

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILD LABOR IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, much attention was appropriately focussed on human rights abuses by the Indian Government against minorities in Kashmir and Punjab during recent consideration of H.R. 1868, the foreign aid appropriations bill for 1996. However, there exists another little-known human rights problem in India, which is every bit as grave. This problem, which received little discussion, is the exploitation of child labor. The United States Government and the international community have paid little attention to the prolific employment of young children. It is time to attend to this neglect.

Child labor in India is a grave and extensive problem. Children under the age of 14 are forced to work in glass-blowing, fireworks, and most commonly, carpet-making factories. While the Government of India reports about 20 million children laborers, other non-governmental organizations estimate the number to be closer to 50 million. Most prevalent in the northern part of India, the exploitation of child labor has become an accepted practice, and is viewed by the local population as necessary to overcome the extreme poverty in the region.

Child labor is one of the main components of the carpet industry. Factories pay children extremely low wages, for which adults refuse to work, while forcing the youngsters to slave under perilous and unhygienic labor conditions. Many of these children are migrant workers, the majority coming from northern India, who are sent away by their families to earn an income sent directly home. Thus, children are forced to endure the despicable conditions of the carpet factories, as their families depend on their wages.

The situation of the children at the factories is desperate. Most work around 12 hours a day, with only small breaks for meals. Ill-nourished, the children are very often fed only minimal staples. The vast majority of migrant child workers who cannot return home at night sleep alongside of their loom, further inviting sickness and poor health.

Taking aggressive action to eliminate this problem is difficult in a nation where 75 percent of the population lives in rural areas, most often stricken by poverty. Children are viewed as a form of economic security in this desolate setting, necessary to help supplement their families' income. Parents often sacrifice their children's education, as offspring are often expected to uphold their roles as wage-earning members of their clan.

The Indian Government has taken some steps to alleviate this monumental problem. In 1989, India invoked a law that made the employment of children under age 14 illegal, except in family-owned factories. However, this

law is rarely followed, and does not apply to the employment of family members. Thus, factories often circumvent the law through claims of hiring distant family. Also, in rural areas, there are few enforcement mechanisms, and punishment for factories violating the mandate is minimal, if not nonexistent.

Legal action taken against the proliferation of child labor often produces few results. Laws against such abuses have little effect in a nation where this abhorred practice is accepted as being necessary for poor families to earn an income. Thus, an extensive reform process is necessary to eliminate the proliferation of child labor abuses in India which strives to end the desperate poverty in the nation. Changing the structure of the workforce and hiring the high number of currently unemployed adults in greatly improved work conditions is only the first step in this lengthy process. New labor standards and wages must be adopted and medical examinations and minimum nutrition requirements must be established in India. Establishing schools and eliminating the rampant illiteracy that plagues the country would work to preserve structural changes. However, these changes cannot be accomplished immediately. Pressure from the international community, especially the United States Government, is absolutely necessary to bring about change in India.

I believe that it is imperative for the U.S. Congress and the Clinton administration to pay more attention to the exploitation of children in India as well as other areas in South and Southeast Asia. Currently, Germany has instigated a pilot program that places a stamp on all imported carpets that are child labor free, thus urging consumers to buy these products. Because of the high price range of these carpets, similar programs can and should be given serious consideration in the United States.

The Child Labor Deterrence Act of 1993, which is still under consideration, prohibits importing to the U.S. any product made, whole or in part, by children under 15 who are employed in industry. While this aspect of the bill may be effective, the United States needs to take action regarding child labor abuses, specifically targeted at India. Mr. Speaker, I call on every Member of Congress to pay more attention to this little-recognized problem. We must acknowledge the fact that we cannot continue to sustain the exploitation of children by purchasing carpets woven by the hands of children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 24, I missed a series of rollcall votes—Rollcall Votes No. 555–562. Had I been present during those votes, I would have cast my vote in the following manner:

Rollcall Votes

Number:	Position
555 (Gejdenson Amendment to H.R. 70)	No
556 (Miller Amendment to H.R. 70)	No
557 (Final Passage of H.R. 70)	Aye
558 (LaTourette Amendment to H.R. 2002)	No
559 (Foglietta Amendment to H.R. 2002)	No
560 (Smith Amendment to H.R. 2002)	Aye
561 (Smith Amendment to H.R. 2002)	Aye
562 (Hefley Amendment to H.R. 2002)	Aye

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my strong opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan.

The administration's high-speed rail development program is designed to reduce the cost and improve the safety and performance of the kinds of high-speed rail projects that are most likely to find application in the United States.

The program is practical. It is targeted at safe, economical, environmentally friendly all-weather service by the year 2000 in all areas of the Nation. Such service alleviates the need for additional highway and airport capacity which are increasingly difficult and expensive to obtain.

And we're not talking about building new track here. It will make use of existing rail lines and doesn't require the expense of major new construction.

We have seen from the tremendous Amtrak ridership on the Northeast corridor that the public wants and will use high-speed rail technology throughout the country. This technology could be implemented in city pairs such as Detroit-Chicago, Chicago-St. Louis, Portland-Seattle, San Diego-Los Angeles, and Miami-Orlando, where trip times can be under 3 hours.

The Federal role proposed here is to provide the technology base. The States of Michigan, Illinois, Washington, California, Florida, and New York want high-speed rail and have already dedicated State funds. It is unreasonable and uneconomical to expect 15 or 20 States to each undertake technology development programs.

If this amendment were to pass, the progress that has already been made in this area will have been for naught. I understand that the gentleman is offering this amendment because he wants to save money. If his amendment passes, we will have thrown away the substantial and worthwhile investments we've made. Now that's a waste of money.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. High-speed rail has a legitimate future in this Nation. Let's not throw it away.

TRIBUTE TO LELA HAYNES
SESSION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Lela Haynes Session for her many years of service to the people of Berkeley County and the State of South Carolina.

Dr. Session was born in Moncks Corner, SC, to the late Mr. and Mrs. David Haynes. She was educated in the public schools of Charleston and Berkeley Counties and later received her bachelor of science degree from Allen University and master of science degree from South Carolina State University. Dr. Session furthered her studies at North Carolina College, Duke University, Tuskegee Institute, and Union Baptist Seminary. She has also been awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters.

During her 28 years with the Berkely County Schools, Dr. Session served as supervisor of elementary education, supervisor of adult education, director of retirement, and director of teacher welfare, personnel division.

Dr. Session has a long, impressive history of involvement in extracurricular and community activities, starting at Allen University in the early 1940's. While completing her undergraduate degree at Allen, she found time to participate in the drama club and the college choir. Dr. Session's leadership skills were evident in roles such as president of the Y.W.C.A., treasurer of Sunday school, and school nurse.

Endowed with a commitment to helping others and a keen sense of the need to improve quality of community life, Dr. Session's work epitomizes the motto, "Build Your Community, Build The World." She devotes her time, energy, and talents to a variety of civic and professional activities. Some of these activities include: State delegate to the National Democratic Convention, vice president of the Moncks Corner Precinct Democratic Party, president of the Berkeley County Habitat for Humanity, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Trident United Way, National Education Association, and the National Council of Negro Women.

Dr. Session is a longtime member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church where she serves as a trustee and stewardess. She has served as a consultant for the Lay Organization of the 7th Episcopal District, director of public relations for the Connectional Lay Organization, Young People Director, and Educational Worker of the Women's Missionary Society.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Lela Haynes Session for a lifetime of dedicated service to the people of Berkeley County and the State of South Carolina and join her family and friends in saluting her on September 2, 1995 at the Oaks Country Club in Goose Creek, SC.

HONORING BILL HUBBARD AND 25
YEARS OF THE CENTER FOR
HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William N. Hubbard, founder of the Center for Housing Partnerships.

For 25 years, the Center for Housing Partnerships has been revitalizing decayed neighborhoods through a combination of government assistance, conventional financing, and private investment. The organization's objective is to renew dilapidated neighborhoods by restoring abandoned apartment buildings and turn of the century brownstones. Many of these buildings are then leased to low-income families under the section 8 program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Since 1971, the center has developed and managed over 20 projects, consisting of more than 3,000 apartment units, with a total value of over \$200 million.

The Center for Housing Partnerships was founded by my close friend, William N. Hubbard. Bill is president of Center for Housing Partnerships and is responsible for new business development as well as dealing with financial institutions and government agencies. He is a director of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council and was associated with the New York Urban Coalition's Housing Rehabilitation Task Force. Bill served as general counsel to New York State Senator Thomas Bartosiewicz, is a member of the State Democratic Senate Advisory Committee, and is finance chairman for Assemblyman Pete Grannis, chairman of the New York State Assembly Insurance Committee.

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Bill Hubbard and the Center for Housing Partnerships for their continuing efforts in revitalizing our city's communities. They are instilling renewed hope to communities who only saw the decay and despair of their crumbling neighborhoods. Thanks to the Center of Housing and Partnership, we can look forward to another 25 years of economic renewal and other important social benefits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I was, unfortunately, detained in my congressional district in Baltimore earlier today to attend the funeral of five family members who were tragically killed late last week. In my absence, I was forced to miss two record votes. Specifically, I was not present to record my vote on rollcall vote No. 563, motion to recommit the Bill H.R. 1942, and rollcall vote No. 564, final passage of H.R. 1942.

Had I been here I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 563, the motion to recommit, and "nay" on rollcall No. 564, final passage.

LT. KURT S. OSUCH, AN AMERICAN
HERO

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Corps Lt. Kurt S. Osuch of Linden, NJ, because as he put it, "Marines do what Marines have to do." A horrible tragedy occurred on July 4, 1995. A traffic accident claimed the lives of Evelyn Dotson, Gwendolyn King, Henrietta Lathen and Jeanne Sanford.

Because of the brave actions of this fine American and marine, the list of fatalities is not as long as it might have been. It was in the early hours of July 4 that Lieutenant Osuch saved the lives of Matthew and Johnnie Buie. Mr. and Mrs. Buie were the only survivors of six members of St. Augustine Presbyterian Church in Paterson, who were traveling from a communion that morning when their van burst into flames after it was struck by a car heading in the wrong direction on the Garden State Parkway.

Lieutenant Osuch, returning from a friend's house, noticed the burning van and unlike several other passing motorists, stopped and in a selfless act of courage, pulled the two survivors from the van's front seats to safety. Lieutenant Osuch said that he was just doing what anyone else would have done. The fact is, he responded extraordinarily.

Lt. Kurt Osuch's sense of duty did not begin with this incident. Lieutenant Osuch, a graduate of Linden High School, enlisted in the Marine Corps in July 1982. Following boot camp he became an aviation technician. In July 1984, he entered the 2d Marine Air Wing at Cherry Point, NC. He was stationed in Okinawa between December 1984 and January 1986, where he served in the 1st Marine Air Wing. Following his duties in Okinawa, Lieutenant Osuch was a marine security guard in Beirut, Lebanon until June 1988.

In August 1988, the Marine Commissioning Enlistment Program brought him to the campus of Auburn University. He graduated from Auburn in March 1991, joining the ranks of the 10 percent of marines who are selected for and complete the Marine Commissioning Enlistment Program.

Lieutenant Osuch then became a field artillery officer in the 2d Battalion of the 10th Marines in the 2d Marine Division. He served in this capacity until January 1995. During this time, Lieutenant Osuch served his country in Mogadishu, Somalia, participating in Operation Restore Hope. He has also received the Navy Achievement Award for superior performance of his duties. Lieutenant Osuch currently serves as an operations officer and works at the Marine recruiting headquarters in Iselin, NJ.

Mr. Speaker, we, in New Jersey, have been reminded how fortunate we all are that marines do what marines have to do. I urge all of my colleagues to join with me in acknowledging a real American hero. Lt. Kurt Osuch.