

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INDIAN DUPLICITY EXPOSED;
INDIA MUST LIVE UP TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the duplicity of India is clearer after the collapse of its talks with Pakistan. Pakistani President Musharraf went home abruptly because India was not dealing in good faith. Although much discussion focused on the Kashmir issue, India's spokeswoman never even acknowledged that Kashmir was on the agenda. India refused to go along with three drafts of a joint statement approved by both leaders. Instead, India insisted on including its unfounded accusations that Pakistan is fomenting terrorism in Kashmir and other places that India controls.

India has a long record of supporting terrorism against the people within its borders. The most recent incident took place last month when Indian military troops tried to burn down a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes in Kashmir, but were stopped by Sikh and Muslim residents of the town. There are many other incidents. The massacre in Chithisinghpura is very well known by now. It's also well known that India paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. It's well known that India holds tens of thousands of political prisoners, Sikhs and other minorities, in illegal detention with no charges and no trial. Some of them have been held since 1984. Is this how a democratic state conducts its affairs?

It is India that introduced the specter of nuclear terrorism into South Asia with its nuclear tests. Can we blame Pakistan for responding? Although it claims that the nuclear weapons are to protect them from China, the majority of them are pointed at Pakistan. Unfortunately, if there is a war between India and Pakistan, it is the minority peoples in Punjab and Kashmir who will suffer the most and bear most of the cost.

The United States must become more engaged in the subcontinent. We should continue to encourage both India and Pakistan to reduce their nuclear stockpiles. However, we should not remove the sanctions against India for its introduction of nuclear weapons into this region. In addition, we should end all aid to India until the most basic human rights are respected and not violated. Finally, we should publicly declare support for a free and fair vote in Kashmir, as promised in 1948 and as President Musharraf was pushing for, and in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagalim, and in all the 17 nations under Indian occupation where freedom movements are ongoing. Only by these means can we strengthen America's hand in South Asia, ensure that a violent breakup like that of Yugoslavia does not occur in the subcontinent, and let the glow of freedom shine for all the people of that troubled region.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support for the Bonior-Waxman-Obey-Brown (OH)-Kildee amendment. I don't think there is one person out there in America who, if asked, would state a preference for dangerous levels of arsenic in their drinking water. The Republican majority and President Bush clearly haven't asked the American public or just don't care because tougher protections from arsenic are long overdue.

In 1996, the Congress instructed EPA to update the Arsenic standard of 50 parts per billion no later than January of 2001.

In 1999, the National Academy of Sciences, after years of research, found that the old arsenic standard of 50 ppb for drinking water "does not achieve EPA's goal for public health protection and, therefore, requires downward revision as promptly as possible."

Finally, in January 2001, after decades of public comment, debate, and millions of dollars of research, EPA issued the new standard of 10 ppb—which was considered a compromise proposal.

In April I released the results of a study that was conducted by Congressman WAXMAN's staff on the Government Reform Committee. The report was focused on Illinois and warned that the health of thousands of Illinois residents is at risk since their drinking water contains unacceptable levels of arsenic. The report showed that as many as 134,000 people in Illinois in almost 60 communities are drinking water that contains arsenic levels above the standard of 20 parts per billion (ppb).

Science has proven that arsenic is a carcinogen and it is deadly—it causes cancer, birth defects, and cardiovascular disease. What more evidence does President Bush need to get it out of our water? I've been a consumer rights advocate for a long time and in public office for ten years, and until now, I've never met a so-called leader so eager to do so little for public health.

Thanks to the deep pockets of President Bush's mining and chemical industry friends, the United States has the same arsenic drinking water standard as Bangladesh at 50 ppb. This Administration is willing to risk the health of millions to pay back the special interests and it is time we put a stop to it.

I urge all members to support this important amendment to prohibit EPA funds from being used to weaken the arsenic standard.

HONORING MARY E. JOHNS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both honor and thank Mary Johns, a dedicated member of the community and my staff. Mary has a long history of involvement in the 2nd Congressional District of Colorado and is deserving of special recognition.

After graduating from Santa Monica College with a degree in Public Administration, Mary moved to Colorado to raise a family and pursue her interests in local and national government. Her commitment to public service is apparent when one looks at her involvement in local politics and community-based organizations. She was a member of the City of Thornton Career Service Board, also serving as Vice-Chairwoman, and was Chairwoman and Trustee of the MetroNorth PAC. Mary's interests also included involvement in the ADCO Partners in Progress for a New Airport and the Adams County Airport Task Force.

During this time she went to work for United States Congressman David Skaggs. It was in that office that she began working with veterans, postal workers and labor organizations. She demonstrated great understanding and compassion with all constituents that she came in contact with and continued to work towards improving the quality of life for the people of her community.

Beyond working for elected officials, Mary became one herself in 1989 when she was elected to the Adams Twelve Five Star School District Board of Education. Mary understood the importance of our public education system and worked hard to ensure that every child in her district had access to quality schools. She has served as President and Vice President during three terms on the school board, and I am sure that she will continue to be an advocate for education.

Mary has been a member of my staff since I was elected in 1998. She has continued to help constituents as a caseworker, and her knowledge and experience have been invaluable to both my staff and me. I wish her the best of luck as she continues her journey from public service to full-time grandmother, mother and wife. On behalf of the people of the 2nd Congressional District, I thank her for all she has done.

● 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, from Wednesday, July 25 to Friday, July 27, 2001, I was absent due to a personal family emergency and missed a number of rollcall votes.

On rollcall votes Numbered: 270, 271, 273, 274, 276, 280, 282, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, and 289, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall votes Numbered: 272, 275, 277, 278, 279, 281, and 283, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall votes 270 and 271, I would have voted "yea" on both amendments. Like the majority of my colleagues in this House, I support expanded travel for Americans to Cuba. Increasing travel opportunities for Americans to Cuba is a win-win situation for people in both countries, and helps to expand the opportunities to better understand our two cultures and increase exposure to the ideals of American democracy.

Rollcall 271, the Rangel amendment, would have stopped the embargo on Cuba. It should be painfully clear by now that the embargo on Cuba is not working. Castro has ruled the island with an iron-fist for forty years.

Four decades ago, had America interacted, traded, and exchanged ideas with Cuba there is a good chance that Castro would be gone and Cuba free. I see that a large number of my colleagues agree with me, and I hope to work with them in the future to change our nation's outmoded sanctions policy in respect to Cuba.

On rollcall 273, I would have voted "yea." In the past, I have expressed support for private accounts in our Social Security system, but with the understanding that any such proposal accounts for the true cost of transition to a system that includes some element of privatization. I am sorely disappointed in the process and released report by the Administration's Social Security Commission. I believe it has been dishonest in its assessment of the current state of Social Security, and the Administration has unwisely decided to reduce taxes in order to benefit those least in need of tax cuts, thus leaving the government accounts unbalanced. Given recent pronouncements by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget that the Administration may need to dip into Medicare and Social Security to cover its spending proposals, I cannot support the recommendations of this biased panel.

On rollcall 274, I would have voted "yea" on the final passage of the FY 2002 Treasury Postal appropriations act. In addition to the numerous important federal programs funded through this legislation, in particular I want to emphasize my support for the inclusion of \$16,629,000 to upgrade and retrofit the Pioneer Courthouse in Portland, Oregon.

This historic federal courthouse is the second oldest west of the Mississippi River and serves as the cornerstone to my community's public living room, Pioneer Courthouse Square. Each year over 8 million people visit the Courthouse while participating in adjacent public events, riding public transit which intersects at Pioneer Square, or engaging in nearby public and commercial activities. The funds

provided in the legislation will help ensure the safety for the men and women who work in the Courthouse, and the millions of others who enjoy this historic, public structure.

On rollcall 275, I would have voted "nay" on the resolution disapproving of the President's recent Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam. Since coming to Congress five years ago, I have been deeply involved in the process of normalizing relations between our nation and Vietnam. Last winter I traveled to Vietnam with President Clinton, and I was present for the signing of the Bilateral Trade Agreement.

Vietnam is a diverse nation that is growing rapidly and opening both economically and culturally. To disrupt the hard work of engagement between our two nations now would be devastating. Were I here, I would have voted against the disapproval resolution, and I hope last week's overwhelming vote against the resolution (91-324) will encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together to bring the Vietnam BTA to the floor for consideration.

On rollcall 288, I would have voted "yea" on the Bonior amendment to reinstate the arsenic standards put in place by the Clinton Administration. The Public Health Service adopted the current 50 parts per billion arsenic standard in 1942, before arsenic was known to cause cancer. In 1999, the National Academy of Sciences unanimously found that this outdated arsenic standard for drinking water does not ensure public health protection and that a downward revision was required. The Academy said that drinking water at the current EPA standard "could easily" result in a total fatal cancer risk of one in 100. That's a cancer risk 10,000 times higher than EPA allows for food, and 100 times higher than EPA has ever allowed for tap water contaminants.

Arsenic is found in the tap water of over 26 million Americans and is one of the most ubiquitous contaminants of health concern in tap water. The new standard put in place by the Clinton Administration last year was the result of 25 years of public comment, debate and at least three missed statutory deadlines. One of the Bush Administration's first actions was to overturn this rule and instead maintain a less protective arsenic standard. I support the Bonior Amendment and hope that its passage will give a clear indication to the Bush Administration of the need to reconsider their position on this issue and take seriously the threat that Arsenic in our drinking water poses to the health of our families and the livability of our communities.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies,

boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I submit for following for the RECORD in support of the amendment offered by the gentlewoman of Ohio (Ms. KAPUR).

CUYAHOGA METROPOLITAN
HOUSING AUTHORITY,
Cleveland, OH, July 30, 2001.

RE: Public Housing Drug Elimination Grant (PHDEP) Update

Hon. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN TUBBS JONES: I am writing to follow-up on our conversation last week about the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP), and to update you on CMHA's implementation of PHDEP grants since 1996. The following table will provide you with a year-by-year breakdown of the amounts we received, expended and the time frame for the grants.

Year	Grant amount	Expended as of 6/30/01	% Spent	Grant date	End date
2001	2,707,766
2000	2,550,794	168,575	6.6	11/14/2000	11/13/2002
1999	2,447,497	1,553,460	63.5	1/24/2000	1/23/2002
1998	2,756,000	2,745,236	99.6	12/22/1998	12/21/2000
1997	2,777,840	2,777,840	100	12/19/1997	12/20/1999
1996	2,832,250	2,832,250	100	11/19/1996	*5/19/1999

*Not yet awarded by HUD.

*Included six-month extension.

By contrast, HUD allows housing authorities two years to expend PHDEP funds from the date the grant agreement is signed by HUD. With only two exceptions CMHA has expended all PHDEP grant funds during the contract period. Once we received a six-month extension from HUD to fully expend the 1996 PHDEP grant, and once CMHA returned \$10,764 (0.4%) of unexpended funds from the 1998 PHDEP grant. Presently, we are on schedule to fully expend the 1999 and 2001 PHDEP grants, and HUD has not yet executed a grant agreement for the 2001 PHDEP funds. As you can see from this matrix, CMHA has not allowed funds to go unused, and is, as well as has been in compliance with HUD requirements.

As we have previously discussed, PHDEP funding is essential to CMHA safety efforts and social service programming, and as a reminder, the loss of \$2.7 million in PHDEP funding could eliminate CMHA support of the following programs:

• CMHA Police Activities League (PAL), which provides after school athletic programs for more than 700 youth from ages 5-18 annually.

• Boys and Girls Clubs located at four CMHA estates, which provide safe havens for almost 500 children annually to find fun and recreation.

• Several self-sufficiency programs, which have provided employment opportunities for 100 adults annually through job readiness, job training and entrepreneurial programs.

Adult Outpatient Substance Abuse programs, which have provided services to over 600 residents annually.

Teen Outpatients Prevention/Treatment programs, which serve more than 900 youth annually.

CMHA Police Department's Community Policing and Narcotics/Gangs Units, which employ 24 Police Officers, who are instrumental to CMHA's overall crime prevention efforts.

We have heard that the House mark-up of the FY 2002 Appropriations Bill would eliminate the PHDEP program, and increase the Operating Fund by \$114 million to \$3.505 billion to help make up the difference. Given that public housing industry estimates indicate that at least \$3.5 billion is needed to