

our Ambassador in India has raised this issue with "high-ranking Indian officials," and that he will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, the human rights abuses—the murders, the rapes, the torture—that are being committed against the Sikh people are truly horrible. Our State Department, our Ambassador, and the President must continue to press the Indian Government on this issue. Congress must be involved as well. It is time for Congress to pass legislation conditioning aid to India on improving its human rights record in Punjab, in Kashmir, and in other areas. If we continue to confront the Indian Government on this issue, we can force them to stop the abuses and allow human rights, democracy and freedom to flourish.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, DC, November 15, 1995.

Hon. DAN BURTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BURTON: Thank you for sharing with me your recent letter to Prime Minister Rao of India regarding the situation in Punjab.

I too am concerned by the reports regarding Jaswant Singh Khalsa. The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi has already made inquiries into these allegations with various Indian government agencies, and our Ambassador to New Delhi, Frank Wisner, has raised the issue with high-ranking Indian officials. We will continue these efforts. I appreciate your interest and concern on this issue.

With best wishes and warm regards,

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

[From the Council of Khalistan, Nov. 28, 1995]

CLINTON CHECKS INDIA

(By James Morrison)

President Clinton has taken a personal interest in the fate of an Indian human rights activist held by the government in New Delhi.

Following a letter-writing campaign from 65 members of Congress, Mr. Clinton says his envoy to India has made inquiries into the fate of Jaswant Singh Khalsa.

U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner has made it known in New Delhi that Washington is watching.

"I, too, am concerned by the reports regarding Jaswant Singh Khalsa," Mr. Clinton wrote this month to Rep. Gary A. Condit.

The California Democrat organized the congressional letter to Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, a copy of which was sent to the White House.

Mr. Condit cited an Amnesty International bulletin of Sept. 7 that accused Indian police of abducting Mr. Khalsa for investigating accusations that police in Punjab murdered thousands of Sikh men.

"The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi has already made inquiries into these allegations with various Indian government agencies, and Ambassador Wisner has raised the issue with high-ranking Indian officials," Mr. Clinton wrote.

"We will continue these efforts."

Mr. Condit's letter to the Indian prime minister noted that Mr. Khalsa "had published a report showing that the Punjab police have arrested more than 25,000 young Sikh men, tortured them, murdered them, then declared them 'unidentified' and cremated their bodies.

"These atrocities are intolerable in any country, especially one that calls itself a democracy. . . .

"This abuse of police power is inexcusable."

The congressional letter was the product of effective lobbying by Gurmit Singh Aulakh of the Council of Khalistan, which represents Sikhs pressing for a separate homeland.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 19, 1995.

Hon. P.V. NARASHIMA RAO,
Prime Minister of India, Chankaya Puri, New
Delhi, India.

DEAR PRIME MINISTER RAO: According to an Amnesty International "Urgent Action" bulletin issued on September 7, Punjab police abducted Sikh human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa from his home in Amritsar on September 6. His whereabouts are unknown. As the general secretary of Human Rights Wing (Shiromani Akali Dal), Mr. Khalsa had published a report showing that the Punjab police have arrested more than 25,000 young Sikh men, tortured them, murdered them, then declared them "unidentified" and cremated their bodies. These atrocities are intolerable in any country, especially one that calls itself a democracy. After the report was published, Mr. Khalsa was told by the Amritsar district police chief, "We have made 25,000 disappear. It would be easy to make one more disappear." This abuse of police power is inexcusable.

The right to speak out and expose atrocities is one of the most fundamental rights of free individuals. As long as Mr. Khalsa remains in detention, how can anyone in India feel secure exercising his or her democratic liberties?

Many of us wrote to you previously urging that the passports of Sikh leader Samranjit Singh Mann and Dalit ("black untouchable") leader V.T. Rajshekar be restored. Your government has not acted, and Mr. Mann and Mr. Rajshekar remain unable to travel. The right to travel is fundamental to a democratic nation.

Mr. Prime Minister, we call upon your government to release Mr. Khalsa immediately. We also urge you to restore the passports of Mr. Rajshekar and Mr. Mann. If India is a democratic country, it must end these gross violations of human rights and democratic principles. Only then can democracy truly begin to flower. We await your response.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Condit, James A. Traficant, William Jefferson, Peter King, Randy "Duke" Cunningham, Roscoe Bartlett, Jack Fields, Donald M. Payne, Dan Burton, Phil Crane, Richard Pombo, Karen McCarthy, Neil Abercrombie, Wally Herger, Dana Rohrabacher, Esteban Torres,

Ronald V. Dellums, John T. Doolittle, Michael Forbes, Enid G. Waldholtz, Gil Gutknecht, Victor Frazer, John Porter, Sam Gejdenson, Bob Livingston, Edolphus Towns, Chris Smith, William O. Lipinski, Scott King, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Dick Zimmer, Collin Peterson, Pete Geren,

Joe Skeen, Duncan Hunter, Jim Ramstad, Floyd Flake, Bernie Sanders, Matt Salmon, Richard "Doc" Hastings, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Phil English, Richard Burr, Connie Morella, Carlos Romero-Barcelo, Sanford D. Bishop, Jim Moran, Martin R. Hoke, Jack Metcalf,

Amo Houghton, Jerry Solomon, Robert Torricelli, Ed Whitfield, Melvin L. Watt, Jim Kolbe, John Shadegg, J.D. Hayworth, James H. Quillen, Barbara Cubin, Charlie Norwood, Vic Fazio, Chris Cox, Joe Scarborough, Bill Richardson, Steve Schiff.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY A. PANKEY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Mr. Henry A. Pankey, who will be honored on Saturday at the Second Annual Holiday Ball of the Eternal Fellowship of African American Postal Workers for his dedicated career in the U.S. Postal Service.

The Eternal Fellowship of African American Postal Workers is a non-profit organization which was founded to celebrate the African-American culture and to advance the well-being of the African-American community. At their second Christmas ball, to be held at Marina del Rey in the Bronx, the members of the "Eternal Fellowship" will bestow upon Mr. Pankey an honorary membership for his lifetime career in postal service operations.

I had the opportunity of meeting young and cheerful Henry Pankey when we were classmates at Clark Junior High School in the Bronx. Mr. Pankey later graduated from Bronx Community College and completed courses at the University of Virginia, Bernard Baruch College, Hunter College, Lehman College and Duke University.

His 32-year career in customer service and postal office operations includes experience as Division General Manager/Postmaster in the Western New York Division and in the Newark Division, and as Officer-In-Charge of the Elizabeth New Jersey Post Office.

Today, Mr. Pankey holds the post of Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Area of the United States Postal Service. His philosophy has been "what comes in today gets sorted and dispatched today, and delivered tomorrow." Under Mr. Pankey's leadership, postal management has reached higher levels of efficiency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Henry A. Pankey's lifelong and dedicated career to the benefit of our communities.

THE MISSING COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN OR WHY CAN'T WE GIVE AT THE OFFICE?

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH says he likes charities such as Boys Town, but he's acting like the Grinch who stole Christmas when it comes to the Combined Federal Campaign for the House.

As we all know, the Combined Federal Campaign is the annual event enabling Federal employees to make donations to charities.

Virtually all Government agencies have completed their Combined Federal Campaign, and thousands of charitable causes and organizations are the beneficiaries.

But one Government agency is missing: the House of Representatives.

When December 1 rolled around, a concerned staffer in my office started making inquiries.

Where is the Combined Federal Campaign, he asked?

He called the Finance Office. The Finance Office said, "Don't look at us."

He called the Chief Administrative Officer's Office. The CAO's Office said, "Don't look at us."

He even called the CAO's new one-call service. He called again the next day. He called again yesterday. Nothing to report.

Is it just administrative incompetence by the CAO?

I wish the answer was that easy.

But a few more calls have unearthed the discovery, and the answer my employee finally received is not a good one.

All fingers point to the Speaker.

This is the same Speaker who told us all about Boys Town and the benefits of non-government solutions to our problems.

Well, Mr. Speaker, If you'd check with the Combined Federal Campaign, you'd discover that Father Flanagan's Boys Home is one of the worthy organizations that is going wanting while you procrastinate.

What's the hold-up?

Is it incompetence, inefficiency, or neglect when every other agency of Government has completed their Combined Federal Campaign, and the House has yet to begin? It's a fair question.

Maybe it's because we're so busy this year.

But even the U.S. Senate has found time to conduct their Combined Federal Campaign—it concluded on November 15.

Maybe just maybe, we're facing one more unfathomable facet of the radical conservative agenda. Are there left wing groups benefiting? Is this just one more part of the Istook effort to cut off your enemies?

Only the Speaker can tell us for sure.

In the meantime, people in need supported by the Combined Federal Campaign's many charitable organizations may go without.

And generous House employees wait to see when the Speaker will catch the spirit of Christmas and let the Combined Federal Campaign go forward as it has for many years in every Federal agency.

REMEMBERING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDONESIAN INVASION OF EAST TIMOR AND CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN EAST TIMOR

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of several anniversaries. As Americans we cannot forget that 54 years ago today our nation was invaded and attacked and lives were lost at Pearl Harbor. Today we remember those who lost their lives and honor those who bravely served in our Armed Forces and defended our borders.

Today is also the anniversary of another invasion. Twenty years ago today the nation of Indonesia invaded the territory of East Timor and 1 year later forcibly annexed it. Within a matter of hours and days after the invasion entire families were wiped out. And since December 7, 1975, over 200,000 Timorese have been killed—one-third of the entire population.

What has happened in East Timor over the last 20 years has been sarcastically called by John Pilger, an Australian journalist, "one of the world's great secrets." Indonesia severely restricts access to East Timor, making it difficult to monitor abuses, while human rights organizations and activists are subject to harassment and threats from the government. Still, well-respected organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch/Asia have been able to report on the continuing human rights problems in East Timor.

In addition to the thousands killed over the last 20 years, the Indonesian Government has unleashed a reign of terror over the East Timorese which includes detaining political prisoners, torture and rape, and disappearances. According to Roman Catholic Bishop Ximenes Belo, an outspoken defender of human rights in East Timor and a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, "There is always fear. We lack freedom to speak, to walk where we want, to have different opinions. If people talk, they know they will be interrogated. They will be tortured."

Because of Bishop Belo's strong defense of human rights, the Jakarta Government is actively seeking his replacement as leader of East Timor's Roman Catholic Church. The government's attempt to control the church is an attempt to control even the spiritual life of the East Timorese people. In addition to the campaign against Bishop Belo, Amnesty International reports that church officials are subject to surveillance, including the tapping of phones and interception of letters. Members of the clergy also face harassment and intimidation by security forces and Indonesian troops.

In October of this year young people, unable to tolerate the suppression any longer, protested against the Indonesian Government. The response of the military was swift and violent. Over 200 people were injured by gunfire, while 150 others who were attending a meeting at a convent were arrested and detained. Many of those who were detained were reported to have been tortured with electric prods or beaten while in custody.

Mr. Speaker, the territory of East Timor has been held in captivity for 20 years by the Indonesian Government and there are few indications that the reign of terror will soon end. On this day, when we remember that our own nation was once invaded by another nation, we must not forget the people of East Timor who have not known freedom and peace since the Indonesian invasion on December 7, 1975. And unlike the attack on Pearl Harbor where we were able to overcome the invaders, the invaders of East Timor have yet to be defeated. We can only imagine what life must be like, denied the right of self-determination and other basic human rights. But the words of one man who has spent the last 20 years of his life under the Indonesian dictatorship might help us understand: "We the people in East Timor call it the biggest prison island in the world. You must understand that. For us who live here it's hell."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, due to the illness of my mother-in-law, I was unable

to vote on December 6. I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 290 waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill H.R. 1058 to reform Federal securities litigation, "yes" on final passage of the conference report on H.R. 1058 and "no" on the motion to recommit the conference report on H.R. 2067, the Commerce, State, Justice and the Judiciary appropriations bill.

U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE EMPLOYEES PROTECTION ACT OF 1995, H.R. 2737

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on October 31, 1995, the House International Relations Committee held full committee hearings on the matter of the U.S. efforts at international narcotics control.

We were pleased among the witnesses that day to hear from the DEA and the U.S. Customs Service. Both these fine agencies are engaged in the difficult and often unappreciated battle to prevent these deadly drugs from ever entering our Nation and infecting our cities and schools, where they soon destroy the lives of so many of our young people, and many others.

During the hearing, we examined our efforts along the Southwest border to prevent drugs from entering the United States from Mexico. We also discussed the phenomena of the drug trafficking port runners, who our border control people now face frequently along our vast border with Mexico.

These port runners are individuals who load up cars or vans with large quantities of drugs, then await the chance to race illegally across the border at high and very dangerous speeds past the U.S. Customs Service checkpoints; sometimes even heading across the U.S. border going against oncoming traffic in the southbound lanes.

Needless to say, there is real danger and the potential for serious tragedy from these madmen willing to risk the lives of innocent people, including our Customs Service inspectors, and other Federal officials, who they seek to avoid detection by in their dangerous dash across the Mexican-United States border, loaded with illegal drugs headed for the streets of America.

During the hearing, we learned of the case a few years ago of an individual driving a 1976 Dodge van from Mexico loaded with drugs intended for entry at El Paso, TX. A U.S. Customs Service inspector working with an Agriculture inspector in the primary inspection lane attempted to stop the fleeing driver when suspicions arose about the illicit cargo he was carrying.

In the ensuing struggle, the Customs inspector held on to the passenger side of the vehicle in an attempt to stop the van. The Customs inspector was then thrown from the vehicle about 300 yards from the primary lane, suffered massive head injuries, and died 1 day later at a local hospital.

One more victim of the deadly drug trade was claimed that day, and this Customs Service inspector, and so many others, like the five DEA agents killed in a plane crash in the