

environmental research at the Navy's David Taylor Research Center outside Annapolis, studying chemicals to prevent the growth of barnacles on ship hulls and developing protective foams to guard against nerve gases.

Massie said he found the academy, with its stringent admission standards and emphasis on technical education, a luxurious teaching environment.

"Scholarship is emphasized here—you know you could expect certain things of your students," he said. "You had enough money to have the proper equipment, and students could afford all their books," unlike students at some of the civilian colleges where he taught.

Massie said midshipmen were sometimes baffled by his unorthodox way of scoring exams—two points for each question they got right, but 50 points subtracted for each one they got wrong. He was trying to prove a point to them:

"Everything in life doesn't have the same value," he said. "It depends on the circumstances."

### AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1432) to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa:

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Chairman, the most important thing about the U.S. trade policy towards sub-Saharan Africa is that there isn't one. Congress has an opportunity to change that situation by passing HR 1432, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a widely supported bipartisan bill, that creates the framework for qualified African countries to move from aid to trade.

For the first time since the end of the colonial era, the United States is proposing to engage the countries of sub-Saharan Africa on the same basis as we do the rest of the world, as trading partners. The old donor and recipient paradigm, that has historically defined U.S. relations with Africa, is being replaced by a new and more dynamic paradigm that states that:

... it is in the mutual economic interest of the United States and the countries of Africa to promote programs, policies and strategies that reduce poverty through economic growth, self reliance, and commerce. Traditional aid, while still necessary in some countries, is not sufficient to bring about fundamental change in Africa. Economic growth, self reliance, and commerce are not only vital for raising living standards on a broad basis, but also for addressing the critical social and health needs that plague Africa. Without a strong commitment to economic growth, self reliance, and commerce, no social programs, no schedule expenditures, no amount of aid will make a sustained improvement in the quality of life of Africa's citizens. Africa needs economic growth to make its social objectives feasible.

HR 1432 is the beginning of a process that will change our negative bureaucratic culture towards Africa. HR 1432 is strongly supported by all of Africa's political and economic lead-

ers. The response from Africa had been clear, Africans want to be trading partners with the U.S. and the world, not perpetual recipients of donor assistance. HR 1432 explicitly states that the U.S. should continue to provide traditional development assistance to those countries attempting to build civil societies. In fact, the bill also states that economic growth depends on establishing a receptive environment for trade and investment, and that to achieve this objective USAID should continue to pursue programs in Africa. The Clinton Administration, including USAID, have strongly endorsed this legislation.

Many of the countries of Africa are moving in the right direction. Political and economic reform are beginning to take hold and a new generation of leaders have assumed power through elections. Things are much better, albeit not perfect, but better. Many countries in Africa have experienced positive growth rates over the last five years. Africa currently has 14 stock markets and the number is growing. Trade between the U.S. is growing, it is currently larger than trade between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. The American corporate community has developed a renewed interest in Africa. Now is the time to seize the initiative and work to solidify the positive developments that are taking place in Africa. HR 1432 gives the world's largest economy a plan to help the smallest economies to grow and prosper without harming U.S. consumers, manufacturers, or workers.

In addition to establishing a trade policy towards Africa, HR 1432 is composed of three primary cornerstones and several key initiatives. The first cornerstone is the negotiation of U.S.-Africa free trade agreements. The negotiation of the free trade agreements gives us the opportunity to begin the process of bilateral and multilateral discussion that, over a number of years, will lead to the type of economic and trade relations that are mutually beneficial to Africa and the U.S. HR 1432 is not a free trade agreement—it promotes free trade with African countries as a goal for the future.

The second cornerstone is the creation of a U.S.-African Economic Cooperation Forum, loosely modeled on APEC. The forum will begin to change the perception of Africa as anything other than a recipient of donor aid, or as a humanitarian basket case. The forum will be the place where trade and investment issues and concerns will be discussed at by Cabinet level officials and will demonstrate to the international community that the United States takes Africa seriously. The forum will also send a signal to our business community that the U.S. government is committed to making it easier to do business in Africa.

The third cornerstone is the U.S.-Africa investment partnership. OPIC will be directed to establish a privately managed equity fund and an infrastructure fund that will leverage private financing for small and moderate sized U.S. and African businesses, and expand opportunities for infrastructure development throughout Africa. The demand for infrastructure in Africa is enormous but, the response from the international finance community has not been promising. It is clear that Africa's future competitiveness depends on reliable telecommunications, roads, railways, and power plants.

The principal goal of our three cornerstones is to attract international project financing to Africa, and to make it financially feasible for

U.S. investors to participate in profitable business opportunities in Africa. If successful, there will be substantial job growth, increase in per capita incomes, and expanded trade between the U.S. and Africa.

While the three cornerstone programs will take time to implement, there is one initiative that could have an immediate impact on Africa countries. African textile and clothing exports to the U.S. represent less than 1% (about \$383 million) of the total import market of \$46 billion. HR 1432 contains a provision that could be implemented immediately and would not compete with U.S. products or cost U.S. jobs. In fact, when the World Bank analyzed HR 1432, it reported that the impact on U.S. manufacturers would be negligible. The provision eliminates the existing quotas on textiles and clothing exports from the countries of Africa as long as a cost effective and efficient visa system to guard against transshipment is in place. This provision represents a major opportunity to expand Africa's exports to the U.S. and generates more than 200,000 jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenue for Africa. Moreover, African and American products would not compete with each other.

HR 1432 is a commitment to a major shift in emphasis towards a private sector and market incentives approach to stimulating economic growth and reducing poverty in Africa. To participate, a country will have to meet eligibility requirements based on a strong commitment to economic, political, and trade liberalization.

Some think this initiative is naive, overly optimistic, or just completely unrealistic. I think that it is time that the U.S. becomes actively involved in building an economic partnership with the countries of Africa. That's what HR 1432 intends to do.

Mr. Speaker, on the floor of the House of Representatives, we often hear of days which are declared "historic". However, with the passage of HR 1432, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, today is truly a historic day.

### COMMEMORATION OF CALIFORNIA'S CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 1998*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate the week of March 15–21, 1998, which Governor Pete Wilson has proclaimed as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week," in my home State of California.

Each year, about 10,000 children in our country are diagnosed with cancer. In California, this deadly disease is the second leading cause of death among children. There can be little else that can compare with the senselessness and tragedy of a little child who has been struck with a life-threatening illness. Today, I would like to recognize the American Cancer Fund for Children, and it's founder, Steven Firestein, for not only helping to find a cure for these sick children, but for easing their road to recovery, or to their final rest.

The American Cancer Fund for Children has helped families get through what is certain to be the most difficult time in their lives. Providing food, clothing, transportation, prosthetic devices and social service programs to young

cancer patients, this organization comes to the aid of families who need it the most. They help take away worries, so families can have more time for hope.

Besides touching lives of individual children, the American Cancer Fund for Children has also made an impact on communities, through outreach and education about childhood cancer, and has contributed to cancer research.

While researchers and activists continue to search for a cure for cancer, it's important to recognize the interim needs of child victims and their families. Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for children are doing just that. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Cancer Fund for Children, and it's continuing efforts in easing the pain of childhood sickness and reaching for a cure.

# INDIA LABELS INNOCENT SIKH A "TERRORIST"

## HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conspired to place a false label of "terrorist" on a young Sikh man named Navjot Singh, and that the vaunted National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has ignored his case.

I have a copy of a letter sent to the NHRC President by the young man's father, Tarlok Singh Chhabra, this past December 12, 1997, that details his case. It is very disturbing. The letter states "that the CBI with the connivance of Delhi Police, planted a false claim" against Navjot Singh. According to the letter, "on protracted correspondence with the NHRC, it transpired that the NHRC had not bothered at all to go through the representation." Navjot Singh was forced to sign false papers to implicate him falsely in an incident in Delhi, as well as another pending case. This is an outrageous abuse of power, unacceptable in any country, but especially when that country wants to portray itself as the world's largest "democracy."

Several of us recently sent a letter to the Government of Punjab regarding its failure to punish those responsible for the genocide against the Sikh Nation. It requested that the Punjab Chief Minister appoint a commission to investigate over 75 cases of police murder, rape, and torture of Sikh youth that have been documented by the CBI, the Supreme Court of India, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. In fact, these agencies report that this abusive behavior has occurred deliberately, and on a massive scale. Also, it has been reported that the Punjab Government is diverting the mail of a fiercely independent journalist named Sukhbir Singh Osan. And a number of my colleagues were dismayed by Prime Minister Gujral's recent threat that "Hindustan will not tolerate another attack on Iraq." Now we are informed about Mr. Navjot Singh and his unfortunate experience with the Indian Government. India may have conducted a new round of elections, resulting in its fifth government in two years, but it takes more than elections to make a democracy.

Mr. Speaker, India is one of the five largest recipients of U.S. foreign aid, and the Presi-

dent wants to increase last year's assistance by almost \$12 million. The Indian Government is responsible for taking the lives of 250,000 Sikhs in Punjab between 1984-1992, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1974, and 53,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988. There are a half-million Indian soldiers occupying the province of Punjab, and another half-million occupying Kashmir. We should not be supporting a government that condones these widespread abuses with American tax dollars.

The United States is the world's preeminent power, arguably the only Nation on earth with both the economic might and the moral legitimacy to make the observance of human rights a pillar of its foreign policy. The unfortunate peoples of the world, whose basic human rights are suppressed either by tyrants or failed economic experiments, turn to the United States for hope, not cheap imports! From India to China, the people who suffer under such regimes understand that, if America joins their struggle by sacrificing short-term economic gain for long-term justice and freedom, the regimes will ultimately succumb.

An increase in aid is difficult to justify to the American people, who send their hard-earned tax dollars to a country that obviously shares none of our most-cherished values. The time has come for action, it is time for America to take a stand.

The Human Rights in India Act, introduced by me along with my good friend and colleague GARY CONDIT of California, will bar development aid to India unless the government releases prisoners of conscience, ends the practice of torture by police and military forces, permits impartial investigations of reported torture and disappearances of those in custody, brings to justice police forces responsible for human rights abuses, and permits critics of the government to travel abroad.

My colleagues, from this well of the House of Representatives you will hear many stories of human rights abuses from all around the world. Today, I ask that you think of the hundreds of thousands who are suffering in India. Please do not turn your back on the innocent. Give them a flicker of hope and send a strong message to the Government of India. I urge my colleagues to give the Human Rights in India Act their full consideration, and their strong support.

I am placing Mr. Chhabra's letter into the RECORD, and recommend that my colleagues give it their immediate attention.

*Subject: Conspiracy of the CBI to implicate Mr. Navjot Singh, an innocent boy & labelled him fraudulently as a "terrorist"*

The CHAIRMAN,

*National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi.*

SIR: Your attention is invited immediately to paras 6 and 7 of my representation dated 19-1-96, which is reproduced for ready reference: "That the CBI with the connivance of Delhi Police, planted a false case and implicated him in FIR 681/95 of 27-9-95 and he was lodged in Tihar Jail Delhi for about 6 weeks in 'C' class and that too in solitary confinement whereas in Chandigarh he was kept in 'B' class on account of his academic and professional qualifications. That the falsification of Delhi Police case can be proven by its own concocted story, that on 17-9-95 he had been arrested from our home and on the next day produced in the Chandigarh Police and remanded to police custody & then Judicial custody and it was from Burail Jail Chandigarh only to Delhi and planted a false

case against him in Delhi whereas he was never present at Delhi on 27-09-95 as he was present in his office up to the last date of his arrest. During his police remand Delhi, he was interrogated by the officers/officials of the CBI only and not by any other Agency. There at also he was forced to sign many blank papers etc."

2. On protracted correspondence with the NHRC, it transpired that the NHRC had not bothered at all to go through the representation in totality and had taken the matter lightly which required rapt attention of the NHRC in such a crucial matter involving the whole career of an educated young man. I have the documentary evidence to adduce, that it is all a conspiracy of the CBI officials to implicate my son falsely in Delhi case as well as Beant Singh case. What the hell on earth is that my son was forced to sign many blank papers including few diary pages of an old diary at gun point? Why duty is not cast upon the investigating agencies to faithfully discharge their duties and not involve innocent people in concocted and false cases which has glaringly happened in our case? Why penal action should not be taken against defaulting officials, who themselves behave like criminals and human rights are violated? A thorough enquiry be conducted and I be associated with the NHRC Court proceedings with following observations besides other issues:

1. The name of my son in FIR 681/95, does not figure at all at any stage.

2. The concocted confessional statement has been written in a language other than English and his signatures in English were already taken on blank sheets besides diary writings and few papers might have been filled in later on suiting the whims and fancies of the investigating officials, which is again a criminal offence on the part of the so called investigating officials and this fact cannot be ignored.

3. The Delhi case against my son came into being only as CBI were refused further remand by Chandigarh Court in Beant Singh case, in which he was falsely implicated already.

4. My son had never known any person named as co-accused or to any witness cited by the prosecuting agency, which again shows implication in a false and concocted case.

5. He was already arrested on 17-9-95 and was already lodged in Chandigarh Jail, whereas the Delhi FIR came into being on 27-9-95, what a big fraud? He was straight away taken from Chandigarh Jail for Delhi, it is highly unbelievable as to how the Delhi Police came to know that he was already lodged in Chandigarh Jail, whereas in the statement of a witness falsely brought on record by Delhi Police in connivance with CBI, as the complete residential address as well as the name of father of Navjot Singh was completely missing, requires thorough probe and stern action against the erring officials, both of CBI and the Delhi Police which culminated in implicating an innocent boy in false cases. It is pertinent to add that he was subjected to 3rd degree methods, just to compel him to become approver in Beant Singh assassination case which he flatly refused to do so. He was also threatened that he will be implicated in other false cases of other states too and his family members shall also be subjected to all sorts of tortures etc.

### PRAYER

I urge to your Lordship to please raise our case to its entirety and book the culprit officers/officials of the CBI and of Delhi police in whose connivance all episode of Delhi case as well as Chandigarh case took place, which