

[From The Washington Times, Aug. 4, 1998]

HOUSE MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES ASK
CLINTON'S HELP IN FREEING FOUR SIKHS

(By Tom Carter)

A bipartisan group of 33 legislators has written to President Clinton urging him to get involved in protecting four Sikh human rights activists arrested in India last month.

"There is reason for concern that their detention is without merit and that they are at risk of torture while in detention," wrote Rep. Constance A. Morella, Maryland Republican, in a letter dated July 30.

"I hope that your administration will urge Indian authorities to undertake an independent investigation of these cases, urging them to review these arrests and to act to protect the physical integrity of those detained," she wrote.

In a separate letter, sponsored by Edolphus Towns, New York Democrat, 32 members of Congress urged Mr. Clinton to involve the government of the United States in securing these men's release.

"In a democracy, human rights activists . . . should not have to live in fear of the police. We call on you to intervene with the government of India," said the letter dated July 31.

Others who added their names to the letter included Republicans Dan Burton of Indiana, Frank R. Wolf of Virginia, Peter T. King of New York, Philip M. Crane of Illinois and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida. Democrats who signed the letter included Reps. Esteban E. Torres of California, Cynthia A. McKinney of Georgia and Barbara B. Kennelly of Connecticut.

The Council of Khalistan, which advocates independence for Sikhs in Punjab, faxes copies of the congressional appeals to news organizations over the weekend.

The four human rights activists were arrested last month in Punjab on what Mr. Towns described as "false charges."

Jaspal Singh Dhillon, Rajinder Singh Neeta, Kulbir Kaur Dhani and Daljit Singh Rajput were arrested for what Indian authorities claimed was their involvement in an plan to help free "militants" by blowing up a jail.

A State Department official, asked to comment on the matter, said the U.S. Embassy in India was aware of Mr. Dhillon's case.

"They have made informal contact with the Indian authorities and they are monitoring it," the official said.

The Indian government yesterday had no comment on the specifics of the case.

"The police wouldn't have acted just like that. They will have done their work. There is rule of law in Punjab," said Amar Sinha, press spokesman of the Indian Embassy.

On July 24, Amnesty International issued an "urgent action" on the four men.

According to the Amnesty release, Mr. Dhillon worked with Jaswant Singh Khalra, a well-known human rights activist who "disappeared" in September 1995 after his arrest after exposing the mass cremations of unidentified Sikhs.

Nine police officials have been charged, but not prosecuted, in the arrest and "disappearance."

"There is a fear that [Mr. Dhillon] may disappear too," said Jurjit Chima of Amnesty International yesterday.

Gurmit Singh Aulakh, director of the Council of Khalistan, which advocates independence of Sikhs in Punjab, said the men were arrested to prevent them from testifying at a "People's Commission" human rights forum to be held Aug. 8 through 10.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET PHILIP,
WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING
HER 105TH BIRTHDAY ON AU-
GUST 5, 1998

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise, to pay tribute to a kind and able woman, Harriet Philip. Harrie, as she is known by her friends, was born on the Caribbean island of Trinidad on August 5, 1893. Later in life, she immigrated to the United States and settled in Brooklyn where she is surrounded by friends and family members who love her sense of humor and her particular attitude about her needs and wants.

Harrie, an expert artist, crochets, knits, and designs exquisite articles for her loved ones without the use of patterns. She also loves to talk with her friends and family who admire her charming personality. Harrie's uplifting spirit and longevity have been an inspiration to all those around her.

Harrie, a follower of the Bahai religion, has raised three sons and one daughter. These children have blessed her with two beautiful grandchildren.

It is with great pleasure and personal regard that I ask my fellow colleagues to rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Harriet Philip on her 105th birthday, with wishes of many more to come.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment, which would restore funding for the Legal Services Corporation to current levels.

The Legal Services Corporation is a lifeline for thousands of people with no other means of access to the legal system. Last year, LSC resolved 1.5 million civil cases, benefiting over four million indigent citizens from every county in America.

Who are these people? Over two-thirds are women, and most are mothers with children. Women seeking protection against abusive spouses. Children living in poverty and neglect. Elderly people threatened by eviction or victimized by consumer fraud. Veterans denied benefits, and small farmers facing foreclosure.

These are the people who will be hurt if this amendment is not adopted today. If LSC is forced to absorb the huge cuts made in committee, half of the 1,100 neighborhood legal services offices will have to be closed. This

will leave a single lawyer to serve every 23,600 poor Americans. Over 700,000 people in need of legal services will have to be turned away.

We cannot—we must not—allow this to happen. I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment. It's the decent thing to do.

RABBI AND MRS. MERVIN B.
TOMSKY TO CELEBRATE THEIR
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Rabbi Mervin B. Tomsy, and his wife, Helen, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on August 22, 1998. Though they are longtime residents of California, the story of the Tomsy's marriage actually begins in Minnesota. Mervin and Helen knew each other in Minnesota as children, attended the University of Minnesota together, and got married in Minnesota. A few years later the couple moved to New York, where Mervin attended the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He was ordained as a rabbi in 1956.

Fifteen years later the Tomsys moved to Southern California, where they have lived ever since. I met Rabbi Tomsy after he became rabbi at Temple Emanu El in Burbank, California, and had the pleasure of speaking to his congregation on a couple of occasions. Today he holds the title of Rabbi Emeritus at Temple Emanu El, and he is the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Divinity Law from Jewish Theological Seminary.

Both Rabbi Tomsy and Helen are extremely active people, which may well be one of the reasons for their successful marriage. Helen was a public school teacher for many years and has been heavily involved in literacy programs. Rabbi Tomsy is on the Board of Directors for the University of Judaism, where his duties include interviewing candidates who wish to convert to Judaism.

For 22 years, the Tomsys have been active in Jewish Marriage Encounter, which stresses ways to enhance the marital bonds. It hardly needs to be said that the Tomsys are an ideal role model for younger couples who participate in the program.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Rabbi Mervin and Helen Tomsy on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. I join their children, David, Sharon and Judith, and grandchildren, Andrew and Daria, in wishing them all the best in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE DELAWARE
AND HUDSON

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the Delaware and Hudson, headquartered in Clifton Park, New York, is the oldest continuously operated transportation company in North America. The

D&H has had many memorable events in its proud 175-year history;

The New York State Legislature authorized the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company to operate on April 23rd, 1823. By 1828 the D&H completed construction of a 108 mile canal. The D&H soon developed a revolutionary gravity railroad. In 1830, that 16-mile gravity railroad constituted two-thirds of America's 23 miles of rail track. On August 8, 1829 the D&H performed a test run of the first steam locomotive to operate in America.

In 1840 the D&H became the first transportation company traded on the New York Stock Exchange. In 1867 the New York State Legislature authorized the D&H to acquire and operate railroads in New York State. In 1870 the D&H extended the scope of its rail operation to the Port of Albany. By 1875 it had constructed a rail line to Canada along with west side of Lake Champlain.

As railroads expanded, the importance of canals diminished and in 1898 the D&H moved its last load of coal by canal. A year later the New York State Legislature changed D&H's charter deleting "Canal," signifying the end of a remarkable period in American transportation history. In the early years of the 1900s the D&H expanded its presence in New York through the operation of steamship lines on Lake George and Lake Champlain, through expanded rail passenger service, and through the purchase of two luxury hotels; the Ft. William Henry in Lake George and the Champlain Hotel south of Plattsburgh.

In September of 1901, Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt retreated to his beloved Adirondacks. He believed that President McKinley was well on his way to recovery from being shot in Buffalo five days earlier. While the Vice-President set up camp deep in the woods near Lake Couden, an urgent message was dispatched to North Creek by telegraph and from there, by horseman, that the President had suffered a relapse and was dying. The D&H dispatched a train from Saratoga to North Creek to await the Vice-President. When he arrived he was handed a telegram as he swung aboard the train. In the coach, Roosevelt tore open the telegram. President McKinley was dead. Roosevelt rode in silence along the curvy track to Saratoga, the 26th President of the United States.

The Golden Years of the D&H began in 1907 followed by 30 years of unparalleled success. The D&H rebuilt physical plant, re-equipped the road with new and improved locomotives and filled its investment portfolio with blue chip stocks and bonds that provided financial stability throughout World War I and the Great Depression. The D&H's leadership and equipment experiments and locomotive design became the industry standard. In 1915 the Delaware and Hudson began construction of an ornate riverfront headquarters in Albany. Completed in 1918, this classic Flemish Gothic structure contains the largest working weathervane in the United States and is currently home to the administrative headquarters of the State University of New York.

Beginning in 1938 the D&H transformed itself from a slow moving coal line to a bridge route for fast-moving merchandise shipments. It ran a fleet of powerful, fast-running steam locomotives known as "Challengers." With the advent of World War II, a flood of freight and passenger traffic came to the nation's railroads. Distinguished passengers on the D&H

line during this period included King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and Winston Churchill. In 1953 the last stream locomotive ran on the D&H line ending 134 years of steam operations that had begun with the historic test run of the Stourbridge Lion in 1829.

Passenger service, which suffered great declines after the War, resulted eventually in the creation of AMTRAK to replace the passenger operations run by the freight railroads. On May 1, 1971, the D&H made its last passenger run from New York to Montreal. In the early 1970s six of the seven freight railroads in the northeast were in bankruptcy. Only the D&H was not. Its commitment to efficiency allowed it to operate at a modest profit while all others failed. When Congress created Conrail from the ashes of the six bankrupt railroads, the D&H system was reconstituted in a manner that was ostensibly to provide competition to Conrail. However, the failure of Congress to provide access to key points in the northeast doomed the D&H to a non-competitive status that it could not sustain in the absence of a partnership with a railroad that could provide overhead traffic.

In 1991, the D&H was purchased by Canadian Pacific Railway. Its infrastructure was upgraded and it continues to exist as a separate New York corporation—uninterrupted for 175 years.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD IS ALWAYS READY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the United States Coast Guard has made America a better place to live for 208 years. As members of this country's oldest seagoing service, the men and women of our Coast Guard continue to do what they have always done; save lives and property at sea; ensure a safe, efficient maritime transportation system; protect and preserve our precious marine resources and environment; enforce laws and treaties in the maritime region; and defend our national security.

With a force smaller than the New York City Police Department, or Coast Guard carries out these vital missions in this country's ports and waterways, along its 47,000 miles of coastline, lakes and rivers, on international waters or in any maritime region as required to support national security.

On August 4, 1790, the Congress authorized 10 revenue cutters requested by Alexander Hamilton, our country's first Secretary of the Treasury, for the purpose of interdicting violators of U.S. customs laws. This was the birth of the essential and fiercely proud service that continues its 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week vigilance against a host of transnational dangers, including pollution, illegal migration, international drug trafficking and terrorism.

From Medal of Honor winner Douglas Munro, who while manning the machine gun on his Higgins Boat, gave his life after saving more than 500 Marines off the beach at Guadalcanal, to Lieutenant Jack Rittichier, who received the Silver Star posthumously after his rescue helicopter was shot down by North Vietnamese automatic weapons fire during his attempts to rescue a downed American fighter

pilot, to today's elite force ready to deploy on a moment's notice in support of our Unified Commanders-in-Chief; from 18th Century heroine Ida Lewis, who saved countless lives during nearly 50 years of keeping the lamp lit at Lime Rock lighthouse, to what is unquestionably the world's premier maritime life-saving and life-protecting service; from Hell Roarin' Mike Healy who patrolled Territorial Alaskan waters as Captain of the legendary Coast Guard Cutter Bear, stopping fur seal poachers and breaking arctic ice in order to survey uncharted waters, to cutters and aircraft pioneering the fight against water pollution and engaged in protecting the vital living marine resources within our country's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone, acts of heroism, courage and commitment symbolize what the U.S. Coast Guard is all about—and what the brave young men and women of this armed service mean to our freedom and security.

This essential government agency, which has ably served the American people in war as well as peacetime, will observe its 208th birthday on August 4, 1998. The Coast Guard's motto rings just as true today as it did in 1790, SEMPER PARATUS, ALWAYS READY!

Let us all share in the pride and satisfaction enjoyed by its dedicated members on this important occasion.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. ADOLFO CARRIÓN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. Adolfo Carrión, Superintendent of the Spanish Eastern District, Assemblies of God, who will be retiring in October of this year after over 33 years of service.

Reverend Carrión has been an outstanding leader and a great role model, not only to the organization he served so well but also to the Hispanic community and other religious organizations.

Before becoming a Pastor of the Assemblies of God, he served in several different capacities: President of the youth organization, Deacon, Trustee, President of the Knights, and Superintendent of the Sunday School.

He first served as Secretary/Treasurer for the East Hispanic District of the Assemblies of God in Manhattan. Afterward, he was appointed Clergy and later on he became Assistant to the Superintendent for the District for two years. For the last 28, he served as the Superintendent.

Under his leadership, two new districts were created: one in Puerto Rico and one in South-East Florida. Today, the Assemblies of God has a total of 13 well organized districts with more than 275 affiliated churches.

In short, Reverend Dr. Adolfo Carrión lives to help other people. He has been diligent in providing spiritual guidance and support to the members of our community.

As it is written in Hebrews 6:10, "for God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." the community, too, recognizes him and is honoring him.