

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:29 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. COATS].

CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY [LIBERTAD] ACT OF 1996—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, as I understand, the vote is set for 2:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the Senate is taking a historic step today. We will soon vote on the conference report on the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996. It is a tragedy it took the brutal attack on unarmed American citizens in international airspace to overcome resistance to tightening the economic noose around Castro. Many of us believed legislation should have been enacted much sooner. Fifty-nine Senators voted for cloture on this bill last October. Though we were forced to delete a critical section to overcome the filibuster last year, that section has been restored in the conference report pending in the Senate.

Castro still has a few supporters in the United States. The tired rhetoric defending his dictatorship is the last stand of the old left. But their voices are irrelevant. Their voices are drowned out by the overwhelming and uncontestable evidence of Castro's true nature. Castro is clearly determined to cling to power at all costs, but his days are numbered. Enactment of the Libertad bill will weaken, and eventually end, Castro's desperate dictatorship.

There has been much said in the debate this morning about this bill. The key provisions deserve special mention. First, the Helms-Dole-Burton Libertad bill codifies all regulations implementing the embargo on Cuba. This will ensure no more mixed signals will be sent from the United States—the Cuban embargo stays in place until a transition government is in place.

Second, the Libertad bill requires entry to the United States be denied to all individuals who traffic in stolen property in Cuba. Entry into the United States is a privilege, not a right. Enactment of this bill will guarantee that the privilege of entry to the United States is not extended to those who profit from property stolen from American citizens.

Third, effective August 1, 1996, the Helms-Dole-Burton bill creates legal recourse in American courts against firms and individuals who profit from property confiscated from Americans. Limited authority to suspend this provision is included in the conference report, but only for 6-month periods, only with advance notice to Congress, and only if the President certifies that such a suspension will expedite democratic change in Cuba.

There are many other important provisions in the bill: Authorization to support democratic and human rights groups in Cuba, tough conditions on aid to the former Soviet states if they provide aid to Cuba, mandatory reductions in United States assistance and credits to any country which support completion of the nuclear reactors in Cuba, and tough requirements for United States Government action on American fugitives in Cuba.

The Libertad bill is a comprehensive package which will cutoff Castro's foreign economic lifeline. The Libertad conference report will speed up democratic change in Cuba. It sends a clear message: The time of Fidel Castro has come and gone. It has been a long, hard road to get to the point of final Senate action. I wish we could have been here much sooner. I wish we could have acted without facing veto threats and filibusters.

But today, these differences are behind us. President Clinton has endorsed the Helms-Burton bill—in its toughened form. President Clinton has asked all Members of Congress to support this legislation. In a letter to me this morning, he wrote:

The conference report is a strong, bipartisan response that tightens the economic embargo against the Cuban regime and permits us to continue to promote democratic change in Cuba. I urge Congress to pass the Libertad bill in order to send Cuba a powerful message that the United States will not tolerate further loss of American life.

There can be no doubt that the signal from the United States is stronger when the Democratic White House and Republican Congress speak with the same voice. There can be no doubt that the signal from the United States is unmistakable: Democracy yes, dictatorship no.

Now that the White House is on board with a tougher approach to the Castro regime, I hope they will enact unilateral steps to increase pressure on Castro—steps they could take today. The Clinton administration should beef up enforcement of the embargo, including opening a Treasury Department office in Miami. The Clinton administration should also instruct the FBI to crack down on Cuban agents in the United States including tougher restrictions on so-called diplomats and stronger steps to counter Cuban spies in Miami. The administration should also require strict compliance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act to ensure all of Castro's lobbyists are publicly disclosed. Measures like these will

help demonstrate a genuine change of heart by the White House.

Let there be no mistake: Castro's dictatorship will end. From Poland and Prague, from Moscow to Managua, from Kiev to Kazakhstan, Communist tyrants have fallen to the will of people. Castro stands alone as the last dictator in the hemisphere. When the history of the fall of Castro is written, today's action will have a central place. The atrocity over the Florida Straits—the murder of martyrs of February 24—has galvanized opposition to Castro. And it has overcome obstacles to passing their Libertad bill before us today.

There is a long list of people who worked hard on the legislation before us. Senator HELMS made enactment of this legislation a priority when he assumed the chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee. Senator MACK of Florida was critical in mobilizing Senate support for the bill.

In the House, Congressman BURTON played a critical role in shepherding the legislation to the overwhelming vote last September. Congressman DIAZ-BALART and Congresswoman ROSELEHTINEN were tireless in their work for the bill—in the House and in the Senate. Congressman MENENDEZ of New Jersey was central in getting the Clinton administration to see the light on the legislation last week. All of these Members deserve credit for the Libertad conference report. Without their efforts, we would not be where we are today. Enactment of this legislation will end the debate over how to foster democratic change in Cuba. Enactment of this legislation will send a signal to our allies and our adversaries that the United States is united in opposing Fidel Castro. And enactment of this legislation will bring the end of Fidel Castro's reign of terror much closer. I urge my colleagues to support the Libertad bill to send the strongest possible message to the hemisphere's last dictator.

The signals are clear. It is now non-partisan, bipartisan, call it what you will. I hope with an overwhelming vote that Castro will finally get the message. And I think the administration has finally gotten the message. After cozying up to Castro in 1994 and 1995, they now see the error of their ways. And I am happy that they are now on board.

I particularly want to thank the distinguished chairman of the committee, Senator HELMS, for his tireless efforts throughout the past several months.

MIDDLE EAST TERRORISM

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, apparently the White House press secretary made some statements this morning that I think probably he should not have made. I am not certain it helps the cause of counterterrorism to talk publicly about the type of equipment we are sending to help our allies. I support, and I am certain all of my colleagues support, United States efforts

to support Israel's fight against the killers of Hamas. I have pointed out that continued United States aid to the Palestinian authority is difficult to justify unless Arafat takes concrete action against terrorists who threaten the peace process. Congress has had many contentious delays in extending the Middle East Facilitation Act in the past. We could have a continuing resolution in the Chamber maybe next week or maybe even this week, sometime very soon, and unless and until Arafat does more to crack down on terrorism, I would assume—I am not suggesting I am going to plead it, but I assume there might be an effort by some to cut off aid to the Palestinian authority, and that is the point I made. It seems to me it is up to Mr. Arafat to take some decisive action. It is not enough to say that he regrets it and it is intolerable. I think we need action not only from Arafat but some action from Syria which has been a safe haven for terrorists the last decade or so.

CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY [LIBERTAD] ACT OF 1996—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is now on agreeing to the conference report to accompany H.R. 927. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. LOTT. I announce that the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] and the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH] are necessarily absent.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN] are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 74, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 22 Leg.]

YEAS—74

Abraham	Faircloth	Mack
Ashcroft	Feinstein	McCain
Baucus	Ford	McConnell
Bennett	Frist	Mikulski
Biden	Glenn	Murkowski
Bradley	Gorton	Nickles
Breaux	Graham	Pressler
Brown	Gramm	Pryor
Bryan	Grams	Reid
Burns	Grassley	Robb
Byrd	Gregg	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hatch	Santorum
Coats	Heflin	Sarbanes
Cochran	Helms	Shelby
Cohen	Hollings	Simpson
Conrad	Hutchison	Smith
Coverdell	Inhofe	Snowe
Craig	Johnston	Specter
D'Amato	Kassebaum	Stevens
Daschle	Kempthorne	Thomas
DeWine	Kohl	Thompson
Dole	Kyl	Thurmond
Domenici	Lautenberg	Warner
Dorgan	Lieberman	Wyden
Exon	Lott	

NAYS—22

Akaka	Dodd	Kerrey
Bingaman	Feingold	Kerry
Bond	Harkin	Leahy
Boxer	Hatfield	Levin
Bumpers	Jeffords	
Chafee	Kennedy	

Moseley-Braun	Murray	Simon
Moynihan	Pell	Wellstone

NOT VOTING—4

Inouye	Nunn
Lugar	Roth

So the conference report was agreed to.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, as manager of the conference report on H.R. 927 just adopted by the Senate, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I wish to thank Senator HELMS, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and the majority leader, Senator DOLE, for their leadership on this issue.

I also wish to thank my fellow Senate conferees—Senators THOMPSON, SNOWE, and ROBB—for their relentless effort and willingness to work long hours to pass the conference report. Further, I wish to thank Senator DODD for his knowledgeable input and management of the conference report on the floor, and for his willingness to bring this to closure even though he does not support the measure.

In addition, I want to add my thanks to the staff involved in this conference report, especially Steve Schrage of my office, and Dan Fisk and Gina Marie Lichacz of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who worked diligently throughout the process to keep me fully briefed and prepared. I also wish to express my gratitude to Randy Scheunemann of the leader's office for his invaluable expertise, and to Janice O'Connell of Senator DODD's staff for graciously working with us during floor consideration of this conference report. Finally, I wish to acknowledge all the other Senators and staff who made passage of the Libertad Act a reality.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996—CONFERENCE REPORT

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2546, the D.C. appropriations bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2546, the District of Columbia appropriations bill:

Trent Lott, Jim Jeffords, Dan Coats, Larry E. Craig, Paul D. Coverdell, Conrad Burns, Pete V. Domenici, Jon Kyl, John Ashcroft, Slade Gorton, Spencer Abraham, Craig Thomas, Mark O. Hatfield, C.S. Bond, P. Gramm, Don Nickles.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are ordered under rule XXII.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. LOTT. I announce that the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] and the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH] are necessarily absent.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN] are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FAIRCLOTH). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 23 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Abraham	Domenici	Lott
Ashcroft	Faircloth	Mack
Bennett	Frist	McCain
Bond	Gorton	McConnell
Bradley	Gramm	Murkowski
Breaux	Grams	Nickles
Brown	Grassley	Pressler
Burns	Gregg	Santorum
Byrd	Hatch	Shelby
Campbell	Hatfield	Simpson
Coats	Helms	Smith
Cochran	Hutchison	Snowe
Cohen	Inhofe	Stevens
Coverdell	Jeffords	Thomas
Craig	Kassebaum	Thompson
D'Amato	Kempthorne	Thurmond
DeWine	Kyl	Warner
Dole	Lieberman	

NAYS—43

Akaka	Ford	Moseley-Braun
Baucus	Glenn	Moynihan
Biden	Graham	Murray
Bingaman	Harkin	Pell
Boxer	Heflin	Pryor
Bryan	Hollings	Reid
Bumpers	Johnston	Robb
Chafee	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Conrad	Kerrey	Sarbanes
Daschle	Kerry	Simon
Dodd	Kohl	Specter
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Exon	Leahy	Wyden
Feingold	Levin	
Feinstein	Mikulski	

NOT VOTING—4

Inouye	Nunn
Lugar	Roth

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 43. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LOTT. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, once again the Senate has expressed its will on the conference report for the District of Columbia appropriations bill. Clearly there are provisions in the conference agreement that are not acceptable to a significant minority of the Senate, which makes it impossible at this time to pass the bill in its present form.

I will work with my colleagues here in the Senate and in the other body to find a common ground. I want to assure the District officials I will seek