

their homeland, Khalistan, recently published an open letter to the Sikhs, a Vaisakhi Day message. It urged the Sikhs to use the opportunity to liberate their homeland. The letter called upon them to remember the Sikh Nation's heritage of freedom.

The letter pointed out the suffering of the Sikhs at the hands of the Indian government. That repression has taken the lives of over 250,000 Sikhs in the last 20 years, in addition to over 50,000 Sikhs who were picked up, tortured, killed, and secretly cremated, declaring their bodies "unidentified." Another 52,000-plus are being held as political prisoners, according to the Movement Against State Repression, a Punjabi human-rights organization. In addition, India has killed more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Yet the U.S. taxpayer continues to be taxed to send foreign aid to this brutal country.

The letter calls on the Sikhs to take the opportunity of Vaisakhi to demand a free and independent Khalistan by means of slogans, by peaceful resistance, and by bringing forth new leadership. It takes note of the death of Gurcharan Singh Tohra, the President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, and the political collapse of former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal to call for new leadership that supports freedom for Khalistan. It notes the seminar held on Khalistan last year, which shows that the desire for freedom remains strong in Punjab.

This letter makes a very strong case for a sovereign, independent Khalistan and it does a good job of exposing the brutal tyranny that India has inflicted on the Sikh Nation.

Mr. Speaker, how can we, as the bastion of freedom, sit idly by and close our eyes to this terror? The time has come to stop U.S. aid to India. This may be the most effective way that we can influence them to stop the repression of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities. And if India is the democratic state that it says it is, it should conduct a free and fair vote on the question of independence. This Congress should put itself on record urging India to do this as soon as possible. That is the democratic way to settle issues, and we should use our influence to help this occur.

Mr. Speaker, the letter from the Council of Khalistan is very informative. For the information of my colleagues and the public, I would like to insert it into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, April 6, 2004.

VAISAKHI DAY MESSAGE TO THE SIKH NATION:
SIKHS WILL CELEBRATE VAISAKHI DAY
APRIL 13

DEAR KHALSA JI: On April 13, the Sikh Nation will celebrate Vaisakhi Day, observing the 305th anniversary of the day Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa Panth. The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grieb Silrhin Ko Deon Patshahi." We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan. Every morning and evening we recite, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 20 years. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs

since 1984. In addition, over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police custody, then secretly cremated as "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their families! Over 52,000 Sikhs sit in Indian jails as political prisoners without charge or trial, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) Some of them have been in illegal custody for 20 years!

The Indian government forgot the Sikh tradition. Sikhs can never forgive or forget the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple and 125 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in those attacks, known as Operation Bluestar, including Sant Janail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8-13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. These attacks accelerated the Sikh independence movement and deepened the desire for independence in the hearts of Sikhs, a fire that burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh Nation to this day. Sant Bhindranwale said that the attack on the Golden Temple would "lay the foundation stone of Khalistan" and he was right. Late in 2003, former Member of Parliament Atinder Pal Singh organized a seminar on Khalistan at Baba Makhan Shah Labana Hall, Sector 30, Chandigarh. This shows that the flame of freedom is still burning in the hearts of Sikhs. It is time to take action to free our homeland. Repression and genocide of this magnitude at the hands of the Indian government is unparalleled in the late part of the 20th century. India should be ashamed of the genocide it has committed against Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities.

With the passing of Gurcharan Singh Tohra, new leadership must emerge at the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC.) In addition, new political leadership must emerge with Prakash Singh Badal under indictment. Mr. Badal's time is not long either. He has had cancer already and he is an old man. This new leadership must be committed to the cause of freeing our Sikh homeland from the repression and brutality of the Indian government by reclaiming our lost sovereignty in a free and independent Khalistan.

Khalisa Ji, at this time of Vaisakhi, the whole Khalsa Panth must be energized to re-establish a sovereign, independent Khalsa Raj by freeing our homeland, Khalistan. It is time for Sikhs to look back at our history of persecution and suffering over the past 20 years. The Hindu government of India, whether run by the Congress Party or by the BJP, wants minorities either subservient to Hinduism or completely wiped out. The Indian government and its allies have tried to weaken the Sikh religion by saying that Sikhism is part of Hinduism. If that is true, why have they murdered so many Sikhs? Hindus practice idol worship; Sikhism is monotheistic, worshipping only one God. Hindus believe in the caste system; Sikhs believe in the equality of the whole human race. Remember the words of Guru Gobind Singh: "Recognize ye all the human race as one." In spite of the fact that the religions believe completely opposite things, Hindus desire to engulf Sikhism just as they did with Jainism and Buddhism in India. They think that Buddhism is part of Hinduism because Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, was born in India. Similarly, Guru Nanak was born Hindu, so they proclaim Sikhism to be part of Hinduism. Yet Guru Nanak said that he was "neither Hindu nor Muslim." Jesus was born Jewish. Does that mean that Christianity is merely part of Judaism?

On this auspicious occasion celebrating the birth of the Khalsa Panth, we must bring

back our Khalsa spirit. We must remember our heritage and tradition of "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah" by committing ourselves to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. We need a new Sikh political party which has a dedication to the interests of the Sikh Nation as its sole objective, to establish Khalsa Raj by liberating Khalistan, severing all political ties with India. If the BJP wants Hindu Raj, it cannot object to Khalsa Raj.

The Indian government wants to break the will of the Sikh Nation and enslave them forever, making Sikhism a part of Hinduism. This can only be stopped if we free Punjab from Delhi's control and reestablish a sovereign, independent country, as declared on October 7, 1987. We must recommit ourselves to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. Raise slogans of "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah," "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," "Khalistan Zindabad," and "India out of Khalistan." Use this Vaisakhi to launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan.

Last year's seminar on Khalistan shows that the flame of freedom still burns brightly in Punjab in spite of the Indian government's brutal repression. Perhaps this is why India is afraid to hold a free and fair vote on the subject of independence. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

Remember the words of Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, during the celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." He was only reiterating the Guru's blessing, "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi." The time to achieve our independence is now.

Always remember our heritage: Raj Kare Ga Khalsa; Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah. Freedom for Khalistan is very close.

Panth Da Sewadar,
GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN WORKERS AND MANUFACTURERS SUPPORT ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues and I have been watching with great interest the nightly news report on Lou Dobbs Tonight entitled "Exporting America." The series has highlighted the disturbing trend of good paying American jobs that are being sent overseas. In the past three years, more than 2.8 million Americans employed in manufacturing have lost their jobs. Because each manufacturing job supports two non-manufacturing positions; that means at least 8.4 million people have been affected, directly or indirectly, because of the loss of American manufacturing to overseas companies. Despite these job losses, over 16 million Americans are still employed in the manufacturing sector. Additionally, manufacturing contributes roughly 17 percent of our nation's gross domestic product, provides 71 percent of our exports, and funds 67 percent of our nation's research and development investment. As these numbers indicate, manufacturing is the backbone of our economy and action must be taken to protect and create jobs here at home and stem the tide of American manufacturing jobs moving overseas.

Current free trade policies have enticed many large corporations and retailers to take

advantage of cheap foreign-made goods. I was dismayed when the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, only months ago, stated that companies outsourcing American jobs overseas is a "good thing." While these policies can lead to a temporary boost for a sector of the economy, most notably in the retail sector, in the long run their implications can be detrimental to American workers. I doubt that any Americans who are out of work because their job went overseas believe that outsourcing is a good thing. We must protect the jobs we have and create others to fill the void left by the jobs that have been lost.

An even more dangerous result of these policies is the threat to our national security when vital defense-related products are made in foreign countries. The ever shifting geopolitical landscape could leave the source of critical components of our defense systems in the hands of a nation unsympathetic to the United States. Manufacturers are also major customers of information and communications technology. Many electronics components are now manufactured only outside the United States. For example, the wire industry is nearly nonexistent. If our manufacturing base continues to erode, the effects will be devastating, not only in terms of individual job losses, but also in terms of the ripple effects that will be felt throughout our economy and our national security.

In response to this disturbing trend, I worked with business and labor leaders to craft the American Workers and Manufacturers Support Act. This legislation is an eight-point plan which lays out pragmatic steps designed to secure our manufacturing economic base, protect jobs, and help grow the manufacturing sector here at home.

First, we must end the threat to our national security by strengthening the Buy American Act to ensure that the federal government supports domestic companies and domestic workers by buying American-made goods. The bill would strengthen the existing Act by applying its provisions to the new Department of Homeland Security and by tightening existing waivers. It would also require that information be provided to Congress and to the American people about how often the provisions of this Act are waived by Federal departments and agencies.

Second, we must enforce existing trade agreements. This bill establishes a Congressional Trade Office to provide Congress with independent, nonpartisan, neutral trade expertise and monitor compliance with major, bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade agreements. The Office will also observe and evaluate dispute settlement deliberations and selected trade negotiations.

Third, we must stop the manipulation of currency exchange rates. Several nations have for years intervened aggressively in currency markets to maintain their national currencies at artificially low values relative to the U.S. dollar. The result is the gradual decline of manufacturing in the U.S. and job losses in manufacturing. This bill would give a ninety day deadline for the Administration to negotiate an end to the currency devaluation by countries such as China that severely undervalue their currency. If these bilateral negotiations fail, the legislation requires the President to utilize powers he already possesses under U.S. and international law to file legal action to

halt these practices and recover damages for U.S. manufacturers.

Fourth, we must enable American consumers to make informed choices about purchasing American made goods. This bill charges the Department of Commerce with studying the feasibility and impact with regards to costs to manufacturers and consumers of enacting laws requiring all products retailing at more than \$15 to state clearly on the labels the percentage of components made in the United States.

Fifth, we must invest American dollars in America. This bill brings the U.S. into compliance with World Trade Organization regulations and protects U.S. manufacturing jobs. It repeals the Foreign Sales Corporation/ Extraterritorial Income (FSC/ETI) tax provisions that provide a partial tax exemption for U.S. exports. These provisions have caused the European Union to threaten retaliatory tariffs because the WTO has ruled that these tax exemptions are prohibited export subsidies. The bill also provides transitional relief to companies currently receiving the FSC/ETI benefit, and provides permanent tax relief to make U.S. companies more competitive in the global market, resulting in an increase in U.S. manufacturing and U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Sixth, we need to stop pitting big American manufacturers against small ones. Large manufacturers and retailers know that smaller companies have difficulty competing within the current trade structure, and sometimes they use questionable tactics in trying to obtain favorable prices. One such practice is to place a large contract order to get a favorable price then to cancel the contract after only a portion of the goods are provided. This bill charges the Secretary of Commerce with setting up an investigative unit to look into these practices, establishing guidelines to address abuses and a unit to allow small manufacturers to confidentially report their complaints.

Seventh, we must ensure the flow of qualified manufacturing workers. This bill includes preparation of students for manufacturing jobs under the Advanced Technological Education Program and increases funding for the program. Additionally, it provides funding for the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council, which sets performance standards to certify job skills for manufacturing workers.

Finally, the eighth step is to support America's small manufacturers. This bill creates a new Undersecretary within the Department of Commerce to oversee the new Manufacturing and Technology Administration created by the bill. This office would be tasked with supervising the National Institutes of Standards and Technology; National Technical Information Service; and a new policy analysis office named Office of Manufacturing and Technology Policy. Additionally it would conduct manufacturing and technology policy analysis to improve United States industrial productivity, manufacturing capabilities, and innovation. It would also be tasked with identifying manufacturing and technology needs, problems and opportunities within and across industrial sectors. It would propose and support studies and policy experiments, in cooperation with other federal agencies, to determine the effectiveness of measures for improving United States manufacturing capabilities and productivity. Finally, it would encourage and assist the creation of centers and other joint initiatives by State or local governments, re-

gional organizations, private businesses, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, Federal laboratories to encourage technology transfer, to encourage innovation, and to promote an appropriate climate for investment in technology-related industries.

If our manufacturing base continues to erode, the effects of individual job losses on our economy and national security will be devastating. In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING ALBERT J. BOUDREAU

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Albert J. Boudreau for over 12 years of dedicated service to the town of Vienna, Virginia, as a member of the Vienna Town Council.

A native of New York City, Mr. Boudreau graduated from the University of Maryland and served in the United States Air Force during the Korean conflict. He has been a resident of Vienna for 45 years and first was appointed to the Vienna Town Council in January of 1992 to fill an unexpired term. Later that year, he won election and has served with honor and distinction ever since.

During his tenure on the Vienna Town Council, Mr. Boudreau has held a number of regional and statewide leadership positions. He has served as vice president and president-elect of the Virginia Municipal League, as well as on the league's Executive Committee and Effective Government Committee. Additionally, he has been a member of the Northern Virginia Community Appearance Alliance, the Northern Virginia Transportation Coordinating Council, and the Virginia Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Mr. Boudreau also is the first president of the newly formed Virginia Local Government Finance Corporation, jointly sponsored by the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Cities and Counties.

His dedication to Northern Virginia extends beyond public service. For years, Mr. Boudreau has been incredibly active throughout his community. He enthusiastically has supported and volunteered for numerous community programs such as the Southeast Vienna Civil Association, the Vienna Woods Swim Club, the Vienna Little League, the Cub Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts.

Mr. Boudreau has proven an invaluable asset to the town of Vienna, and while his retirement is well deserved, I know that he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Albert J. Boudreau for all of his efforts on behalf of Northern Virginia. He has served his community well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. Boudreau's past accomplishments and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.