

and would expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba. It is unfortunate that President Clinton, on January 3, 1997, decided to waive title III of Helms-Burton for the second time and has indicated that come the early part of July he will probably waive it for the third time. It was an outrageous move that kowtowed to our allies and to the business interests abroad rather than to the American national security interests.

It is outrageous because the biggest problem facing us is seeing the demise of the Castro dictatorship in Cuba is not a mystery at all. It is our allies in Europe, Canada, and Mexico who trade with Castro, sustaining his illegitimate regime. What is most disturbing is that some foreign firms not only work with Castro, but do so using stolen U.S. property.

When Castro took power in Cuba, he confiscated private property of countless United States firms and interests. Not only did he rob these Americans of their rightfully owned property, he then continued to use these assets, retaining the profits to sustain his regime. This continues to this day.

Furthermore, there are private foreign interests taking advantage of the confiscated property, making money in Cuba on stolen United States property. Practices such as this should not be tolerated anywhere in the world regardless of the circumstances. This unjust enrichment is taking place in Castro's Cuba despite the fact that title III of the Helms-Burton Act would have stopped that from happening.

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It would have placed a significant disincentive to deal in confiscated U.S. property, making foreign firms benefiting from unjust enrichment in Cuba subject to United States lawsuits, United States courts, if they do business in the United States.

Even though President Clinton succumbed to the interest of foreign businesses and waived title III, just the threat of sanctions resulted in several foreign companies reconsidering their investments in Cuba. If the current administration would actually follow through and implement all of Helms-Burton, we would see a great number of foreign interests reconsidering their Cuban involvement, thereby cutting off critical cash to the Castro regime.

Unfortunately, President Clinton has made a horrible decision, knowing that the business interests of our neighbors are putting pressure on those governments, and those governments on our governments. Instead, he has thwarted the national interests of our people in bringing democracy and respect of human rights to Cuba and of our private citizens and businesses who would have the right to recover their lost profits from foreign profiteers dealing in property stolen by Castro if they could just sue in United States courts.

Is the administration going to continue to look the other way, or will the

United States actually work for democracy in Cuba? When are the tough decisions going to be made that will actually bring Castro down?

What has happened is a picture of hypocrisy. The law was signed with much fanfare and praise that Cuba would finally see some measures, only to have those tough measures immediately waived after enactment, and then again in January of this year, and probably again in July. Is that responsible? Is that honest? Madam Speaker, it is not.

I urge the enforcement of the Helms-Burton Act and will submit a bill in July to make sure that that waiver provision no longer exists if Mr. Clinton continues to waive that provision.

CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PRYCE of Ohio). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I am here to talk about a bill that I will be introducing today. The bill I am referring to is the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act. If this bill should become law, I say to my colleagues, it has the potential of saving thousands of lives each year.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to work with the American Heart Association on this important measure. Passage of this act would go a long way toward making the goal of saving the lives of people who suffer from sudden cardiac arrest possible. It would ensure that what the American Heart Association refers to as a cardiac chain of survival could go into effect.

Madam Speaker, the four links in a cardiac chain of survival are, one, early access to emergency care; early cardiopulmonary resuscitation; early defibrillation, which I will explain later; and early advanced life support.

While defibrillation is the most effective mechanism to revive a heart that has stopped, it is also the least accessed tool we have available to treat victims suffering from heart failure.

Perhaps it would be helpful for those of my colleagues listening and not well versed on the subject if I just take a moment and walk you through what we mean when we use the term "defibrillation."

A large number of sudden cardiac arrests are due to an electrical malfunction of the heart called ventricular fibrillation, or VF. When VF occurs, the heart's electrical signals, which normally induce a coordinated heartbeat, suddenly become chaotic and the heart's function as a pump abruptly stops. Unless this state is reversed, then death will occur within a few minutes, 160 seconds. The only effective treatment for this condition is defibrillation, the electrical shock to the heart.

My colleagues might be interested to know that more than 1,000 Americans each and every day suffer from cardiac arrest. Of those, more than 95 percent die. My colleagues, I find that unacceptable, because we have the means at our disposal to change those statistics, and that is why I am committed myself to this cause.

Studies show that 250 lives can be saved each and every day from cardiac arrest by using the automatic external defibrillator [AED]. Those are the kinds of statistics that nobody can argue with. Right now, the chance of survival due to sudden cardiac arrest is less than 1 in 10. We could change those odds for people through the development of model state training programs for first responders.

Madam Speaker, did my colleagues know that for each minute of delay in returning the heart to its normal pattern of beating it decreases the chance of that person's survival by 10 percent? Currently, only 14 States offer CPR training in schools and 28 States authorize first responders to use automatic external defibrillators. However, less than one-half of emergency medical technicians and less than one-fourth of nonemergency medical technician first responders in the United States are even trained or equipped with a defibrillator. Fortunately, one of those States is my State of Florida.

No one knows when sudden cardiac arrest might occur. According to a recent study the top five sites where cardiac arrest occurs, and I will list them in order of prevalence, at airports, county jails, shopping malls, sports stadiums, and golf courses.

I believe we all should take great comfort in knowing that those who are rushed to help us, to resuscitate us, have the most up-to-date equipment available and are trained to use it.

Some of my colleagues might ask, if 27 States have laws authorizing non-emergency medical technician first responders to use AED's, why do we need to pass this legislation? The reason is quite simply that prehospital medical care, which includes training, equipment, and standards of care, experiences variations from State to State, which in turn delivers inconsistent care to the public. Some might say that this is just another Federal mandate. They would be wrong in that assumption.

This legislation merely directs the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to develop and disseminate a model State training program for first responders and bystanders in lifesaving first aid, including CPR, and direct the development of model State legislation to ensure access to emergency medical service.

Several of my colleagues might ask, will this not cost a lot of money? No, it will not cost the Government any money because we would encourage the private sector, such as those working in the medical community, to form a partnership with industry to help defray the costs. Overall, we envision this

as a joint venture, with this legislation providing the model program for States to use if they so desire and the private sector picking up the additional costs involved.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this important bill whose stated goal is to prevent thousands of people suffering sudden cardiac arrest from dying by making the equipment and trained personnel available at the scene of such emergencies.

AMERICANS WILL STAND WITH THE CUBAN PEOPLE FOR FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, this Independence Day for the Republic of Cuba, May 20, finds the Cuban people still bound and gagged, more than by a Marxist-Leninist, and some have called him a fascist; more than by totalitarianism of those natures, by an Al Caponist, in his essence a gangster, an extortionist who is seeking the almighty dollar at all costs and in all ways.

My community was deeply moved, Madam Speaker, last week when the news, and actually the video taken by the Brothers to the Rescue when they passed over a rock in the Caribbean that belongs to the Bahamas, appropriately named Dog Rock, and we saw a family there, actually it was a group of 14 Cuban refugees, one of them, Rolando Martinez Montoya, a pro-democracy activist, opposition leader and independent journalist. He had been given a visa by the United States to leave with his family in 1995. However, despite the agreement between the Castro dictatorship and our Government, when the Castro dictatorship, every time it wants it, it simply ignores that agreement, and even though his family had been given a visa by the United States to come to our country, the Castro regime simply ignored the visas and did not let them out.

So he in desperation took his wife and four daughters to sea, and they landed on Dog Rock; and we saw last week how Adrianet, the 11-year-old daughter of Rolando, died of exposure and lack of water and food on Dog Rock and how his youngest daughter, Camila, 4 years old, also died on Dog Rock.

So that is where the Cuban people find themselves on this Independence Day, having to flee in that type of desperation from a 38-year-old tyranny led by an Al Caponist madman.

We would expect, would we not, Madam Speaker, that the press and the international media might have had the sensitivity to cover the story of the 14 Cuban refugees last week, some of whom died on Dog Rock. No, I did not

see a single story on our networks, national or international.

What I do see is this week, interestingly, there seems to be a little campaign about visit the exotic islands. If we look at this week's U.S. News and World Report whose owner, of course, Mr. Zuckerman, is looking for a deal at a ferocious pace from the tyrant, you will see News You Can Use: Hemingway's Cuba. Go to the mojito at the Hemingway Marina. Smoke a Cuban cigar. The Washington Post, on May 18: Return to a forbidden island. Also, about how Americans can go and visit the exotic nature of the forbidden islands.

The story of Cuba, the story of the discrimination, of the degradation, of the apartheid system imposed by the tyrant on the Cuban people, anyone who does not have access to dollars or is not a member of the hierarchy of the regime, is not a tourist, does not have access to the luxurious restaurants and hotels and the health care centers that are hard cash generators for the dictatorship, but we do not read about that. No. We read about return to the forbidden islands and Hemingway's Cuba.

Madam Speaker, I would insert into the RECORD these infamous stories at the time, at the time that the real story of Cuba is the suffering of its people, the agony of its people, the fact that its people have to seek refuge, even by going to sea, risking the lives of little children, and many of them actually die. That is the real story of Cuba that because of some unwritten conspiracy of silence is simply not reported by the media. That is what we are facing.

But the reality of the matter is that despite the little campaign of visit the exotic islands and another little campaign that is going on, interestingly enough, supposedly, we are supposed to have, according to another little campaign, a prohibition on the sales of medicines to Cuba when our law says, the Cuban Democracy Act that this Congress passed, said that we can sell, American pharmaceutical companies can sell medicines to Cuba as long as the medicines are not used for torture and are not used for reexport.

So, Madam Speaker, we will continue talking about this. It is a dreadful situation, the situation the Cuban people are faced with, but we are going to stand firm, we are going to stand with the Cuban people, and we are not going to lose sight of our objectives. The American people will continue to stand with the Cuban people until the Cuban people are free.

Madam Speaker, I include the following newspaper articles for the RECORD:

[From the Washington Post, May 18, 1997]

RETURN TO A FORBIDDEN ISLAND: IN IMPOVERISHED CUBA, NOTHING—AND EVERYTHING—HAS CHANGED

(By Elinor Lander Horwitz)

Maritza smiles wistfully and passes her tongue slowly over her lips. "The '52's and '53's are best," she says. "Fifty-four was not so good a year, but '55—it was really excel-

lent." She's not talking wine: She's talking Chevrolets.

Parked randomly along a street near the Plaza de Armas in Havana's old city, where she has taken me sightseeing, is a particularly dense grouping of 40- to 50-year-old American cars, predominantly Chevrolets plus one Dodge, an Oldsmobile, a Buick and a Plymouth. These are not rich people's collectibles. They are poor people's means of transportation. Maritza, a Cuban woman whom a friend had urged me to contact, casts a connoisseur's eye on a red-and-white, wide-finned 1953 relic parked next to her midget 1972 Polish-made Fiat. How in the world do the owners get replacement parts? She laughs at my simple-minded question. "We make them, we improvise," she says. "Cubans are very good mechanics."

I feel caught in a time warp. The decaying Chevys—the very ones I might have seen hot off the assembly line more than four decades ago—suddenly take on the status of metaphor for the once elegant, now deteriorating city. This is the second visit my husband, Norman, and I have made to Havana. The first, a few years before the 1950 revolution, was on our honeymoon. I was a college student-bride who longed to go abroad, and Havana was the only patch of abroad we could afford. And it was so easy to get there!

This time we arrived via three tedious flights: Washington to Miami, Miami to Nassau, and Nassau to Havana. With long waits in between. We carried impeccable visas and letters from the U.S. Treasury Department and our sponsoring organization verifying our permission to visit (there are severe restrictions for U.S. citizens trying to travel to Cuba). Norman, a neurosurgeon, was coming as a volunteer with an international relief agency in a program it runs jointly with the Cuban Ministry of Health. He would spend a week conferring with colleagues, examining patients, teaching interns and residents, and presenting research material. I was licensed to tag along. Earlier participants in the program had given us the names of people they'd met here, which is how I came to know Maritza and a number of other engaging Habaneros.

We had always hoped to return to Havana and, according to the laminated Cubana Airlines boarding pass I handed over as I boarded the flimsy-looking old Russian plane in Nassau, the feeling was mutual. "*Cuba te espera*," it said in decorative script. "Cuba is waiting for you." The bright yellow card was decorated with three red hearts.

The 1950s Cuba, under the repressive rule of Fulgencio Batista, had plenty to offer American tourists. It was romantic, and it was glossy! Most people stayed in the pricey and glamorous Hotel Nacional, with its luxurious accommodations, highly regarded dining room and nightclub, and private talcum powder beach. We stayed at the Ambos Mundos on Obispo Street, in the heart of Old Havana.

Hemingway, still very much alive when we first visited the island, had lived in the Ambos Mundos while writing—depending on your informant—either "A Farewell to Arms" or "For Whom the Bell Tolls." We ogled the room he had occupied, dined at the rooftop restaurant where he had often dined, and drank daiquiris at the Florida, which we were assured was his favorite bar. When we had dinner at a sidewalk cafe, ragged children came up to the table and begged for the bread on our table. We gave them that and pesos and smiles, and we told each other it was wrong to be having such a good time in a country where so many lived in unconscionable splendor while others didn't have enough to eat. And then a man with a guitar strolled over to our table and began to sing while we held hands across the table and blissfully dug into dinner.