

Mr. President, as you know, that legislation, called the James Guelff Body Armor Act, is currently included in S. 10, the juvenile crime bill now before the Senate, and I should say thanks to the chairman of the committee, Senator HATCH.

Less than 1 month ago, police in Tacoma, WA, faced a man with an SKS assault rifle. The man fired on police and struck Officer William Lowry twice, killing him. The rifle, police say, was modified to carry a high-capacity magazine and to fire automatically.

Last February, in Los Angeles, two would-be bank robbers took on approximately 350 police officers from 5 agencies in a major shootout in Hollywood, Los Angeles. The criminals were armed with three fully automatic Norinco assault weapons, modeled after the AK-47, an import from China, a fully automatic HK-9 imported from Germany, a fully automatic Bushmaster assault weapon modeled after the banned AR-15, and a semiautomatic Berreta 9-millimeter pistol. These weapons had all been altered to be made fully automatic.

The perpetrators wore body armor from their neck to their ankles, even going so far as to duct tape body armor to any part of their body that could possibly be exposed. They fired 1,100 rounds of ammunition from high-capacity magazines that could hold as many as 50 bullets, taping them together in a unique way so that they can be replaced quickly in a style used by soldiers in combat. They wounded 11 police officers and 7 civilians before being shot and killed.

This has been shown on many television shows. There is footage of it from beginning to end. I can tell you, the streets resemble a war zone. Police on the scene were so outgunned that they had to go to a nearby gun store and "borrow" assault-type weapons in order to match the gunmen's firepower. Governor Wilson has now provided weapons to police departments which are fully automatic, again escalating the battle on our streets.

In addition to Officers Guelff and Lowry, Officer William Christian of Washington, DC, was killed with a MAC-11 in 1995;

Officer John Novabilski of Prince Georges County, MD, killed with a MAC-11 in May 1995;

Officer John Norcross of Haddon Heights, NJ, killed with an AK-47 in April of 1995;

Officer Timothy Howe of Oakland, killed with an AK-47, April 1995;

Officer Daniel Doffyn of Chicago, killed with a TEC-9, March 1995;

Officer Henry Daly, Washington, DC, killed with a TEC-9, November 1994;

Officer Michael Miller of Washington, DC, killed with a TEC-9 in November 1994.

Officer Martha Dixon-Martinez of Washington, DC, killed with a TEC-9 in November 1994.

Officer Julio Andino-Rivera, of Puerto Rico, killed with an AR-15 in September 1994;

Officer Dan Calabrese of Winslow Township, NJ, killed with an Uzi in June of 1994;

And a case I often use, a rookie police officer in Los Angeles on her first call, the top rookie of her class, Christy Hamilton, killed with an AR-15 responding to a domestic violence call.

These weapons are not designed for sporting purposes. They are not designed for hunting. They are the weapons of choice for grievance killers, for gangs, and for those who go up against the police.

They are designed to kill large numbers of people in combat, just as the Uzi and the Galil were designed for the Israeli military to do just that. They have no place on the streets of a civilized society.

Israel has been a friend and an ally to the United States, a friendship I and other Members of this body have strongly supported. It is my personal hope—and I have written to Prime Minister Netanyahu and expressed this—that a nation that understands, perhaps better than most, the paramount importance of any government's responsibility to ensure the safety and security of its people will understand that there is a moral issue at stake here that far outweighs any commercial value the sale of these weapons holds for their country.

There is a munitions manufacturer owned by the State of Israel. And by advancing this export, the Israeli Government is putting the official imprimatur of its people on the commercial sale of weapons designed, not for hunting but for combat, not to protect but to kill.

It is my earnest hope that the Israeli Government will respond to these importunings and will lead the way in and set an example for others to follow.

More than 4,000 people were killed by gang violence in Los Angeles alone in one 5-year period—1991 to 1995—gangs that all too often use these kinds of weapons to terrorize and control neighborhoods.

We do not need more of these weapons on our streets.

As I said, I have asked Prime Minister Netanyahu to personally intervene to stop the export of these weapons to the United States.

I have personally had the opportunity to discuss this with the Israeli Ambassador to the United States. Once again, I appeal to the Prime Minister's sense of what is right and, in the best interest of our continued friendship and the mutual security of our two people, to please prevent this sale.

It is important also to understand that we are not singling out only those weapons being exported by Israel. I have requested information on semiautomatic rifles that have been approved for importation from more than 17 other countries that may have similar military features which distinguish them from the traditional definition of a sporting rifle.

To the extent that any other such weapons are discovered, and if such

weapons are manufactured by Government-owned entities as is the case with these weapons, I will be making the same request of those government leaders as well.

In the meantime, 30 of us now urge President Clinton to use his executive authority to temporarily suspend this importation of weapons and to direct the ATF to use the traditional sporting purposes standard in determining whether any semiautomatic assault weapons should be approved for importation to the United States.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CASTRO'S CUBA IS A CRUEL AND FULL-BLOWN PURGATORY

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I have at hand an impressive article detailing the oppression that the people of Cuba have long suffered, and still suffer to this day. It was written by Carrol Fisher of Salisbury, NC, and I decided that it should be made available to all Senators—and to others who are concerned about the dictatorship 90 miles off our shores.

Carrol Fisher is a World War II Navy veteran whose first visit to Cuba was in 1944. He fell in love with the island and its people, including the young lady who became his wife 40 years ago. He and Mrs. Fisher [Sonia] returned to Cuba recently to visit his seriously ill sister-in-law. During that visit, he observed the degrading state of affairs in Cuba, the results of Castro's oppressive military government.

When he returned to Salisbury, Mr. Fisher wrote a detailed account of what he had witnessed in Cuba. The article, published in the Salisbury (NC) Post, counsels that the United States under no circumstances should yield in its opposition to Fidel Castro's brutal regime.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Fisher's article be printed in the RECORD and the conclusion of my remarks.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Salisbury (NC) Post, Aug. 12, 1997]
CASTRO'S CUBA IS A CRUEL AND FULL-BLOWN PURGATORY

(By Carrol J.W. Fisher)

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Carrol J.W. Fisher and his wife, Sonia, who had not seen her native Cuba for 38 years, were recently granted special permission to visit Sonia's seriously ill

sister. Two of their four children, Luke and Mimi, went with them.]

Knowing that conditions in Havana are hard—at least by American standards—is one thing.

Seeing the sad and pitiful conditions and the obvious presence of a military state is another.

We were immediately shocked, revolted and angry to find a manned military station almost every two blocks on Quinta Avenida (5th Avenue), the main travel artery in Havana, where our hotel, the Comodoro, was on the ocean.

Security personnel, wearing blue trousers, white shirts and ties, were armed with handheld radios and/or side arms and monitored every activity of hotel life.

No matter what their dress, they were military men—and I believe our every move was watched and charted. We were the only Americans in the hotel and, the waiters told us, most likely the only Americans who will visit the hotel this year, even though it was for tourists with American dollars.

Local Cubans were not welcome. They could not drive their ragged automobiles to the hotel entrance. They could not park in the parking lot. They were not permitted to go into the guest's rooms. A very small number was tolerated in the lobby.

Sonia was injured while we were there, and I insisted the guard permit some of her relatives into our room. Just as soon as I left for the hospital, they were required to leave and return to the lobby.

Apparently, this military dictatorship is highly organized and so closely administered that every phase of life in Cuba today is controlled by Castro. A medical doctor is paid between 400 and 600 hundred pesos—or, at 22 pesos to a dollar—between \$18 and \$27 a month. More than one of the drivers of state-controlled taxis told us he is paid 140 pesos—or \$6.32—a month.

At our hotel, graduate engineers were washing windows. An electronics engineer was training to be a waiter. A University of Havana graduate in language, a young man who spoke good English, was also training to be a waiter rather than teach English at the university.

I met a friend I knew in the '50s who had studied in an American university. At great personal risk, he supported Castro's revolution, carried ammunition, food, radios, medicines, etc., from the Guantanamo Naval base to the Rebels in the Oriente Mountains, labored for Castro's regime almost 40 years and alienated most of his blood family.

Today he works in a sensitive job 12 and 14-hour-days and is paid 325 pesos or \$14.77 a month.

I visited a number of other Cuban friends I knew in the 1950s. Their households were much alike. There were no recent photographs because they cannot afford a camera or the film that sells in Castro's stores for American dollars. They have no adequate radio, no working television, no transportation except maybe one Chinese bicycle. They have no wrist watches except some pitiful Soviet watches that lose 5 minutes each day. They are allowed one 100-pound tank of LP gas from Mexico for cooking and hot water at a cost of 11 pesos. If and when this tank is empty, a replacement costs \$26 (572 pesos) which is more than a month's wages.

So much walking is necessary, but no one seemed to have adequate walking shoes. Most of my friends' family members have very few clothes, and what they do have is worn and mostly in tatters.

POOR LIVING CONDITIONS

Kitchens and baths are old and tired. Faucets leak and drip. So do the drains under

the sinks and lavatories. Very few houses showed any signs of having been repaired or painted.

People are required to attend block meetings where they gossip and report the activities of their neighbors. I took my Timex watch off and gave it to one of my friends. He was happy and pleased but afraid to wear it for fear of the neighbors. They are morose and have little optimism or hope.

Since the Soviets fell and their aid ceased, Castro calls this "A Special Time." The adjective they use to describe this special time is "siempre," English for "always."

Quinta Avenida, the main avenue in all Havana, is deteriorating badly, the paving is cracked and very rough, as are the sidewalks and curbs. I saw holes 3 feet deep washed out behind storm gratings that were dangerous to the many pedestrians. Most of the lampposts had wires pulled out and taped together.

Generally the infrastructure of Havana streets—bridges, walks, parks—is in very poor condition. But the military manned their innumerable posts.

I was introduced to Cuba in 1945 while flying off the carrier Roosevelt. I returned to Guantanamo Naval Base while flying with an anti-submarine squadron. I loved the people. They worked hard building their houses and families. They were fun to be with, happy and lighthearted, had many parties, and danced to wonderful music.

I have lived and visited many countries in the world but never found one like Cuba, where the weather enfolds you in a pleasant comfort zone and the eye rests on pure beauty.

While I was there, I met a school teacher, Sonia, and fell desperately in love, courting her for three years before we married. We have lived in the USA together since October 1957. We have three wonderful sons and a beautiful daughter, all university educated, married successfully, and they have given us six lovely grand children.

BEAUTY HAS DISAPPEARED

But the beautiful Cuba I knew is no more.

I am not qualified to evaluate or judge Fidel Castro's motives for turning a beautiful country into a lower level Third World country. If he is altruistic and wants what is best for the Cuban people, then as an economist, he is an idiot, and his understanding of human psychology is on the level of a moron.

I do not believe he is either of the two. He was raised in a cultured family, is a graduate of the University of Havana and an experienced attorney. He is a battle-tested military leader who defeated his enemies.

His motivation must come from a super ego that demands that he wield total control over the Cuban society and over the life of each individual Cuban. The terrible injustice, and imbalance he has thrust into the lives of the Cuban people has engendered mistrust, suspicion and jealousy of neighbor for neighbor. His system is destroying the incentive to work and achieve, to make free and independent decisions for their own lives, to hope for something better for their children, and maybe enjoy some measure of peace and happiness for their senior years.

The depth of sadness that pervades the Cuban society today is only exceeded by the pervasive evil of a communist system that is destroying the higher human qualities of millions of people.

Castro made the deliberate choice to embrace Marxism-Leninism at a time that most world leaders had already decided that it was a total failure.

WHERE IS CASTRO?

I saw no sign of Fidel Castro on any billboard or building as we drove around Havana. It is as if he does not exist. One does

see signs of Che Guevara, but not Castro. I heard not one single word of condemnation or support for Fidel Castro, but I did hear a lot of criticism of the system.

As we arrived back in the United States, my daughter, Mimi, said, "What disturbs me most is that Castro has succeeded in making the Cuban people equally poor—from the doctor who makes \$18 to \$26 a month and must drive a cab at night just to make ends meet, to the waiter in training who is not paid anything. They are all victims of Castro."

"The trip was a pilgrimage," Sonia said. "I went, I prayed, I visited what is left of my family there. But, this Cuba is not my home." And there were tears.

I am joining Senator Helms, the Miami Cuban community, even Mas Canosa, and the conservatives who unflinchingly resist any softening of the Cuban embargo.

The Cuban people are suffering badly and should be relieved. But any plan of relief advanced so far will strengthen Castro and his ever-tightening control of every facet of the lives of every single Cuban living in that unhappy island. This is a very difficult decision, but I believe it must be made.

While we were in Cuba, two hotels were bombed, a school was totally destroyed by fire, and I was told by a man who left Santiago, Monday, July 14, that the downed aircraft out of that city that killed all 40 aboard was the work of a terrorist bomb.

He also told me that life in Oriente Province—the one that gave Castro his start—is so desperate that they were leaving in droves to go to Havana.

WHAT OF FUTURE?

Buy today they are being forced to return. Now they are referred to as Palestinians, for they have no home. Just before I left Cuba, I tried to quietly warn my Cuban friends that the Miami Cubans were very wealthy, that they are very powerful, and that they hate Fidel Castro with a deep and pervasive hate, and there is no sign that they will ever relax this hate. I told my friend to be aware of this fact and that they should take what ever precautions they can take.

Do I believe that Fidel Castro is a threat to this country? At this time the answer is no. There are groups of academicians going from university to university in the U.S. conducting seminars designed to promote Castro.

But we must keep in mind that Castro, who is desperate, can and might at any time turn over a chunk of the Cuban island to any number of countries hostile to the U.S. They would be just 90 miles from our shore. Do I have any trust in Castro? Absolutely none.

While we were waiting in the Jose Marti airport, we talked to a Cuban lady from the U.S. who was visiting relatives for the first time in 30 years. With her was her daughter and her daughter's friend. Both the young ladies were attorneys with the N.Y. Justice Department and appeared to be in their mid-30s. We asked the friend of the daughter if she would ever make a return visit to Cuba.

"Yes," she said quietly, "in a thousand years," and then she added, "when I get back to New York City, I will break out my American flag. I will wave that flag. I will play the 'Star Spangled Banner.' And I will behave like the most patriotic American you have ever seen."

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 19

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending September 19, the United States imported 8,526,000