

in charitable donations is well worth the decrease in taxes the government would receive. Why? Because these groups are performing many of the same duties our government would have to otherwise provide. Let's foster the charitable spirit alive in our constituents and allow all of our civil society the opportunity to serve.

TRIBUTE TO THE IRON WORKERS  
LOCAL UNION NO. 25 100TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of a proud organization. On Saturday, July 21, 2001, the loyal and hard working members, contractors, dignitaries and their families of the Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 joined together in celebration of the largest iron workers' local in the country, a dedicated group of over 4,500 members.

Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 has been a charter member of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers since July 18, 1901. They are a local union for bridge, structural, ornamental, reinforcing, rigging, pre-engineered, pre-cast, glazing, fence, siding and decking, conveyor and canopy construction workers. Jurisdiction stretches from the State of Michigan to parts of Canada, however most of the Union's early work displays itself in the city of Detroit. Buildings such as the American Car & Foundry plants, Dime Savings Bank, Broadway Theater, Cobo Hall, City County Building, and the Renaissance Center give testament to their dedication and tireless efforts. They pride themselves in saying "We Built Detroit." I most sincerely agree.

The organization has been a trailblazer for fair wages, benefits, shorter workdays and safety for the trades. Ensuring strength and solidarity in thirty-four counties including both Macomb and St. Clair, Local Union No. 25 is certainly worthy of applause and recognition.

Today, the organization has a membership of approximately 4,500. After 100 years of honorable service, Local Union No. 25 celebrates this remarkable milestone with a grand celebration that I was honored to attend.

On the 100th Anniversary of the Iron Workers Local Union No. 25 we celebrate the people who have made this organization remarkably successful. I applaud Local 25 for their outstanding dedication, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY invited me to participate in an event in Kansas City, Missouri, that took note of the impending mailing of tax rebate checks to millions of Americans, including 877,000 Kan-

sans, as the result of the enactment of H.R. 1836, which I supported.

For this reason, I was absent during the consideration of H.R. 2216, which made supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2001. Had I been present for rollcall 256, which was final passage of this conference report, I would have voted "yes".

BREAKDOWN OF INDIA-PAKISTAN  
TALKS SHOWS INDIA'S CON-  
TEMPT FOR DEMOCRACY, PEACE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I think we were all distressed by the breakdown of the talks between India and Pakistan aimed at reducing tensions in South Asia, one of the most troubled areas in the world. The fact that the talks broke down increases the danger and the instability in that region.

It looks as if much of the blame for the breakdown goes squarely to the Indian government. As Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, put it, "It is very clear that India does not want a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue." India's Defense Ministry spokeswoman did not even mention Kashmir among the topics under discussion. Three drafts of a joint statement were vetoed by the Indian cabinet. As you know, the Indian government is run by the militant, Hindu nationalist BJP, a branch of the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which has said that everyone in India must be Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism. The RSS published a booklet last year showing how to implicate Christians and other religious minorities in false criminal cases.

India's human-rights violations have been well documented. It has killed over tens of thousands of Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Dalits, and other minorities. It has burned churches, prayer halls, and Christian schools, destroyed the most revered Muslim mosque in India, and attacked the seat of Sikhism, the Golden Temple. It has killed priests and raped nuns. Indian troops were recently caught in a village in Kashmir trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes. This atrocity was prevented by the joint action of Sikh and Muslim villagers. The Indian government killed 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpura in March 2000. In 1997, Indian troops broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

India admitted to holding over 52,000 Sikhs in illegal detention without charge or trial under the repressive TADA law, which expired in 1995, according to a recent report by the Movement Against State Repression. It was routine to rearrest people released under TADA and to file charges in more than one state simultaneously to deter prisoners from contesting the charges. Amnesty International notes that there are tens of thousands of Sikhs and others being held as political prisoners. Christians, Muslims, and other minorities are also held as political prisoners in large numbers. A few months ago, the Council of Khalistan called on the political prisoners to run for office from their jail cells. This might be the most effective action that the political prisoners and minority political leaders can take.

I call upon President Bush to press India for the release of all political prisoners. Why are there political prisoners in a democracy?

India has murdered Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, Muslims, and other minorities by the tens of thousands. Should the United States be supporting such a country, especially when it tries to immunize its human-rights violations by proclaiming itself a democracy?

America is the bastion of freedom in the world. It is our mission to extend and expand liberty wherever and whenever we can. Accordingly, we should stop U.S. aid to India until we no longer have to stand up here denouncing its human-rights abuses and we should support the birthright of all people, the democratic right to self-determination. If India is truly a democracy, it should live up to its promise made 53 years ago to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir. If India genuinely believes in democratic values, it must hold plebiscites on the political future of Kashmir, of Nagaland, of Punjab, Khalistan, and of all the nations seeking their freedom from India. India is an inherently unstable country composed of many different nations whose breakup is inevitable. For the cause of peace, prosperity, stability, security, and freedom, we must do whatever we can to ensure that this occurs peacefully like the breakups of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, not violently like that of Yugoslavia. Unfortunately, India seems to beheaded down the violent path. Let us work to help end the violence, repression, and terrorism and to ensure freedom and peace for all the peoples of that troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release about the breakdown of the India-Pakistan talks into the RECORD at this time.

INDIAN ARROGANCE EXPOSED DURING  
MUSHARRAF-VAJPAYEE SUMMIT

PLEBISCITE IN KASHMIR, PUNJAB, AND OTHER  
NATIONS ESSENTIAL FOR PEACE IN SOUTH ASIA

Washington, DC, July 17, 2001.—Indian hypocrisy was exposed to the international community when they refused to mention the word Kashmir during the bilateral talks between Pakistani President Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee. The Indian Foreign Ministry's press spokeswoman, Niruparna Rao, did not even list Kashmir among the items discussed. Aides to President Musharraf said that three drafts of a joint statement had been approved by both sides but the Indian Cabinet vetoed them.

"It is very clear from these actions that India does not want any peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for independence from India. "India must learn that 54 years of repression in Kashmir which resulted in the murder of over 75,000 Kashmiris and the expenditure of over \$2 billion a year have not extinguished the flame of freedom which is burning in the hearts of the people of Kashmir," he said.

"India must keep its promise of a plebiscite in Kashmir, which it agreed to in 1948 in a United Nations resolution," Dr. Aulakh said. "India is morally wrong. If India is a democracy, why is it afraid of a vote?" he asked. "How can India justify its invasion annexation of Hyderabad, where the ruler was a Muslim and the majority population was Hindu, but by the same token in Kashmir population is Muslim and the ruler was Hindu and India sent the army to maintain its illegal occupation?" Dr. Aulakh asked.

India is not one country and it is not one nation. It is a multinational state put together by the British for administrative convenience. India is a vestige of colonialism. India has 18 official languages and there are 17 freedom movements within its borders. The fundamentalist Hindu ruling BJP government is on record that anyone living in India must either be a Hindu or subservient to the Hindus. This is not acceptable to the Sikh Christian, or Muslim minorities.

India has unleashed a reign of terror on the minorities. In 1984, the Indian government attacked the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of the Sikh religion, and 38 other Gurdwaras and killed over 20,000 people during that attack throughout Punjab. India demolished the Babri mosque in Ayodhya, the most revered mosque in India, and it is planning to build a Hindu temple on that site. Similarly, Christian churches, prayer halls, and schools have also been demolished. Christians have also seen the murder of priests, rape of nuns, the murder of a missionary and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by burning them alive while they slept in their jeep and other atrocities. Now the government plans to expel his widow from the country.

Last month, Indian soldiers were caught red-handed attempting to burn down a Gurdwara and several Sikh homes in Kashmir. Sikh and Muslim townspeople overpowered the troops and prevented them from carrying out this atrocity. In March 2000, while former President Clinton was visiting India, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithisinghpura in Kashmir and tried to blame the massacre on alleged militants. In November 1994 the Indian newspaper *Hitavada* reported that the Indian government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

Indian security forces have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations and published in *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. Over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. Since 1984, India has engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian police and security forces and secretly cremated. The Indian Supreme Court described this campaign as "worse than a genocide." General Narinder Singh has said, "Punjab is a police state." U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher has said that for Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, and other minorities "India might as well be Nazi Germany."

"The people and nations of the subcontinent are entitled to freedom and self-determination," said Dr. Aulakh. "It is time for India to do the democratic thing and end the repression," he said. "It will help the Indian government and the people of India to give freedom to all the nations of South Asia," he said. "As soon as it happens, the South Asian nations can make a South Asian economic market parallel to the European Economic Community where the nations are independent but joined economically, which benefits every member," he said. "It will also include Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and others. This will reduce tensions and the nuclear threat in this dangerous region and will benefit all the people of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said.

## HONORING EUDORA WELTY

## HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Mississippi has lost one of its most treasured authors. We all mourn the passing of Eudora Welty and as Mississippians, we celebrate her accomplishments and her love of our state and its people. She is recognized around the world as a Pulitzer Prize winner and an ambassador for Mississippi by sharing her vivid descriptions of its people and places so that others might learn about our state through her writings.

Ms. Welty won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for her work titled "The Optimist's Daughter". She was presented with numerous other honors and awards including the National Book Award for fiction in 1971, the National Medal for Literature 1980 Book Award, and the National Medal of Arts in 1987. She was the first living writer ever to be included in the prestigious Library of America series in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize and honor Ms. Welty for her outstanding literary achievements and awards. While we are all saddened by her death, we celebrate her life and her concern for the people of Mississippi and all of America. Her writing shows the care and concern she had for her fellow man. Ms. Eudora Welty will truly be missed by all of us.

## TRIBUTE TO MARANDA PHILLIPS HOLMES

## HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Maranda Phillips Holmes of Charleston, South Carolina, a recent recipient of a National Jefferson Award. Mrs. Holmes is greatly admired for her outstanding community and public service. I join the citizens of Charleston County in expressing our deepest gratitude for everything she has done and continues to do.

Mrs. Holmes, who is often known as "Mother Teresa," has been a church and community volunteer for more than forty years. She has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Neighborhood Housing Service Commission where she helped provide loans and grants to those wishing to renovate their homes. She is an extraordinary person and throughout her life has made extraordinary contributions to her church, and the politics, and social welfare of her community.

Mrs. Holmes has been the recipient of 154 awards that reflect her lifelong dedication to community improvement. The American Institute—an organization founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beale—presents this prestigious award annually. The award seeks to recognize individuals for their outstanding community and public service. WCSC-Channel Five, a local television station, produced a thirty-minute documentary highlighting the contributions on Mrs. Holmes and two other National Jefferson Award recipients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Mrs. Maranda Phillips Holmes for the

incredible service she has provided for the citizens of her community. The world is a better place because of her years of distinguished service, and she has certainly earned the honor this notable award recognizes. The citizens of Charleston County and I congratulate Mrs. Holmes on her outstanding accomplishments and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on July 23 I was necessarily absent and was not able to vote on three recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

H.R. 2137—Criminal Law Technical Amendments Act of 2001—Yes; H.R. 1892—Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2001—Yes; S. 468—James Corman Federal Buildings Designation—Yes.

## ON THE ANOINTMENT OF REVEREND DR. HUBERT BANKS AS BISHOP

## HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Reverend Dr. Hubert Banks on his elevation to the Office of Bishop in the Pentecostal Deliverance Tabernacle Worship Center in Ridgewood, New Jersey. On July 29, 2001, Reverend Dr. Banks will be consecrated as Bishop, one of the highest levels in his faith, at the Gilmore Memorial Tabernacle in Paterson, New Jersey. Reverend Dr. Banks has devoted his life to his faith, community, his family, and to ministering throughout the world. He is truly an exemplary man of faith and we are fortunate to have him serve our northern New Jersey community.

Reverend Dr. Banks has faithfully ministered since 1985, however his involvement with the Church began when he was twelve years old. A graduate of Ridgewood High School, he has served as Director of various youth, senior, and state choirs and worked actively with youth faith groups. His outstanding leadership and devotion brought him to the position of deacon while continuing his work with a men's chorus. At this point, Reverend Dr. Banks was also named Board Chairman of the Allene Gilmore Day Care Center.

In 1980, Reverend Dr. Banks was licensed into ministry as an Evangelist by the United Christian Church and Ministerial Association. One year later, he was ordained and went on to found the Pentecostal Deliverance Ministry. Reverend Dr. Banks then brought his spiritual leadership overseas as he spent time ministering in Israel. Since that experience, he has spent extensive time doing evangelistic work throughout Africa in Venda, Malawi, and Johannesburg. In 1990, Reverend Dr. Banks was promoted to District Elder in the Northern New Jersey region and received his Doctorate