

it comes time to sell produce, the government sets the price very low. This leads to thousands of farmers committing suicide because of their colossal financial indebtedness to the Indian government.

It is time to take control of the Bhakra Dam and the Nangal hydroelectric project. These belong to Punjab but are controlled by the Delhi regime. Punjab must take complete control of these projects and sell electricity at market rates. The Gobindgarh Fort, which was built by the Sikh missal Bhangian, was recently returned to Punjab by the Indian government. That is a good first step. Now all that is the Khalsa Panth's, including the sovereignty that is our birthright, must also be returned so that Sikhs can flourish in the glow of freedom promised by the Indian National Congress during the independence struggle.

The capital of Chandigarh was built by Punjab. Punjab must get it back from the Indian government. It is the height of high-handedness to make Chandigarh a Union Territory. I ask Chief Minister Amarinder Singh to take this good opportunity to regain control of Chandigarh. This will help him politically as well. Haryana is a wealthy state; let Haryana build its own capital.

In November we met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. He said he would build a road from Kartapur Sahib to the Indian border, provided that the Punjab government builds its portion as well. I have visited Kartapur. There is only a mile or so of the road and the Ravi River is completely dried up. The bridge, which is on the Indian side, needs minor repairs. This road would be good for the people on both sides of the border. It would help build good relations between India and Pakistan, particularly between Pakistan and the Sikhs of Punjab. I urge Captain Amarinder Singh to build the road immediately so that Sikhs from Punjab can visit Kartapur Sahib where Guru Nanak departed this Earth for his heavenly abode. It is a serene place.

The RSS and its political arm, the BJP, want to divide the Sikh Nation. The Dasam Granth is RSS mischief. The issue of its authorship has been settled long ago, despite what any Indian-controlled Sikh leader may say now. I urge Akal Takht Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti to stop the discussion of the Dasam Granth completely and concentrate his efforts on achieving freedom for Khalistan and stopping the vices that have percolated in the Sikh religion, including abortion of female fetuses, drinking liquor, and the caste system. Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa as equals. Mazhabi Sikhs are as good Sikhs as anyone else. They are our brothers and sisters and we must treat them as equals. Remember what Guru Gobind Singh said: "Ragrete Guru ke Bete." ("The Mazhabi Sikhs are the sons of the guru.") Guru Gobind Singh lifted them up and Sikhs established Sikh rule from 1710 to 1716 and from 1765 to 1849. When America declared its independence in 1776, Punjab was already ruled independently by the Sikh missals.

Twice last year, Sikhs were arrested for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. The Indian regime is clearly worried about the rising tide in support of Sikh sovereignty. Let us dedicate our energy this year to achieving the establishment of Khalistan. Any organization that sincerely supports Khalistan deserves the support of the Sikh Nation. When Khalistan is free, the Sikhs can resolve these issues in a way that benefits the Khalsa Panth, not the forces of Hindutva.

However, the Sikh Nation needs leadership that is honest, sincere, consistent, and dedi-

cated to the cause of Sikh freedom if we are to continue to move the cause of freedom for Khalistan forward in 2007 as we did in 2006. Remember the words former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Khalistan is the only way that Sikhs will be able to live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and dignity. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation. We must achieve our freedom by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means. Let that be the mission of 2007.

Elections for the Punjab Legislative Assembly will be held on February 13. Vote only for candidates who are committed to establishing Khalistan and will work to make it a reality. Every morning and evening the Khalsa Panth recites "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." We must dedicate ourselves to realizing this. The time is now. We can do it by the ballot. I ask Sikhs of every political shade not to miss this opportunity. We must realize it now. When the Punjab Legislative Assembly reconvenes it must pass a resolution for the independence of Khalistan. As soon as that resolution passes, India will no longer be able to repress the Sikhs. Three million Sikhs living outside India will make sure that Khalistan is free without any further loss of human life. In a democracy, you can't rule the people against their wishes.

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's shameful memo labeling Sikhs "a criminal tribe" even though the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India. How can Sikhs continue to live in such a country? There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India.

Let us make certain that 2007 is the Sikh Nation's most blessed year by making it the year that we shake ourselves loose from Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity. Now it is up to us. Do not waste this opportunity.

May Guru bless the Khalsa Panth in 2007 and always.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

HONORING DOCTOR CRAIG C.
MELLO, PHD

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Craig C. Mello, PhD of the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts for his great work in the advancement of genetic research.

Born in New Haven, CT in 1960, Dr. Mello is an alumnus of Brown University where he received a Bachelor's of Science in Biochemistry in 1982 and Harvard University where he received his PhD in Cellular and Developmental Biology.

Dr. Mello and his colleague Dr. Andrew Fire are today's pioneers in RNA interference (RNAi). Their dedication to science and research has provided the world with evidence that will lead to the saving of lives around the

world. Dr. Mello's research is not only groundbreaking but revolutionary.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Mello's and Dr. Fire's discovery was published in Nature magazine in 1998. They have received several awards, including the National Academy of Sciences Award in Molecular Biology and the Wiley Prize in Biomedical Sciences as well as international awards in Germany and Canada. Most recently, Dr. Mello and Dr. Fire received the Nobel Prize in Physiology in 2006 for their work on RNAi, the highest honor in the world in the field of medicine and physiology.

Dr. Craig C. Mello has instilled a sense of pride among the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Worcester with his research in the field of developmental gene regulation.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in thanking Dr. Craig C. Mello for his contribution to the field of genetic research and congratulating him on his achievement of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF Q.
BYRUM HURST

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Q. Byrum Hurst, who passed away December 4, 2006, in Hot Springs, AR, at the age of 88.

Mr. Q. Byrum Hurst had two passions—law and politics. He passed the Arkansas bar exam in 1941 and spent his life in politics with the exception of his stint in the U.S. Army from 1943–1945. Q. Byrum Hurst was elected Garland County Judge in 1947 and then elected to the State Senate where he served 22 consecutive years. In 1967, Mr. Hurst was elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate where he also served as Acting Governor of Arkansas during the absence of the sitting Governor.

Q. Byrum Hurst was recognized as one of the most powerful and influential men in Arkansas politics where he earned a reputation for his hard work on behalf of Hot Springs, his hometown.

Q. Byrum Hurst was an active, lifelong member of the First Church of God where he also served as Sunday School Superintendent. He was also a long-time supporter of the Boy Scouts of America and the Optimist International Club.

My deepest condolences go to his children, Q. Byrum Hurst, Jr., of Hot Springs; Lezah Stenger of Springfield, MO; Byretta Fish of Bentonville; to his 17 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren; and to his brother F.L. Hurst of Hot Springs and his sister Norma Jean Austin of San Antonio, TX. Q. Byrum Hurst will be greatly missed in Hot Springs, Garland County and throughout the State of Arkansas.