

KASHMIR GOVT. SAYS SIKH MASSACRE
SAMPLES FAKED

(By Ashok Pahalan)

JAMMU, India (Reuters).—The state government of Kashmir admitted on Friday that forensic samples taken in an attempt to confirm the guilt of five young men blamed for a Sikh massacre two years ago were faked. The killing of 36 Sikhs in remote Chitisingpora village in the violence-racked state of Jammu and Kashmir in March 2000 occurred hours before a visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton to India and drew strong condemnation from him. Indian newspapers have alleged that soon after the massacre security forces picked up five innocent youths, killed them in a stage-managed gun battle, burned their bodies and then claimed they were "foreign militants" responsible for the Sikhs' deaths. The bodies of the five youths were exhumed and forensic samples taken only after massive demonstrations in Kashmir by protesters. Kashmir state chief minister Farooq Abdullah told the legislature on Friday "it appears fake samples were sent" to laboratories and apologized for "the injustice done to the people for which I feel ashamed". "We strongly suggest those responsible for collecting and sending the samples had something to hide," he added, promising an investigation into the tampering. India had identified the five youths blamed for the Sikh killings as belonging to the militant separatist groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen.

Both groups denied responsibility and, with Pakistan, blamed India for the massacre which they said was aimed at discrediting the Kashmiri independence cause during Clinton's visit. The laboratories to which the samples were sent to establish the youths' identity said they were mislabeled and showed serious discrepancies. Abdullah said a judge would lead the probe, which would take two months. He also said fresh test samples would be taken under the supervision of police and doctors. The Times of India, one of the newspapers which investigated reports that the samples had been falsified, accused the state in an editorial on Friday of a "brazen" cover-up. "From knowingly foisting the charge of terrorism on innocents to eliminating them in a fake encounter . . . (it) is an example of the worst kind of state high-handedness," it said in an editorial. More than 33,000 people have been killed since 1989 when Islamic guerrillas seeking either independence or union with neighboring Pakistan launched a revolt in Kashmir.

Human rights groups have frequently accused Indian security forces of abuses such as summary killings and torture. India has always denied systematic human rights abuses and said that any allegations are investigated and the guilty punished.

IN HONOR OF DR. STEPHEN
LIPMAN, SENIOR PASTORIAL
COUNSELOR FOR HOSPICE OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has been a true asset to his community. His caring and guidance have touched many families and friends in need of support.

I speak of Dr. Stephen Lipman, Senior Pastoral Counselor for Hospice of Palm Beach

County for the past 19 years. Fortunately, Steve is not retiring, but is offering his services as the Pastor of the Jupiter Medical Center.

We all know of the fine work Hospice offers and what kind of a person it takes to counsel the individuals and their families whose loved ones are in the transition for their final stages of life.

Dr. Lipman's services have gone beyond that: whether it is counseling young children, lending kindness to the terminally ill or simply offering a smiling face, you can always count on Steve. He exemplifies all that is good in a individual.

I would like to join the communities of South Florida and thank Dr. Lipman for his sincere dedication and years of service.

Mr. Speaker, please let the record reflect the 107th Congress' appreciation for all he has done.

HONORING MOLLIE TAYLOR STEVENSON, SR. AND MOLLIE TAYLOR STEVENSON, JR.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mollie Taylor Stevenson, Sr., and her daughter, Mollie Taylor Stevenson, Jr., who are the first living African-American women and native Houstonians to be inducted into the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame. The organization honors and documents the lives of women who have distinguished themselves by exemplifying the pioneering spirit of the American West. The Stevensons were inducted during a ceremony at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in Ft. Worth, Texas, on November 9, 2001.

Friends and family know them as "Mollie" and "Lil Mollie". The 89-year-old Mollie, Sr. and the fifty something, Mollie, Jr., reside on their family-owned Taylor-Stevenson Ranch within the city limits of Houston. These women possess grit and determination inherited from Mollie, Sr.'s grandmother, Ann Taylor, who was purchased in 1856 as a 21-year-old slave by Edward W. Taylor. Ann and the owner's son fell in love and because laws of the day forbade interracial marriage, they lived together and reared six children and sent them to college.

Mollie, Sr., the first born child of Major and Hester Taylor, not only inherited her parent's love for the land, but the tradition of pursuing higher education. In 1934, Mollie, Sr. graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, majoring in music and classical piano studies. After graduation, she traveled with the Fisk Jubilee Singers and was a regular guest pianist at Houston's historic Rice Hotel. It was at Fisk where Mollie, Sr. met the love of her life, Benjamin "Big Ben" Stevenson, a seven-time All American from Tuskegee Institute, who earned a B.S. in agriculture and animal husbandry in 1931. They were married in a lavish lawn wedding in 1937.

Mollie, Sr. spent most of her adult years fending off attempts to wrest oil-producing property from her through lawsuits, theft, or crafty persuasion. After the death of Mollie Sr.'s grandfather in 1929, relatives, both white

and African-American, began to make claims on the oil-rich land. With the death of her father in 1949 and her mother in 1950, the struggle to preserve her birthright escalated and was much like the ranch wars seen in the old westerns. Cattle were stolen and attempts to acquire the valuable oil leases became a frequent occurrence. Mollie took on challengers in and out of court and preserved for her descendants their right to the Taylor-Stevenson lands.

During segregation, Mollie, Sr., and her husband, "Big Ben", created a haven for African-American children barred from all but one of the city's parks. At the Stevenson ranch children could ride horses, play with the ranch animals, eat farm-fresh meals, and spend weekends and summers on the ranch. The Stevensons became well known for their philanthropy and generous spirits. Believing that education was very important, they not only educated their own children, but countless others with food, books, tuition payments and entire college educations. There are regularly scheduled field trips to the ranch and museum, which provides an opportunity to those who would not otherwise have a chance to experience the true nature of a working ranch.

Mollie, Jr., worked as a professional model in Houston, Kansas City and New York, but she was drawn back home where she worked side by side with her mother to preserve their legacy. She established the American Cowboy Museum, a 501(c)(3) organization in 1987. It honors the contributions to Western culture of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and women. Mollie Jr. has been featured on radio and television and in articles in Ebony, Essence, Texas Highways, Horse Talk and many local newspapers. She has been honored by numerous schools as a motivational speaker and event coordinator. Mollie, Jr. is also a journalist and an active volunteer with the Sugar Shack Trailride and various other rodeo trail ride associations. She is also a member of the Speakers and Black Go Texan Committee of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, the Professional Black Cowboy & Cowgirl Association, the Landowners of Texas, and her favorite, the Diamond L Riding & Roping Club. To acquaint a new generation with this rich history, Mollie offers school tours, leather crafts for visiting children, lectures, a traveling exhibit with quilt display, horseback riding, a mobile petting zoo, and living history presentations. She also encourages young people to consider careers in agribusiness and land ownership and sponsors FFA and 4-H students.

The Taylor-Stevenson Ranch is a treasure that seven generations of the family have fought hard to preserve and on which they still live or maintain various areas. The 150-year-old working ranch is one of the oldest Black-owned ranches in the United States, complete with an assortment of livestock. In the shadows of the 4th largest city in the country, the Stevensons have carved out a legacy that can provide a momentary escape from the hurried pace of the city. About 100 tours and field trips are conducted each year. Heritage tours and family reunions are also a part of the activities arranged by the ranch. During the 1940s and early 50s, the ranch was home to Sky Ranch, an aviation school operated by Tuskegee graduates who were mechanics for the famed World War II Tuskegee Airmen. The property is also officially listed as a Texas

Century Ranch, an honor reserved for ranches operated by the same family for more than 100 years and certified by the Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture. The Ranch continues to be run with family love and values. Mollie Stevenson, Sr. is still the matriarch of the ranch, cared for by six of her children and their families who live on the property. The Black Professional Cowboy & Cowgirl Association and also the Black Go Texan Committee recognized Mollie, Sr. as a "Living Legend."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mollie Stevenson, Sr. and Mollie Stevenson, Jr. who have lived their lives as true stewards of their land and community. They are the driving force behind the ongoing success of the ranch and museum. They stand tall over their corner of Houston and give as much to the community as they give to the land. Their ranch is not only a part of Houston's heritage, but it is also a part of a heritage forged by the ceaseless contributions of African-American cowboys and ranchers.

HONORING THE GIRL SCOUTS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts on their 90th Anniversary.

The Girl Scouts are the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls—all girls. In a nurturing environment, girls are able to build character and skills for success in the real world. Girl Scouting began on March 12, 1912, when founder Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Today, Mr. Speaker, that small group of 18 girls from Savannah has blossomed into 3.8 million Girl Scouts nationwide. The Detroit Metro Girl Scouts currently have 32,000 girls involved and it just keeps growing. Not only have the Girl Scouts continued their dedication to building good citizens and leaders, but their organization has established a research institute, received government funding to address violence prevention and is addressing the digital divide with activities that encourage girls to pursue careers in science, math and technology. The Detroit Metro Girl Scouts have set up a program with Lawrence Technological Institute in Detroit, Michigan to further the involvement of young women in the field of technology.

In the Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together, through a myriad of experiences, such as extraordinary field trips, sports skill-building clinics, community service projects, environmental stewardships and numerous other character building activities. They provide young women with the opportunity to build a strong mind, body, and spirit through various programs dealing with nutrition, diet, exercise and several other health campaigns including the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and Child Health Day.

Mr. Speaker, the Girl Scouts are an asset to communities all over the United States. I want to thank them for their tireless effort to provide young women with the personal, emotional and intellectual foundation that is essential for building good citizens and leaders. On the occasion of their 90th Anniversary, I would like to ask all my colleagues to salute the Detroit Metro Girl Scouts and their fellow Girl Scouts across the country.

IN HONOR OF THE GIRL SCOUTS' 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding organization that is dedicated to helping girls throughout the world. This organization is the Girl Scouts.

Specifically, I would like to honor the Girl Scouts of Kentucky, and especially the members of Kentucky's 4th Congressional District, which I represent. Founded on March 3, 1912, by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, GA, the Girl Scouts have earned the admiration of this great Nation. Juliette Gordon Low had a vision. She wanted all young women to be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. After 90 years, Juliette Gordon Low's vision remains the basic mission of the Girl Scouts.

Working as a grassroots organization, the Girl Scouts have changed the lives of millions of girls. Worldwide, the Girl Scouts have over 10 million members, both women and girls, in 140 countries. In Kentucky alone, there are over 44,000 Girl Scouts and 13,000 adult volunteers. And right in the Licking Valley of Kentucky, there are 5,000 Girl Scouts and 1,300 adult volunteers. Mr. Speaker, this is an outstanding organization.

As the Girl Scouts celebrate their 90th anniversary, I would like to conclude with the Girl Scouts promise: "On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country, To help people at all time, and to live by the Girl Scouts Law."

I ask my colleagues to join me to honor this incredible organization that has changed the lives of millions of Americans and people throughout the world.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE DELAINE EASTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Delaine Eastin, on the dedication of the Delaine Eastin Elementary School in Union City, California.

Delaine Eastin once stated, "I'll never stop fighting for children and education, it's my life's work." As a strong defender of top-quality education in California, Delaine Eastin has proven immeasurably successful at this admirable goal.

As State Superintendent, Delaine Eastin has fought for safer and healthier schools, modern facilities, cutting-edge technology, family-school partnerships, teacher training and professional development, tighter graduation requirements, and increased resources for schools.

She is a dedicated advocate for reduced class sizes, improved reading and mathematics instruction, and the implementation of statewide standards, assessment, and increased accountability for what students should accomplish. She has tirelessly advocated for improved library facilities, strong arts programs, and librarians, counselors, and nurses in all California schools.

Delaine Eastin is currently serving her second term as State Superintendent. Prior to this position, she served as an educator, a Union City city councilwoman, and a four-term State Assemblywoman for Southern Alameda County. She was chair of the Assembly Committee on Education, where she voiced early support for the charter school concept and for strengthened technical and vocational training.

Delaine Eastin is the recipient of many distinguished awards and recognitions, notably the President's Crystal Apple Award from the American Library Association, the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of California, Santa Barbara, the Woman of Achievement Award from the Women's Fund, and the Leader Award from California Leadership. In addition to the Delaine Eastin Elementary School, a day care center also carries her name.

I am honored to congratulate Delaine Eastin on all of her remarkable accomplishments. Her tireless dedication to improving education in California has assured every child in the state the opportunity for a bright and successful future.

TRIBUTE TO CALVIN RAPSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Calvin Rapson on his retirement as Director of UAW Region 1-C. Cal will be honored at a testimonial dinner on May 8th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Cal Rapson began his career with the UAW in 1965 working for the Chevrolet Engine plant. Through his employment with Chevrolet Cal earned a Machine Repair Machinist skilled trades Journeyman classification. After graduating from the UAW-GM apprenticeship program Cal became active in UAW Local 659.

UAW Local Unions are the front lines in providing assistance and better jobsite conditions for workers. Through the various elected positions Cal held with Local 659, he was able to learn every aspect of the Local's day-to-day operations. From grassroots political action, solving health and safety problems and negotiating local contracts, Cal was at the forefront of every fight for justice and equity for the members. In 1982 he was the chair of the UAW Negotiating Team that successfully bargained the UAW-GM Master Agreement.

This success led to his appointment to the UAW International staff that same year. Working with a wide variety of organizations and