

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote numbers 2 and 3. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H. Con. Res. 244, Permitting the Use of the Capitol Rotunda to Commemorate Victims of the Holocaust; and "yes" on H.R. 2130, the Hillory J. Farias Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act of 1999.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY MONTH

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend workers in the biotechnology industry for their progress in improving the lives of all Americans. We just concluded National Biotechnology Month, and I would like to take a brief moment to highlight the potential that biotechnology has for us in 21st century.

Biotechnology companies are developing treatments and vaccines for devastating diseases—such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, cancer, and AIDS—that will improve the lives of millions of Americans afflicted with these ailments. They are also responsible for developing treatments for smaller diseases harming perhaps just a few hundred people, but nonetheless just as debilitating. In addition, biotechnology is about more than just medical research. Scientists are beginning to use biotechnology for other uses, such as environmental remediation.

Furthermore, the biotechnology industry has also had a significant positive impact on our nation's economy. A recent report by the Joint Economic Committee stated that the biotechnology industry spent \$10 billion on research and development in 1998, while employing 150,000 workers nationwide. My home state of Pennsylvania has helped lead the way in biotechnology, ranking second in the nation in the number of jobs based on biotechnology.

Congress needs to continue to work with the biotechnology industry for an equitable public-private sector partnership, and make sure new technologies are not unnecessarily slowed by over-burdensome regulations. I congratulate the biotechnology industry on its accomplishments and its bright future.

LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR,
SHERIFF JOHN EBERLY**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Law Officer of the Year recipient, Otero County Sheriff John Eberly of La Junta, Colorado.

This award was presented by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado

Brand Board and recognizes Colorado lawmen whose efforts to uphold the state's livestock law have benefitted the entire livestock industry.

During his 25 years with Otero County, Sheriff Eberly has been instrumental in continuing and improving the livestock law training classes for law enforcement. Working with the National Guard, Sheriff Eberly and his staff coordinated the rescue and helicopter feeding operations for stranded livestock during the 1997 blizzard. When floods threatened the Arkansas Valley in 1999, his experience and knowledge was important to the area's ranching businesses.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to congratulate Sheriff John Eberly and also thank him for his tireless commitment to making his community a better place.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY ALL-GIRL CHEERLEADING SQUAD

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the 1999–2000 Southwest Texas State University All-Girl Cheerleading Squad. They recently won first place in the All-Girl Cheer Division at the Universal Cheerleading Association's 2000 College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championship. The competition was held during the Universal Cheerleading Association's 2000 Championship at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, on January 7, 2000.

Located in the Texas Hill Country city of San Marcos, Southwest Texas State University is justifiably proud of their award winning All-Girl Cheerleading Squad; Karla Brown, Charissa Canuelle, Lexi Chaleff, Alexandria Collie, Krystal Davis, Patricia Goolsby, Ashley Harmon, Robyn Kyriash, Sara Martinez, Shavaun Moynahan, Aimee Moyers, Nicki O'Riley, Kristi Oberpriller, April Rheinlaender, Jennifer Rogers, and Brandi Wilkie. These talented young women received outstanding leadership and support from their coach, Jason Anderson, and the team's trainer, Scott Chambers.

On January 25, 2000, a ceremony was held at the Texas State Capitol Building in Austin, Texas, in honor of the squad. At one o'clock, in the historic chambers of the Texas House of Representatives, State Representative Rick Green presented each of the young champions a copy of a resolution congratulating them on their achievement. A Texas flag flown at the request of Representative Green and a flag of the United States flown at my request were presented to the team. These flags, flown in recognition of their victory, now frame the young women's trophy proudly displayed at their university.

The squad's hard work and dedication to purpose reflects the will that built the great State of Texas and our nation. By continuing this same dedication and work ethic throughout their lives, these young women will succeed in all of their future endeavors. It is my pleasure to be able to congratulate and recognize these fine young Texans in their achievement.

"TAKE DOWN THE FLAG"

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about an issue that is involving my home State of South Carolina in a national discussion. In recent weeks, the discussion over the confederate flag flying atop the Statehouse in Columbia, South Carolina, has moved from a State issue to a national debate. Of all of the opinions that have been shared throughout this debate, I find the following letter the most cogent and concise on this very emotional issue. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following letter written by Michael A. Allen which appeared in the Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina, on Tuesday, January 25, 2000.

[From the Post and Courier, Jan. 25, 2000]

TAKE DOWN THE FLAG

As a promoter and preserver of cultural heritage, the South Carolina African American Heritage Council has a keen appreciation and understanding of those who defend the flying of the Confederate battle flag on that basis. The flag in and of itself is indeed a part of South Carolina's heritage. Let's indeed preserve the flag and its legacy, even though that legacy means different things to different people.

Also in our position as preservers of cultural heritage, the council board of directors recognizes the fact that there are places inappropriate for the conspicuous display of historic relics. We defend the right of flag supporters to defend the banner as a relic of cultural integrity.

However, we contend that it is indeed a historic relic and that its position above the Statehouse and in the House and Senate chambers is indefensible. The Confederate battle flag in question never truly held a place of sovereignty even in the days of the Confederacy in the 19th century, but was carried by troops in battle. This makes it reprehensible and even baffling to the impartial and reasoning mind that such a relic would occupy such a position of sovereignty in 21st-century South Carolina.

Not every South Carolinian is a native Southerner. Not every South Carolinian had ancestors who fought, or fought willingly, for the Confederacy in the Civil War. Not all South Carolinians, even native white South Carolinians, believe in the ideas of the Confederacy fought to uphold. And not every South Carolinian feels good about a flag flown by the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis and other racial and ethnic hate groups also hanging in and flying over the halls of government of their state, as if to give the impression, though the impression may be false, that this flag is who we all are and what we all stand for.

Therefore, the South Carolina African American Heritage Council now adds its voice to the evergrowing chorus of those calling for the removal of the Confederate flags from atop the South Carolina Statehouse, from the Senate and House chambers, from the front ground foyer of the Statehouse, and for them to be put in a place more fitting for the preservation of cultural heritage.

MICHAEL A. ALLEN,

Former Chairman,

S.C. African American Heritage Council.

TRUTH IN BUDGETING ACTS

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, with several of my colleagues from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, today I'm introducing the third in a series of "Truth in Budgeting Acts." This bill focuses solely on water transportation—specifically the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) and the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF). As you know, the previous bills also included the Highway Trust Fund and the Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

All of the bills have a common theme: taking transportation trust funds "off budget" to help meet our Nation's critical infrastructure needs and to inject some truth serum into the budgeting process. If we take the HMTF and the IWTF off budget, we not only restore the trust of those who pay into the funds, we remove the budget-driven incentive to build a surplus to mask potential deficits and justify other types of spending.

No one should question the wisdom of investing in our Nation's water transportation infrastructure. Our coastal ports and inland waterways have shaped the country's commercial and cultural history and, if properly developed and adequately maintained, will be critical to our country's leadership in the global economy of the 21st century. For example, the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry, which has operations along the Nation's 25,194 miles of inland and intracoastal waterways, contributes \$5 billion a year to the Nation's economy and moves 15 percent of the Nation's freight for less than 2 percent of the Nation's total freight bill. Ports generate significant local and regional economic growth, as well, and move nearly 93 percent of all U.S. waterborne commerce in a given year. With the volume of imported cargo moving through U.S. ports expected to triple by the year 2020, investment in our Nation's port infrastructure is all the more critical.

The infrastructure needs continue to grow. The Nation's locks and dams are aging. Many are more than 50 years old. Long delays at inland locks add to the cost of transporting goods from our farms, mines, and mills to our coastal ports. The Nation's harbors and seaports need continued maintenance and improvement as well. Dredging channels, like clearing snow from highways, is a necessary fact of life—particularly in an age when domestic and international trading depends on adequate intermodal connections. The size and number of vessels in the world's fleet continue to increase; America's ports need to accommodate these changes to ensure a position of leadership in the global economy.

While current and future needs continue to grow, unfortunately the trust funds continue to accumulate surpluses. The current balance of the HMTF is approximately \$1.9 billion and is expected to rise to \$2.5 billion by FY 04. The IWTF current balance is approximately \$370 million, and we are told the Corps has the capability of spending \$300 million annually by 2004. Something is wrong when the needs increase, the funds are available, and the monies remain "locked up" in the trust funds.

Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation that, if properly implemented, would make sig-

nificant reforms in our current transportation infrastructure financing policy. Let me assure my colleagues, however, this bill is not meant as the single solution or response to the many issues surrounding the Supreme Court's March 1998 ruling in *U.S. v. U.S. Shoe Corporation*, which invalidated the Harbor Maintenance Tax as applied to exports. That issue has prompted significant debate and controversy, particularly the Administration's proposed harbor services user fee and harbor services fund. There are other proposals as well that deserve our serious consideration. I am also aware that final changes to the budgeting process involving the IWTF will need to be discussed with Members and the various constituencies involved in inland waterways transportation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, including the Ranking Member of the Committee (JIM OBERSTAR), the Chairman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee (SHERRY BOEHLERT), the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee (BOB BORSKI), the Administration, and others. Water transportation infrastructure will be a priority for the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee throughout the Second Session, particularly as we press for truth in water transportation budgeting and for enactment of a Water Resources Development Act of 2000.

INDIA SHOULD BE DECLARED A
TERRORIST STATE**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the time has come to declare India a terrorist state. India is one of the leading practitioners of terrorism in the world, but they get away with it by cloak-ing it under a mask of democracy. India practices terrorism internally against its minorities and externally against its neighbors.

The Coordination Committee on Disappearances in Punjab identified 838 victims of India's mass cremation policy in a preliminary report last year. It published their names and addresses. These young Sikhs were abducted by the police, tortured, and murdered, then the police disposed of their bodies. This policy amounts to nothing less than terrorism against the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan.

Tens of thousands of Sikh political prisoners continue to rot in Indian jails without trial. They are not the only ones. After an Indian airliner was hijacked in November, India agreed to release several prisoners. According to the Los Angeles Times, India violated international law by holding these prisoners without charge or trial.

On December 20, according to Reuters News Service (as reported in India West), Pakistani police arrested a man who confessed that he was an Indian agent and that he planted bombs that killed 9 people. Clearly, this is a terrorist act sponsored by the Indian government.

The book *Soft Target*, written by two Canadian journalists, proved that India blew up its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 people. In 1991, the Indian intelligence service, RAW, masterminded a hijacking of an Indian plane. These acts give us reason to suspect that In-

dia's hand may have been behind the recent Air India hijacking.

In November 1994, the *Hitavada*, a well respected newspaper in India, reported that the Indian government paid Surendra Nath, the late governor of Punjab, one and a half billion dollars to foment terrorism in Punjab, Khalistan and in Kashmir. Can anyone deny that a country which would do this is a terrorist nation?

The Indian government intelligence wing, RAW, supported the militant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to gain control of the port of Trincomeli. India Today magazine reported that the leader of the LTTE was entertained by the Indian government in one of Delhi's best hotels. Later, India turned against the LTTE and invaded Sri Lanka to crush the LTTE freedom movement. The Indian government has blood on its hands.

The Indian government has murdered minorities in massive numbers. Over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 65,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others have been murdered by the government of India. The State Department reported in 1994 that the government of India paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for murdering Sikhs.

Hindu militants allied with the government have burned down Christian churches and prayers halls, murdered priests, and raped nuns. Hindus affiliated with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad surrounded the jeep of missionary Graham Staines and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, and burned them to death. The VHP is part of the same umbrella organization as the ruling BJP. In 1997, police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

Last year, Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes organized and led a meeting with the Ambassadors from Cuba, Red China, Russia, Iraq, and Libya aimed at creating a security alliance "to stop the U.S." India supported the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and votes against American interests consistently. The time has come to take strong measures against India's brutality and terrorism by declaring India a terrorist nation.

Mr. Speaker, recently the Council of Khalistan issued a news release on Indian state terrorism. I would like to place it into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the Council of Khalistan, Washington, DC, Jan. 13, 2000]

U.S. SHOULD DECLARE INDIA A TERRORIST
STATE

WASHINGTON, D.C., JANUARY 13, 2000.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, called on the United States government to declare India a terrorist state. "India is one of the leading sponsors of terrorism in the world," he said.

Earlier this week, Mandeep Singh Sodhi, a 27-year-old Sikh in Uttar Pradesh burned himself to death to protest police abuses against his family. The Los Angeles Times reported that India violated international law by holding the prisoners who were released without charge or trial. There are tens of thousands of Sikh political prisoners rotting in Indian jails without trial. On December 20, according to Reuters News Service and India West, Pakistani police arrested a man who confessed to being an Indian agent and to planting bombs that killed 9 people.

Responding to some recent reports, Dr. Aulakh said that he "would not put it past"