

Council of Khalistan to lead their struggle for independence. Since then, under the leadership of Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the Council has conducted a peaceful, democratic, non-violent effort for a free and sovereign Khalistan.

I believe that the breakup of India is inevitable, despite the brutal campaign of state terrorism which is designed to hold it together by force. Even Sharad Pawar, the Leader of the Opposition in the Indian Parliament, recently said that if India does not get its house in order quickly, it could fall apart like the Soviet Union. He joins Nehru biographer Professor Stanley Wolpert, Columbia University Professor Ainslee Embree, and Dr. Jack Wheeler of the Freedom Research Foundation, who have all predicted India's breakup.

India's desperation to keep its multinational state together is showing. Recently the Vishwa Hindu Prashad (VHP), a Hindu fundamentalist organization affiliated with the Fascist RSS, praised the rape of four Catholic nuns in the state of Madhya Pradesh, calling the rapists "patriotic youth" and calling for all foreign missionaries to be expelled from the country. The ruling BJP, which was elected on a Hindu Nationalist platform, is the political wing of the RSS. So much for Indian secularism! Clearly, there is no place for Christians in Indian democracy. There is no place for Sikhs, Muslims, aboriginal Dalits, Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, or other ethnic and religious minorities either.

Recently, a large group of Sikh and Kashmiri protesters showed up at the United Nations headquarters to protest the visit of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. They chanted slogans of independence for their people, and they attempted to inform the public about India's human-rights violations. The flyer they circulated read, "A religiously intolerant country can never be democratic."

Earlier this year in New Delhi, at the largest internal protest against Indian nuclear weapons tests, demonstrators carried signs that read, "We are Sikhs, not Indians." This is a strong expression of the Sikh Nation's demand for freedom. Still India continues its efforts to keep the country together by force.

India votes against the United States at the United Nations more often than any other country, except Cuba. It even publicly endorsed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. According to published reports, India has also provided the raw materials for nuclear development to Iran and other anti-American countries.

The Congress should move immediately to support freedom and real stability in this troubled region. We must maintain the sanctions that have been put in place against India. In addition, we should cut off the aid that helped build India's nuclear weapons. My colleagues should also vote to support the Sikhs and Kashmiris in their struggle for freedom by demanding a free and fair plebiscite in those states, so that they themselves can determine their future in a democratic way. This is the only way to make sure that the breakup of India comes about peacefully like the former Soviet Union, not violently. Taken together, these steps will ensure that all the people and nations of South Asia can live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and dignity.

I am placing the article on Sharad Pawar into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the India-West, August 7, 1998]

INDIA MAY SUFFER SOVIET FATE: PAWAR

PUNE (PTI)—The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha Sharad Pawar Aug. 2 expressed the fear that the country might go the erstwhile Soviet Union way unless concerted efforts are taken to strengthen its economy in the wake of international reaction to its carrying out nuclear tests.

Pawar was speaking at a function to release a book, "Hiroshima," by noted Marathi writer D.B. Kher on the after effects of bomb explosion in Japan Aug. 6, 1945.

Pawar said through the erstwhile USSR was a nuclear power it collapsed, and added that India should not become over-confident after the Pokhran-II tests.

He said India should also be very vigilant as the economy of Pakistan was in the doldrums. It might take any dangerous step out of frustration. "We should not forget the fact that Pakistan had a history of aggression against India and hence we should be on guard," he said.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4194,
DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman JERRY LEWIS and Ranking Member LOUIS STOKES, of the Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, for their cooperation in awarding federal funds under the Economic Development Initiative for two of the most heavily-used bike paths in the Boston area.

We have received \$250,000 for the Arlington-Boston bike path and \$150,000 for the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. Bicycling is very popular in Boston, and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

There are many tangible benefits to bicycling. It improves health and fitness while reducing traffic congestion, air pollution and commuting time to work each day.

The funding awarded for the bike paths through the Economic Development Initiative will enhance these benefits. The funds awarded for the Arlington-Boston bike path will allow construction to proceed on completing a 15-mile commuter and recreational bike path from Bedford to Boston.

The Arlington-Boston bike path will provide a direct connection to the Charles River and to the existing Dudley Bike Path to downtown Boston along the Watertown Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad.

The funds awarded for the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway will provide a rail-trail connecting the existing Minuteman Commuter Bikeway in Cambridge with the Charles River Bikeway in Boston, leading to downtown Boston.

It is estimated that an automobile emits 62 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. It is also estimated that the average trip length to work in Boston's Central Business District is 12 miles. For each person who chooses to ride a bike to work rather than drive a car, the air in Bos-

ton is relieved of 12 grams per trip of volatile organic carbon, 14 grams per trip of nitrogen oxides and 120 grams per trip of carbon monoxide.

Mr. Speaker, this clearly demonstrates that bicycling expands the recreational opportunities for Boston area residents, while contributing to a more healthful environment by reducing traffic congestion.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JESSIE TRICE
ON THE CELEBRATION OF HER
RETIREMENT ON OCTOBER 17,
1998

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct privilege to rise and pay tribute to one of my community's unsung heroines, Mrs. Jessie Trice, Director of Miami's Family Health Center. Her countless friends and admirers are honoring her on October 17, 1998 in recognition of the longevity of her legacy to the poor and underserved families.

Mrs. Trice truly represents the noblest of my community. Having dedicated a major portion of her life to making the health care system work on behalf of the less fortunate in Miami-Dade, she was relentless in her development of innovative family health services program that responded to the crying needs of our community's poor. Hers was indeed a crusade of love and commitment that maximized understanding and compassion for countless destitute families who severely lack the financial wherewithal to have their health care move up through the labyrinth of the bureaucracy.

Under her leadership many lives have been saved and countless families have been rendered whole because of her dedication to create accessibility to affordable health care services. She was virtually the lone voice in the wilderness in exposing her righteous indignation over the hopelessness of countless individuals who through the various crises of poverty rendered them helpless before obtaining affordable quality health care.

Furthermore, she has been forthright and forceful in advocating the early recognition of the problems of HIV disease which causes AIDS. Under her tutelage the Family Health Center initiated the first screening and testing programs in the community and initiated organized educational programs for its patients long before the crisis was recognized and federal, state and local funding became available. Her sensitivity toward those who came to the Center for counseling knew no bounds, and she was likewise untiring in seeking the appropriate health care guidance for them.

In a September 3, 1998 Miami Times write-up, Mrs. Trice was genuinely lauded as a health care provider par excellence who "... has shown courageous leadership, insisting that high quality services must be provided in the community and be developed with constant community input and collaboration."

The consecration of her life serves as an example of how much difference a committed crusader can truly make in behalf of the less fortunate. Almost singlehandedly she has championed a career-long commitment to affordable quality health care services to poor families for nearly two decades.

In her stint as Director of the Family Health Center, Mrs. Trice ensured the provision of high quality, accessible health care to more than 60,000 residents of Liberty City, Hialeah, Brownsville, Little Haiti and other areas northwest of Miami-Dade County. During those harrowing times of cutbacks in health and social services funding at the federal, state and local levels, the Miami Times recalled, "... Mrs. Trice's innovative and uncompromising commitment enabled it to maintain its critical services, while leading efforts to ensure effectiveness and a caring approach were not compromised."

Mrs. Trice truly represents an exemplary community servant who abides by the dictum that those who have less in life through no fault of their own should somehow be lifted up by those who have been blessed with life's greater amenities. As a gadfly among Miami-Dade County's health care professionals, she is wont to prod her colleagues toward ensuring that both political and bureaucratic leadership find a way to develop programs in and of the community, despite the risks.

As one of those hardy spirits who chose to reach out to those living in public housing projects, Mrs. Trice thoroughly understood the accouterments of power and leadership. She sagely exercised them, alongside the mandate of her conviction and the wisdom of her knowledge. The crucial role she played all these years in developing affordable quality family health care evokes a genuine humility as she is wont to say that "... the accolades are not important. What is important is that my community receive the recognition of its strength, despite the adversity, and help for the disproportionate share of the problems it confronts everyday."

Her word is her bond to those who dealt with her, not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many of the poor turn their lives around, but also in her resilient quest to transform Miami-Dade county into a veritable caring community.

Tonight's tribute is genuinely deserved! I truly salute a very dear friend in behalf of a grateful community and I bid her Godspeed.

HONORING KATHLEEN MARY
O'CONNELL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of the 105th Congress, I want to recognize Kathleen Mary O'Connell who served on the Committee on Ways and Means staff from May of 1991—until her recent death from cancer on August 29, 1998.

Kathleen's fine reputation and professional skills are well known to all. She was smart, dynamic, charming, quick, a fabulous staffer, an excellent economist, and, most important, a good friend.

Our great sense of loss for Kathleen will continue each day. We always will remember Kathleen fondly.

Kathleen was a graduate of Smith College, and received her master's degree in economics from Duke University. Thereafter, she worked for fifteen years for the Congressional Budget Office, and then for more than seven years for the Committee on Ways and Means.

Kathleen cared about our Federal Government, its programs, and its policies. Most important, Kathleen wanted to make a difference and she did. Kathleen was key staff to all of the tax bills pending before the Committee during her tenure. She provided thorough and critical analyses of the economic, tax, and budgetary implications of legislation under consideration. She argued for fairness and policy decisions that benefitted the average American. Kathleen was a public servant who all of us are proud to have known.

On behalf of the Members and staff of the Committee on Ways and Means, I want to say that we will miss you always, Kathleen.

TRIBUTE TO DANTE FASCELL

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we wish good health to one of the most distinguished retired members of this body in recent history, former Congressman Dante Fascell.

For 38 years, Congressman Fascell proudly and effectively represented the 19th Congressional District of Florida, rising to become the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

His deliberative, thoughtful manner brought Dante great respect from his colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike.

He left his stamp not only on domestic policies, but particularly on a wide range of foreign policy initiatives where he promoted the American values of freedom, democracy and justice.

Congressman Fascell was instrumental in the passage of the landmark legislation, The War Powers Act, that assures that Congress has a say before our fighting men and women are sent to harm's way.

His fight for freedom and democracy also extended to the suffering people of Cuba.

For decades, Dante was a leading voice condemning the violation of human rights on the island committed by the Castro dictatorship.

All of us from South Florida who cherish his friendship hope that soon Chairman Fascell will be back on his feet enjoying his beloved grandchildren and all his family.

TREATMENT OF CHILDREN'S
DEFORMITIES ACT

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Treatment of Children's Deformities Act, legislation that prohibits insurers from discriminating against children born with deformities by denying coverage of reconstructive surgery. Children should not only be provided reconstructive surgery to improve the function of a part of the body, but also should be given the opportunity to face the world with a normal appearance. Insurers would like for you to think that such surgery is merely cosmetic—parents of children dealing with the

physical and psychological effects of such deformities would beg to differ.

Today, approximately seven percent of American children are born with pediatric deformities and congenital defects such as birth marks, cleft lip, cleft palate, absent external ears and other facial deformities. A recent survey of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons indicated that over half of the plastic surgeons surveyed have had a pediatric patient who in the last two years has been denied, or experienced significant difficulty in obtaining, insurance coverage for their surgical procedures.

Some insurance companies claim that reconstructive procedures that do not improve function are not medically necessary and are, therefore, cosmetic. America's physicians recognize an important difference between reconstructive and cosmetic surgery to which this bill calls attention. The American Medical Association defines cosmetic surgery as being performed to reshape normal structures of the body in order to improve the patient's appearance and self-esteem. They define reconstructive surgery as being performed on abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors or disease.

The Treatment of Children's Deformities Act acknowledges the importance of the AMA's definitions and requires that managed care and insurance companies do the same. The problems that Americans across the board are experiencing with various managed care companies who place cost over quality care is infuriating enough, but when it affects the physical and emotional well-being of children, Congress must be willing to put our foot down.

Please join me in defending the needs of children with deformities and congenital defects and their families by cosponsoring this important bill.

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS
INITIATIVE

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a speech given by Carol LaGrasse of the Property Rights Foundation of America to the Eagle Forum National Conference on September 12, 1998 in Arlington, Virginia. This speech is one of the most insightful discussions about the dangers of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative which my bill, H.R. 1842, would terminate. I encourage my colleagues to read this outstanding speech and share it with their constituents.

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS PROGRAM—
A THREAT TO PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss President Clinton's American Heritage Rivers program, a new federal executive program of designating selected major rivers supposedly to preserve their natural, cultural and historic resources.

INTRODUCTION

The American Heritage Rivers program, if successful, promises to diminish local representative government and private property rights. The program is also justifiably opposed because it involves many of the same