

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON—
CONFERENCE USA CHAMPS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize my alma mater, the University of Houston Cougars whose football team won the Conference USA Championship on December 1, 2006 against Southern Mississippi in front of a hometown crowd of 31,818, the largest crowd in the history of UH's Robertson Stadium. After being down at halftime by a score of 17–13, the Cougars rallied by to win by 34–20.

I am immensely proud of the Cougar football program, which in the space of 5 years has turned itself completely around from a winless season in 2001.

This lion's share of this tremendous success is attributed to Mr. Art Briles, the head coach of the Cougars—the brilliant architect of the turnaround. When Briles came to the Cougars in 2003, he found a team and school demoralized and devastated from years of mediocrity. A mere three years later, due to his leadership, the Cougs are conference champs and headed to the Liberty Bowl.

In football, statistics are misleading, because the game is above all a team effort. It is hard to describe the contribution of an individual player to such an effort through their statistics, because one's performance is mortally dependent on so many other variables—broadly speaking, the performance of every other player on the team. Therefore, it could be said that the most important, perhaps only, statistic that matters is that of wins and losses, which reflects the performance of the team, not the individual player. This statistic is really the coach's statistic—Mr. Briles is ultimately responsible for it. In this the Cougars excelled, with a record of ten wins and only three losses.

In recognition of excellence in leadership and performance, on December 6, Briles won the Coach of the Year award from the Conference USA—An award well-deserved.

Mr. Speaker, in football, extreme importance is paid to the position of the quarterback. In the realm of sports, the vitality of this position is matched only by the pitcher in baseball.

Fortunately, UH had an excellent quarterback in Kevin Kolb. In the championship game, Kevin completed 19–for–31 passes for 258 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for a 46-yard touchdown. But this was the continuation of an equally stellar season, in which Kevin completed 266–for–393 passes for 3,423 yards. He threw a league-high 27 touchdowns with only three interceptions. This touchdown-to-interception ratio was the second lowest in all of NCAA—I football. For these exceptional accomplishments, Kevin has deservedly won the C–USA Offensive Player of the Year award.

I must also recognize Vincent Marshall, who was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Vincent, a wide receiver, rushed for a touchdown and had 224 all-purpose yards—100 receiving, 22 rushing, and 102 yards on three kickoff returns. Also notable is the fact that Vincent has made a reception in 36 straight games, allowing him to be the Nation's top returning career receiver. He is also just 31 catches, and 557 yards, away from holding the UH record in both categories.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Coach Briles, Kevin, Vincent, and the entire Cougar football team for a superb season, a conference championship, and for making students of the University of Houston, past and present, proud to be a Cougar. I look forward to the Liberty Bowl, where the un-daunted Cougars will face the Southeastern Conference South Carolina GameCocks. They will meet for the first time since October 5, 1974, but whom the Cougars are 2–0 against. I look forward to a Cougar victory.

My pride goes to UH. “Eat ‘em up, eat ‘em up; rah, rah, rah,” Mr. Speaker.

That's just the way it is.

**COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN URGES
SIKHS TO WORK TO FREE
KHALISTAN SEES DISINTEGRA-
TION OF INDIA**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, last month, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, spoke at the Press Club in Lahore, Pakistan. In that speech, he predicted disintegration of India, according to the newspaper Dawn from Lahore. “There is nothing common in the culture of the Hindu living in Bengal and the one in Tamil area,” the paper quotes Dr. Aulakh as saying. “A country having 18 official languages cannot hold its people together for a long time, especially when there is state sponsored suppression against minorities,” he went on to say.

Dr. Aulakh cited the BJP's statement that if you want to live in Hindustan, you must be a Hindu. He discussed India's long record of violence against the minorities within its borders, including the murders of over a quarter of a million Sikhs, more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims around the rest of the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalit “untouchables”, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. He cited numerous other incidents, including the murder of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke, the kidnapping and murder by the police of human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, the recent attack on the Convent of Loreto, the attack on the Babri mosque, and many other such events.

Dr. Aulakh said that the only solution to this situation is a free, sovereign, independent Khalistan, which was declared on October 7, 1987. It is time for the United States to help protect the dignity of all people in South Asia by helping them to live in freedom. There should be a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab on the independence of Khalistan, as well as a plebiscite in Kashmir, as promised to the United Nations in 1948, in Nagaland, and wherever people are seeking freedom from India. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. The United States Congress should be on record in support of that. In addition, we should stop our aid and trade with India until such time as the tyranny stops and all people there enjoy full human rights.

We seek good relations with India, but not at the expense of our principles. India must

spread the blessings of freedom and democracy to all its people, not just the ruling elite and its friends.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Dawn article and an article from The News concerning Dr. Aulakh's statement into the RECORD.

[From Dawn Lahore, Nov. 7, 2006]

**KHALISTAN COUNCIL SEES INDIA'S
DISINTEGRATION**

(By Our Staff Reporter)

Lahore, Nov. 6: India will break up in many states like the former USSR, says Council of Khalistan president Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh.

“There is nothing common in the culture of the Hindu living in Bengal and the one in Tamil area. A country having 18 official languages cannot hold its people together for a long time, especially when there is state-sponsored suppression against minorities,” Dr. Aulakh said at a press conference at the Lahore Press Club on Monday.

The BJP had conveyed to all the minorities in the strongest terms that if they wanted to live in ‘Hindustan’, they have to become Hindus. Over a million people have been killed since independence merely because they were not Hindus. The Indian government has committed terrorism against its own minorities. More than 250,000 Sikh infants, children, youth, men, women and elderly had been murdered since 1984, in addition to more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country besides tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils and other minorities.

Indian police arrested human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs. Over 50,000 Sikhs were arrested, tortured, murdered and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated, said Dr. Aulakh.

Mr. Khalra was murdered in police custody and his body was not handed over to his family. No one was brought to justice for his kidnap and murder. The only witness to the Khalra kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randbawa, had been repeatedly harassed by the police, including having been arrested for trying to hand a note to the then British home secretary Jack Straw.

The Khalistan Council chief said 35 Sikhs were arrested in Punjab last year for delivering speeches in support of Khalistan and raising its flag. How can delivering speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?

The police never released the body of Gurdev Singh Kaunke, the former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. The police officer had never been tried for the murder.

Mr. Graham Stains, missionary, was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted Hannuman ki jay (Victory to Hannuman). Another missionary, Joseph cope, was beaten so badly that he had to remain in an Indian hospital for a week. Later, the Indian government threw him out of the country and none of the people involved had been tried.

“Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire but the people who murdered priests, raped nuns and burnt churches had yet to be charged or tried. Recently, militants from the Bharatiya Januata Yuva, the youth movement affiliated with the BJP and the fascist RSS, attacked the Convent of Loreto.

“The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An