular Congress Party. Unfortunately, from the point of view of the minorities in India, it is true. There is no difference. Whoever is in power, the repression continues. India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Dalit "untouchables" and other minorities. Thousands of Sikhs and other minorities are in illegal detention without charge or trial simply because they are opposed to the government, or because they are members of a minority.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for India to stop its state terrorism against the minorities within its borders. We must stop American aid to India and declare our support for self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and the other nations seeking their freedom, in the form of a free and fair democratic plebiscite. These measures are the only ones we can take that will help to bring real freedom and democracy to the people of South Asia.

I would like to submit the Council of Khalistan's letter into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From The Washington Times, Wed. Sept. 27, 2000]

NO MILITANTS IN THE COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN

Manpreet Singh Nibber's Sept. 16 letter, "India human rights criticism from unreliable source?" is so full of disinformation that he must be fronting for the Indian Embassy in its effort to confuse the American people.

Mr. Nibber, who is a member of the Punjab Welfare Council of the USA, does not address any of the facts we brought up in our last letter. Instead, he spreads Indian disinformation about the Council of Khalistan and its origins. He knows there are no "militants" involved in the council. We consistently support the liberation of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on Oct. 7, 1987, by democratic, nonviolent means through the Sikh tradition of "Shantmai morcha," or peaceful agitation.

The Indian Embassy has interfered in American elections, calling for the re-election of former Sen. Larry Pressler and attempting to damage the re-election campaign of Sen. Robert Torricelli. A few years ago, the Indian Embassy was caught giving illegal campaign donations to members of Congress through an immigration lawyer named Lalit Gadhia, who pleaded guilty to the scheme in federal court.

There are many other Gadhias throughout this country. Former Indian cabinet minister R.L. Bhatia admitted in a 1995 news conference that the Indian government is spending "large sums of money" through the embassy to influence American politics. But what is that money defending?

On Sept. 8, militant Hindus attacked the home of a priest and beat the priest and his servant. The servant was so severely beaten that he died of the injuries. On Aug. 25, news stories reported that militant Hindu nationalists kidnapped and tortured a priest in Gujarat, then paraded him naked through town. This attack was part of a wave of terror against Christians since Christmas 1998.

Incidents have included the murder of priests, the rape of nuns and the burning to death of a missionary and his two sons in their van by members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Schools and prayer halls have been attacked and destroyed. The individuals who raped the nuns were described by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a militant organization within the RSS, as "patriotic youth." The RSS was founded in support of fascism.

In March, 35 Sikhs were murdered in the village of Chithi Singhpora in Kashmir. Two extensive independent investigations, one conducted by the Movement Against State Repression and the Punjab Human Rights Organization and another conducted by the Ludhiana-based International Human Rights Organization, proved that the Indian government was responsible for this massacre.

The Indian government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures published in Inderjit Singh Jaijee's

"The Politics of Genocide." India also has killed more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988 and tens of thousands of other minorities. Amnesty International reports that thousands of political prisoners are being held without charge or trial in "the world's largest democracy."

India is hostile to the United States. It votes against America at the United Nations more often than any country except Cuba.

In May 1999, the Indian Express reported that Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes led a meeting with Cuba, China, Iraq, Serbia, Russia and Libya to construct a security alliance "to stop the U.S."

India openly supported the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. Its nuclear weapons test started the nuclear arms race in South Asia. It refuses to allow the Sikhs, Kashmiris, Christians and other minority nations seeking their freedom to decide their political future in a free and fair vote, the democratic way.

America must not accept this kind of brutality and tyranny from a government that claims to be democratic. We must cut off aid and trade to India and support a free and fair plebiscite to ensure human rights and self-determination for Khalistan, Christian Nagalim, Kashmir and all the minority nations and peoples living under Indian rule.

TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR JACK KILBY

HON. RICHARD K. ARMEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a distinguished American and someone who I am proud to say resides in the 26th District of the great state of Texas, Dr. Jack Kilby. Just a few days ago Dr. Kilby was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for his part in the invention and development of the integrated circuit.

Dr. Kilby's invention of the monolithic integrated circuit—the microchip—some 30 years ago laid the conceptual and technical foundation for the entire field of modern microelectronics. It was this breakthrough that made possible the sophisticated high-speed computers and large-capacity semiconductor memories of today's information age.

Dr. Kilby grew up in Great Bend, Kansas. In 1958, he joined Texas Instruments in Dallas. During the summer of that year working with borrowed and improvised equipment, he conceived and built the first electronic circuit in which all of the components were fabricated in a single piece of semiconductor material half the size of a paper clip. The successful laboratory demonstration of that first simple microchip on September 12, 1958, made history.

Jack Kilby went on to pioneer military, industrial, and commercial applications of microchip technology. He is the recipient of two of the nation's most prestigious honors in science and engineering; in 1970 he received the National Medal of Science, and in 1982 he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, taking his place alongside Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and the Wright Brothers in the annals of American innovation.

Mr. Speaker, the microchip is one of the most important inventions of the Information Age—indeed, it's one of the most important in-

ventions in mankind's long history. Jack Kilby deserves our recognition and our thanks.

WINGS OF KINDNESS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have waited almost a year to place this story in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Let's call it an early Christmas story—about the simple but powerful gift of kindness, in this case bestowed by two pilots on a young boy on Christmas Eve. Art Hendon of Terrell, TX, shared this with me in December of last year, and I am honored to share it with my colleagues today.

Sometimes the most important gifts are given unwittingly. I set about checking the instruments in preparation for my last flight of the day, a short hop from Atlanta to Macon, GA. It was 7:30 P.M. Christmas Eve, but instead of forking into Mom's turkey dinner, I was busy getting other people home to their families.

Above the low buzz of talking passengers, I heard a rustle behind me. I looked over my shoulder. Just outside the cockpit doorway was a fresh-faced boy of about nine gazing intently at the flight deck. At my glance he started to turn away.

"Hold up," I called. "Come on in here." I had been about his age when I first saw a flight panel lit up like a Christmas tree and I could hardly wait to get my pilot's wings. But now that I was 24 and first officer at a commuter airline, I wondered if I'd made the right choice. Here I was spending my first Christmas Eve away from home, and what was I accomplishing? How was I making my mark in the world, let alone doing God's work, just hauling people from city to city?

The boy stepped cautiously into the cockpit. "My name's Chad," I said, sticking out my hand. With a shy smile he put his hand in mine. "I'm Sam." He turned to the empty seat beside me. "Is that for the captain?"

"It sure is and that's where Captain Jim sits." I patted the worn fabric. "Would you like to try it out?"

Sam blinked at me from under this ball cap. "I don't know . . . I mean . . . well, sure if it's okay." I lowered the seat so he could slide into it.

The captain loved to give demonstrations of the plane's gadgets to kids, but what would he think about one sitting in his seat? Well, it's Christmas, I thought.

I glanced out at the luggage carts being wheeled toward the plane, thinking of the gifts I wouldn't be able to give in person to my parents and friends the next day. Sam told me he and his family had flown in from Memphis.

I checked my watch. The captain would be in any minute, but Sam looked so thrilled, I didn't want to cut short his fun. I gave the instrument panel another once-over, telling Sam what each button and lever did.

Finally Captain Jim clambered aboard, "Howdy, partner." He gave Sam a broad grin. "You know, son," he drawled, "I don't mind you staying with us for a while if you'll switch with me." Sam let the captain take his place and I made introductions.

We began previewing the startup checklist. I kept thinking the captain would send Sam away, but the boy was still peering over my shoulder when the ramp agent radioed to ask if we were ready to turn on the first engine in start sequence, number four. I relayed the question to the captain, who was studying the weather reports.

"I'm still going over these," he said. "You guys go ahead and start it."

"Okay, starting . . ." I said, positioning the switches. Then I did a double take. "Did you say you guys?"

"Yeah, go ahead."

I looked over at the captain, and back at the flight panel. "Right." I flicked on the plane's flashing red beacon to signal the start. Then I turned to my new assistant.

"You ever start an airplane before, Sam?"

Eyes wide, he shook his head. Following my instructions, Sam carefully turned a knob on the overhead console that switched on the igniters. then he pressed a button as big as his hand to start the engine. Finally, with both hands he slid forward a lever to introduce the fuel. The engine hummed to life.

Sam slowly let go of the lever and stepped back, awestruck. He'd gotten to start an airplane, an honest-to-goodness airliner. I'm not sure if I'd have believed it myself at his age. I thanked Sam for helping us out.

"No, thank you, sir," Sam said. "This was really great!"

As he backed out of the doorway into the cabin, the plane resonated with the sound of the engine he'd started. "You have a merry Christmas, son, you hear?" the captain said.

Sam looked like he was about to cry with happiness. "I will, sir, I will. Thank you!" With one last look at the flight deck he turned and walked down the aisle. We started up the other engines, took off, and arrived in Macon about 40 minutes later. Early Christmas morning, as we settled into the cockpit for the trip back to Atlanta, one of the gate agents ducked in. "Hey, guys, some kid's mother came by this morning. She wanted to make sure I thanked you for showing her son around last night. Said he couldn't stop talking about the cockpit. She left this for you."

The gate agent set a red tin on the center console.

"Well, I'll be," the captain said. He bit into one of the chocolate chip cookies from the tin. Then he unfolded the note taped to its cover and read it silently. He sighed deeply and turned to me, "Boy's got cancer," he said, and read the note aloud:

Dear Sirs, Thank you for allowing Sam to watch you work on Christmas Eve night. Sam has cancer and has been undergoing chemotherapy in Memphis. This is the first time he has been home since the treatment began. We drove Sam up to the hospital, but since he loves airplanes, we decided to fly him back home. I am not sure if he will ever get to fly again. His doctor has said that Sam may have only a few months left. Sam has always dreamed of becoming an airline pilot. The flight we took from Memphis to Atlanta was exhilarating for him. He wasn't sure flying on one of your "little" airplanes would be as much fun, but you two gentlemen gave him the greatest Christmas gift imaginable. For a few short minutes his dream came true, thanks to you.

I looked out at the runway gleaming before us in the sun. When I turned back to Jim, he was still staring at the note. A flight attendant came in and said the passengers were ready for departure. She stowed the cookies away and we went through the checklist. Then Captain Jim cleared his throat and called out, "Starting number four."

I'd wanted to be home with my loved ones, exchanging gifts for the holidays. But that little boy showed me that sometimes the most important gifts we give are given unwittingly and the most precious ones we get come from strangers. I can serve God's purpose no matter where I am, as long as I let the spirit that moved me that night guide me always.