

"We are very concerned about political activities at the Indian Embassy," Burton's chief of staff, Kevin Binger, said of the Gadhia guilty plea. "We feel very strongly that it should stay out of political races. Any allegation that this is going on should be investigated and made an issue with the Indian government."

Said embassy spokesman Shiv Mukherjee: "The Indian Embassy operates fully within the bounds of diplomatic propriety."

Officially, the State Department had no comment. Privately, however, officials chalked up the illegal contributions that were funneled through Gadhia's Maryland political network to a lack of sophistication in how to influence the American political system.

One official said the Indians had made a fumbling start in their attempt to copy the formidable clout wielded on Capitol Hill by such countries as Greece and Israel, which are aligned with powerful and well-financed Washington lobbies.

India and its supporters in Washington have been extremely vocal in trying to limit U.S. military assistance to India's longtime adversary, Pakistan—most recently, the sale of 38 F-16 fighters.

As the Clinton administration has tried to improve trade and political ties with India while not damaging relations with Pakistan; much of this debate had played itself out before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House International Relations Committee.

Federal Election Commission records show that the committee members have become magnets for campaign contributions from Pakistani and Indian immigrants living in the United States—and for Gadhia's laundered contributions.

In addition to Sarbanes, other Democratic committee members targeted were Sen. Charles S. Robb of Virginia, \$2,000; Rep. Gary L. Ackerman of New York, \$3,000; Rep. Sherrod Brown of Ohio, \$3,000; Rep. Lee H. Hamilton of Indiana, \$3,000; Rep. Eliot L. Engel of New York, \$3,000; Robert E. Andrews of New Jersey, \$3,000; and Rep. Howard L. Berman of California, \$2,800.

State Department officials said yesterday's revelations were unlikely to do serious damage to U.S.-Indian relations. Nor does the Gadhia case appear to rise to the level of other campaign financing scandals involving foreign nationals.

The Justice Department is investigating the campaign finances of Rep. Jay Kim, a California Republican and the first Korean-American member of Congress.

Since December, four Korean companies—Hyundai Motor America, Korean Air Lines, Daewoo International (America) Corp. and Samsung America—have paid a total of \$1.2 million in fines in connection with illegal campaign contributions to Kim that were laundered through company employees.

In 1994, a number of Japanese citizens and corporations paid a \$162,225 civil penalty to the FEC for making more than \$300,000 in illegal contributions in Hawaii during the 1980s.

Perhaps the most famous episode of foreign intervention in recent history was the Korean scandal of the 1970s, in which a wealthy South Korean businessman funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes and contributions to U.S. politicians.

Among those caught in the scandal, which implicated more than 30 members of Congress, was Hancho C. Kim, a Maryland businessman. He was sentenced to six years in prison in 1978 for accepting \$600,000 in funds from the Korean government to influence members of Congress.

HOW THE MONEY MOVED

Aug. 16, 1993: Indian-American Leadership Investment Fund registers as a political ac-

tion committee (PAC) with the Federal Election Commission. In first 13 months, it raises \$700.

October 1994: Lalit H. Gadhia sends 41 checks totaling \$34,900 written by various individuals to the PAC. Between Oct. 30 and Nov. 3, the PAC sends \$34,800 to 14 congressional candidates and to the Massachusetts Democratic Party's Victory '94 fund. Federal prosecutors say that Gadhia selected the candidates to receive contributions and that he reimbursed the authors of most of the checks, suing money obtained from an official at the Indian Embassy in Washington.

October-November 1994: Another \$15,000 in contributions from individuals is made directly to 12 candidates, including eight who also received money from the PAC. The contributors are reimbursed by Gadhia, using money from the Indian Embassy official.

Dec. 1, 1994: Gadhia sends a report on the use of the campaign funds to the embassy official Devendra Singh.

May 3, 1995: Gadhia resigns as Gov. Parris N. Glendening's campaign treasurer following a report in *The Sun* describing his fund-raising activities. He also takes leave of absence from his \$80,000 post as assistant secretary of international economical development in the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development.

May 8, 1995: FBI searches Gadhia's law office and finds evidence of the scheme to launder illegal campaign contributions.

June 30, 1995: Gadhia resigns his state job. Yesterday: Gadhia appears in federal court and admits his role in the scheme.

[From the Washington Times, May 9, 1996]

DEMOCRAT GUILTY OF LAUNDERING CONTRIBUTIONS

(By Mary Pemberton)

BALTIMORE.—A Democratic Party activist pleaded guilty yesterday to devising a scheme to funnel \$46,000 in illegal contributions to a political action committee and several federal election campaigns.

Lalit H. Gadhia, 57, who had been Gov. Parris Glendening's campaign treasurer, pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of causing a false statement to be made to the Federal Election Commission, U.S. Attorney Lynne A. Battaglia said. He faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine at sentencing Aug. 6.

None of the money in question went to the governor's campaign. But Maryland Republican Party Chairman Joyce Lyons Terhes said Gadhia's activities are indicative of the type of people Mr. Glendening surrounds himself with.

"I think it is one more example of the flawed administration of Glendening," she said.

But a state Democratic Party spokesman said it has nothing to do with Mr. Glendening and, if anything, reflects positively on the party.

"It is very unfortunate that he became overzealous, but the Clinton administration does not back off...even though this guy has been a strong supporter of Democrats," David Paulson said.

The FBI said Gadhia approached the Indian-American Leadership Fund in the fall of 1994 and persuaded the New Mexico PAC to contribute to candidates other than Indian-Americans, as long as he did the fund raising.

For three weeks in October 1994, Gadhia presented the PAC with checks totaling \$34,900, which he said were contributions from a number of individuals. He also provided names, addresses and occupations for those individuals so that the PAC could file the required reports with the FEC.

The PAC, in return, made political contributions to federal candidates selected by Gadhia in the November elections.

For the most part, the money donated to the PAC did not come from the contributors, prosecutors said. At least \$31,400 of the funds provided to the PAC were laundered by individuals who issued checks to the Indian-American Leadership Fund and then were reimbursed in cash for their contributions by Gadhia or his intermediaries, according to the FBI.

Prosecutors said Gadhia used the same type of scheme to launder \$15,000 in illegal contributions that he provided directly to a number of federal election campaigns.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN N. KRAMER

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, many retire with impressive records, but few could boast of surpassing the extraordinary career record of a prominent constituent of Wisconsin's Third Congressional District, John N. (Nick) Kramer of Fennimore, WI.

Kramer, age 83, recently stepped down after serving almost 60 years as the city attorney for Fennimore. As one of the State's premier municipal and school attorneys, he is also retiring from the law practice he first established in Fennimore in 1938, after having been in a prior practice in Lancaster, WI. In addition to serving many communities as legal counsel, he also served as president of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities for three consecutive terms. He was also recognized statewide for helping school districts consolidate during the late 1950's and 1960's.

One of his finest achievements to benefit southwest Wisconsin was getting a technical college located in Fennimore. During the late 1960's, the State was developing vocational districts and southwest Wisconsin was to be included in either the Madison or LaCrosse vocational district. Kramer, who served on several State committees, was instrumental in convincing the State that there should be a separate vocational district in the southwestern part of the State. Kramer was recognized for this achievement by Southwest Tech in 1992 and the administration building on campus was renamed the Kramer Administration Building. During that time, the city of Fennimore also named and dedicated a park in Nick's honor.

Kramer has also worked on boards of three of Wisconsin's main railroads to maintain rail service in the State.

Nick is a faithful and dedicated member of the Republican Party of Wisconsin and the Third Congressional District, having served as the Third District chairman for several years, as well as chairman of the Grant County Republican Party, a position he still holds.

His many accomplishments, statewide and locally, have earned him many friends and much respect through the State. Although he plans to keep in contact with long-time clients and serve on a couple of committees, he is honoring the wishes of his wife, Katherine, sons John, Jr. and Mark and daughter Joellen, in retiring from his practice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of Wisconsin's Third District, I wish him a well-earned happy retirement.

ERMA BOMBECK—AN AMERICAN
LEGEND

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, in 1990 I had the pleasure of meeting Erma Bombeck when she visited Buffalo and spoke at the commencement exercises for Canisius College, on whose board I now serve. She was just the same in person as most found her in print: witty, funny, down to Earth. Yet she was also one of the most sensible and reasonable people I've ever met.

No one attains the huge successes that Erma did without hard work and a strong sense of self. Yet despite her fame, the acclaim did not go to her head. She remained that wonderfully boisterous, self-deprecating humorist who inspired us all with her wonderful stories. As Canisius said in the citation accompanying the honorary doctorate they gave her on that occasion, "she is a troubadour of the late 20th century, the chronicler of our American domestic habits." The citation went on to note that she viewed herself as an "ordinary person," and that it was "that 'ordinariness' to which we pay tribute * * *, for in her writings we hear EveryNeighbor, the voice of someone we all know, someone who recounts universal experiences."

Perhaps the closest parallel to Erma was another American original, Will Rogers. And what distinguished them both was the common ingredient they brought to their observations of humanity and human beings: common sense. To see human fallibility and absurdity through that prism is itself a recipe for having an enjoyable time in life, but to be able to convey those observations to others is a gift indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to one of our Nation's true originals, Erma Bombeck. I salute her for the joy she brought to so many of her fellow Americans, and for the courage with which she faced the cancer which took her from us last month.

Let me quote again from the Canisius' citation:

As any clown can tell you, it is far easier to make people cry than it is to make them laugh. In a world full of sadness, Erma Bombeck espouse[d] a simple philosophy: "If you can't make it better, you can laugh at it." But in helping us to see the humor in our stress-filled lives, she has made it better, indeed.

For making us more aware of ourselves and each other, for staunchly maintaining her affirmative view of God's creation, and for sharing the precious gift of laughter, Canisius College proudly awards Erma Bombeck the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.

A few days ago the Buffalo News printed a remembrance written by Erma's husband, Bill Bombeck, along with another beautiful piece by free-lance writer Christina Abt. Bill Bombeck's and Christina Abt's words said it all, and I ask consent to insert those two articles at this point in the RECORD so our colleagues can share in their thoughtful words.

Erma, you will be sorely missed. Thanks for everything.

[From the Buffalo News, May 13, 1996]

ERMA BOMBECK AND THE RIDE OF HER LIFE

(By Bill Bombeck)

In 1989 my wife, Erma Bombeck, began to experience a series of painful medical problems, but she disdained letting her readers know most of the details. She usually brushed aside rumors and inquiries with a joke and a plea that her purpose was to write humor and make people smile. Health reports are not funny. Her greatest fear was that she would become a "poster child" and people would feel sorry for her.

Throughout these assaults she remained unbelievably optimistic. Erma always knew that there was a pony in their someplace. Not only did the research and writing of her book "I Want to Grow Hair, I Want to Grow Up, I want to Go to Boise" provide a nation with the heroics of kids surviving cancer, but it also helped give Erma the courage to face her many trials, including her last one.

I have met astronauts, war heroes, firefighters and police officers, but I have never known anyone with more courage than Erma. Courage has been called grace under fire. I would propose we call it Erma under fire.

Erma would not have approved of my words. But for this one time I will do what Erma admonished all who challenged her words, and that was to "go out and get your own column."

I have searched for a way to show my family's gratitude to the thousands of fans and friends who have shown so much love and compassion toward her. I'd like to share with you a personal recollection I read at the family services that were held before the funeral.

In 1947, three or four couples were outside the Lakeside Ballroom in Dayton, Ohio. We were too early to be admitted for the big-band dance, so we all wandered over to the adjoining amusement park.

Not far from the ballroom was the roller coaster. All of the boys began cajoling their dates to ride with them. The girls giggled and said no. It was too frightening, and it would mess up their hair and dresses.

I looked at my date and asked her if she wanted to go. She didn't hesitate. She said, "Sure, I'll go." I was surprised and looked at her again. She was slight, narrow-shouldered, with tiny hands and feet. But she had the greatest smile and laugh. Her smile had a charming space between her two front teeth. I thought, this is some kind of girl.

The Lakeside roller coaster was a rickety old leftover from the Depression. The frame was mostly made of unpainted 2-by-4s. No modern inspection by OSHA ever would have approved this for man's use.

The cars were linked together with what looked like modified train couplers. They were mostly red painted wood with metal wheels and a coglike device that clicked loudly. The seats had worn black leather padding. There were no belts, but there were worn steel bars that had to be raised and lowered by the attendant.

The attendant was an old man in oil-stained bib overalls. He said little, but raised the bar and she entered the seat first, and I followed by her side.

There were two tapered 2-by-4's on the platform, angled away from each other. He moved the one closest to the car to an upright position. The car moved forward, slowly picking up speed. The metal wheels on the metal track made so much noise you had to yell to your partner to be heard.

The car left the level starting track and began a slow ascent. In 20 or 30 seconds, when the track became steeper, the cog device engaged the car. Then there was a distinct rhythmic clacking sound as the cog de-

vice labored to overcome the near-perpendicular angle of the track. You felt as if it wouldn't make it, but just when it reached a point that forced the passengers to stare, not at the car ahead or the track, but only at the night sky, it plunged downward, a wild, almost free-fall. Maybe whatever controlled the speed was now broken.

She made her first sound since she had said, "Sure, I'll go." She screamed and clenched my arm. I said, "Hang on to the bar." She kept hanging on to my arm. Suddenly we were at the bottom, and we both were so relieved that we laughed, and I saw that smile again.

The ride continued, with bone-jarring twists and turns, dizzy heights and abrupt plunges. Sometimes we would enter a dark tunnel, so dark the sparks from the wheels and tracks made it look like it was on fire.

She kept hanging on to my arm. I was gripping the metal bar so tightly I thought I would bend it. This was some ride. We were thrilled and exhilarated, scared and breathless.

We had been in and out of many tunnels. Each time they ended with almost blinding light in our eyes, and then on to another straight-up climb.

We started in a tunnel that seemed to plunge deeper than all the others. It kept dropping. We both sensed this one was really different. Finally, instead of the bright lights, we were back at the platform.

We looked at each other. We didn't speak, but we sensed the ride had changed. The man in the bib overalls was standing by the tapered 2-by-4s. He started to push one from its angle to a straight-up position. The car stopped. I told him the ride was great, but it was too short; we wanted to go on. He raised the bar. She smiled again. I looked at the attendant again. He said, this is April 22, 1996—your ride is over. I looked over at her seat. She was gone.

[From the Buffalo News, May 14, 1996]

ERMA BOMBECK WAS COMPANY FOR STAY-AT-HOME MOMS

(By Christina Abt)

The unthinkable happened to me last month. A member of my family died, and I didn't even know she'd been sick. Worse than that, no one called to inform me of her passing. I had to hear about it on the news.

The cold, hard reality of death was dealt to me in a 30-second sound bite courtesy of a well-known anticid and a lite beer.

I'm angry, hurt and confused all at once; but most, I'm so incredibly sorry that I never let this lady know how much I enjoyed her company.

Without fail, her realistic and refreshing view of life always gave me hope. She was a lady of great intelligence, compassion, sensitivity, insight and most importantly, "on the mark" humor.

She was Erma Bombeck, whose column I read in The Buffalo News.

Why did she touch me so much? Because her life was so like mine, like those of so many women. She was a career woman, a writer, but a woman who chose to devote herself to marriage, family and community as well.

And she always made us feel as if the fact that we are human was not only acceptable but something to be cherished—warts and all.

From diapers and toilet training through high school proms and college graduations, over the peaks and valleys of marital bliss, and even on social issues, this lady's unique perspective on the frustrations and triumphs of life as it really happens could make me laugh, cry, understand a new point of view and always feel better about the daily grind.

Erma Bombeck's career as a columnist spanned an era when women began leaving the kitchen for the board room and experiencing corporate heartburn rather than labor pains. The message that we should "have it all" was everywhere. A heretofore-unknown body of womanhood was developing a thousand new and different dialects with no translator. There were new battlefields of full-time motherhood versus full-time personhood.

A grudging understanding and bridging of these gaps among women came about, partly through the written work of this clever lady and her sharp pen.

She spoke the language of women everywhere, a language of the heart. Every story she told seemed to reach a part of our sense and sensibility no matter what the topics. People saved the stories, underlined them, sent them to relatives, read them to friends over the phone.

And what made it all so effective was that this woman was a part of all of our families. She knew your mom, your Aunt Rose, your husband, your child.

Her stories were her own, but to me, as to other readers, it almost seemed as if the text were taken from a hidden camera set up in my own house—with words used verbatim.

In February, my daughter sent me a Bombeck column as a valentine. The topic? "Having It All."

The content could have been taken directly from the life my two children and I experienced as I tried to be a 48-hour-a-day mom to them while still cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, car-pooling, shopping, pretending to be an intelligent life form, healing the sick, raising the dead—woman will understand. The last few lines of the column gave hope that someday the child will realize the mother-to-slave ratio and actually express gratitude, even if it is 20 years later.

And that's what my daughter did. She wrote at the bottom of the column, "Thanks, Mom. I love you," Hallmark never said it better.

Coming as my twenty-something children are on their way to productive lives and I confront the "what now?" crisis, this column felt like a testimonial.

Erma, friend, I will miss you.

SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of the Small Business Job Protection Act yesterday because it provides several advantageous new tax benefits for small businesses and their employees. By creating simplified retirement plans, extending the tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance and encouraging employers to hire workers from economically and otherwise disadvantaged groups through the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, this legislation can contribute to the vitality of small businesses.

Despite the positive attributes of this bill, two provisions trouble me. First, by repealing section 956A of the Tax Code, Congress is reinstating an incentive for U.S. companies to move operations and jobs to foreign tax havens, accumulate unlimited passive assets, and avoid paying U.S. income taxes.

Congress put section 956A in the Code in 1993 to curb the ability of controlled foreign

corporations to accumulate excess passive assets and shelter them from U.S. taxation. By repealing this provision, we are giving yet another tax break to multinational corporate giants and a paid-for-ticket to run to tax havens. And oddly enough, we're doing it in a "small business" bill.

Secondly, I do not favor the wholesale repeal of the Section 936 tax credit which encourages economic investments in Puerto Rico. This action would have a detrimental impact on American citizens in Puerto Rico. I do endorse reform of the credit, focused on establishing effective mechanisms to foster and improve job creation, and using the projected revenue savings for social and employment and training needs in Puerto Rico.

I urge House conferees to carefully reassess these provisions and seek alternative revenue sources to pay for the valuable small business tax reforms in this legislation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of raising the minimum wage.

The minimum wage is a critical earnings floor for the working men and women of our Nation. I have supported the necessary periodic increase in the minimum wage since I was first elected to Congress, introducing my own bill for this purpose in 1986. In 1989, I voted in favor of adjusting the minimum wage to its current level of \$4.25.

It is abundantly clear that \$4.25 is no longer an adequate minimum wage. Since 1991, the wage has lost \$0.50 in value. An individual working full time at this rate makes less than \$9,000 per year—not nearly enough to support a family.

Even the proposed increase of \$0.90 over 2 years will only compensate for half the value lost in inflation during the 1980's. However, it is a critical step.

Nearly 12 million workers across our Nation are working for minimum wage. Of these, close to 75 percent are over 20 years of age. Fifty-eight percent of these adults are women, many of them single mothers. In Wisconsin alone, about 9 percent of our workforce—over 200,000 people—is earning less than \$5.15 per hour.

This is simply not sustainable. If we are going to reform welfare, cut the earned income tax credit, and reduce other benefits for the poor, we must guarantee them a livable wage. We cannot cut all the legs off the table and then wonder why it does not stand. The minimum wage is a crucial safety net for the working poor, ensuring that we do not return to the sweatshops of the past, where unscrupulous employers preyed upon the desperate.

I would also like to express my opposition to the Goodling amendments, which represent nothing more than a cynical attempt to scuttle the minimum wage increase. The first of these amendments would discriminate against new hires and tipped employees, two of the groups most likely to be earning the minimum wage. These provisions would allow employers to pay subminimum wage levels to these workers.

The second Goodling amendment would exempt small businesses with less than \$500,000 in gross annual sales from minimum wage laws. This would effectively excuse two-thirds of all American businesses, employing over 10 million workers, from providing a modest wage floor. This is outrageous. I hope our colleagues in the Senate will recognize these provisions for the cynical ploy they are and reject them outright.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the strongest possible terms to vote in favor of increasing the minimum wage.

NEW BEDFORD STANDARD TIMES SUPPORTS SUPREME COURT'S COLORADO DECISION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to read in the New Bedford Standard Times, on Thursday, May 23, an excellent editorial in support of the recent Supreme Court ruling striking down the anti-gay and lesbian law in Colorado. As the editorial cogently points out, what the Supreme Court said is "that this is still the United States of America, people are still entitled to equal protection under the law. All people. Even ones we may misunderstand or, as in the case of Colorado voters, despise. The Supreme Court understands that, even if many other people do not." I am very grateful to the editorial board of the New Bedford Standard Times for coming to the Supreme Court's defense on this important occasion when they have reaffirmed basic American constitutional principles. And I ask that this excellent, temperate, well reasoned editorial be printed here.

COURT'S RULING ON GAYS WAS STRICT READING OF CONSTITUTION

The U.S. Supreme Court made a profoundly conservative decision this week when it voted 6-3 to strike down a Colorado measure that sought to deny homosexuals any "special treatment" under the law.

That's always the charge when gays in the United States make any attempts to appeal to the government to stop people from discriminating against them. They're looking for "special treatment" that no one else gets.

But the Colorado constitutional amendment turned that logic on its head, giving homosexuals "special treatment" no American would want, and in the process ran afoul of the equal protection clause of the Constitution.

The six justices who made that conclusion haven't lost their minds. They haven't subscribed to some subversive liberal agenda. They merely read the words of the amendment in question and took them literally. And what they meant, literally, that one group of people was to be singled out for a single trait and systematically denied any specific civil rights protection in the State of Colorado.

"It is not within our constitutional traditions to enact laws of this sort" was the tart understatement of Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who wrote the majority decision. To better understand what he meant, try substituting the words "black" or "elderly" or "handicapped" for the word "homosexual" and try talking about denying those groups protection under the law when they have