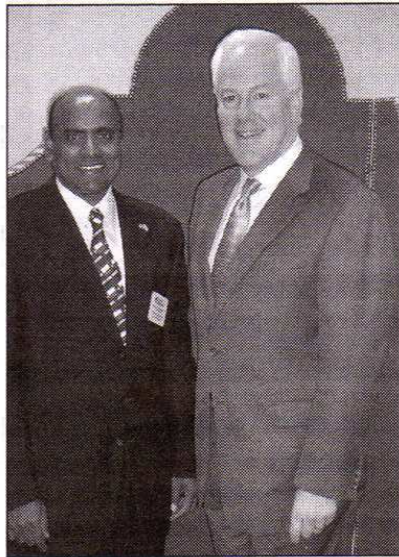


US Cong. thanked for passing Indo-US nuclear legislation

Dallas, TX: Prasad Thotakura, Texas State Coordinator of the Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC), congratulated and thanked members of the US Congress especially members representing from Texas State for giving



Prasad Thotakura with Senator John Cornyn

ing their overwhelming approval for Indo-US civilian nuclear cooperation on July 27 in US House of Representatives.

He expressed his confidence that a similar support would come forth from the Senators, when the legislation would be discussed and put to vote in the Senate.

Prasad Thotakura recalled the recent IAFC's 10th Annual Legislative Senate Luncheon organized in Washington DC, where the people's representatives were requested to support the Indo-US nuclear deal.

US Senator John Cornyn, who is the founder and co-chair of the Friends of Senate India Caucus, attended the luncheon meeting as a keynote speaker.

Prasad Thotakura, in his welcome address, introduced Senator John Cornyn to the packed room of audience, and said: "Friends of India in the US Senate are working tirelessly to muster support of fel-

Prasad Thotakura described Senator Cornyn as a leader with an impeccable track record filled with passion, vision, and hoped that he would further the Indo-US relations.

Senator Cornyn received a thunderous applause and a standing ovation from the group.

Supporting the legislation, Senator John Cornyn said: "I think this legislation looks very good. Things move slowly in the Senate -- it is the nature of the beast. It is also a function of the narrow windows of time available to bring things to the floor. But I think it is moving very well. It is getting good bi-partisan support and that to me is an indication that it will be successful."

Prasad Thotakura, said: "It is all collective effort. It

is very important to all Indian Americans and Indians to see better and stronger Indo-US relations. I personally thank all community leaders who worked very hard to reach this point. Though it is not time to celebrate even after the US House has approved it, it will be very joyous moment for all of us to see that this is approved in the US Senate. I urge all community leaders across the country to get in touch with their US Senators and let them know how important it is to pass the bill in the Senate for future development of India and better Indo-US relations."

He said that it was very important to note that majority of the amendments that aimed to put limits on India's nuclear weapons program were rejected in the House. Lawmakers also rejected an effort to defer action until India did more to back the US efforts to contain Iran.

Prasad Thotakura hoped that the Senate would vote the leg-