

research associate at the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs:

The mammoth street demonstration witnessed in Havana on June 21 was a glaring example of yet another counter-productive, anti-Castro initiative fathered by Washington policymakers. The latter may be long on raw ideology, but demonstrably, are short on reality. On that day, tens of thousands of Cubans gathered in front of the U.S. Interests Section (the official U.S. presence in Havana) to warn Washington against resorting to any preemptive military action against the island.

The Bush administration, following the practice of all of its predecessors, has maintained a cordon sanitaire around Cuba, but ended up having to waive the penalties against the international business community mandated by the ill-reputed Helms-Burton legislation. Nor is the U.S. winning many backers with its patently self-serving Florida electoral strategy masked as a foreign policy. The Bush administration has been so obsessed with wooing Miami, that it has fallen victim to its own immoderacy, recently cutting remittances and limiting packages and visits from exiles to their Cuban relatives. By its cut offs, the White House has displayed the same venomous lack of humanity and blind fury that was seen with the Elian Gonzalez affair. Now, even many of those being wooed—Cuban expatriates—are lashing back at Bush for daring to curb family ties in a craven hunt for votes.

By a series of malevolent initiatives specifically aimed at worsening U.S.-Cuban relations, Secretary of State Colin Powell invoked the latest phase of a foreign policy drive whose anointed mission was to place Florida into President Bush's win column in November, even though such a demarche could mortally wound his already fading reputation on regime issues. The motivation for such a sterile approach was prompted not so much by any genuine threat posed by Cuba to any conceivable U.S. regional security interests, but almost entirely by domestic political factors. The predictable Castro response: defiance in the form of the June 21 demonstration, which provided yet another opportunity for the Cuban leader to return to his popular base to seek reaffirmation in a spectacular show of political thunder. But the question remains, when will Washington realize that attempting to isolate Cuba internationally and pressuring it internally at best will only fail or induce more Cubans to attempt immigrating to the U.S.—something that U.S. officials aren't particularly anxious to encourage.

Despite its specious claim of "hastening democracy on the island," arguably, the Bush administration's latest policies do the opposite—purposely escalating U.S.-Cuban tensions while further legitimizing Castro in the eyes of many islanders. President Bush's mean and nasty acts serve to undermine his professed lofty intentions, as they confirm Cuba's role as a David daring to stand up to Goliath's benighted outrages. For almost half a century the U.S. has attempted to isolate Castro's Cuba, even though predictably, these initiatives have always backfired. In reality, it is Washington's Cuba policy that has ended in the dock, not Cuba, with only dependent states like Chile and Costa Rica cheering Washington onward.

Meanwhile, for 12 years the U.N. has voted overwhelmingly to end the U.S. embargo that is almost solely honored by this country. With decades of converting "democracy" rhetoric into self-serving demagoguery aimed at asphyxiating the Cuban economy and immiserating its population, Washington's relations with Havana remain non-negotiable, beyond the purview of the construc-

tive engagement now routinely employed toward Libya, North Korea, Vietnam and China.

Nor would Castro's death instantly transform Washington's embargo strategy into a success story. In fact, it might only underline that the U.S. fomented the deterioration of Cuban society while it bided its time for the right moment to initiate yet another intrusion into the internal affairs of a hemispheric nation. Clearly, neither Castro nor any other likely successor has indicated any intention to fall on their sword to guarantee another Bush term. Meanwhile Washington's thinking by now is so petrified that it is incapable of moving past its Cold War strategy of continually escalating threats and bringing distress upon an innocent population, to encourage what it disingenuously calls "democratic change."

CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN SCHOOLS TO HUNGRY OR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to discuss an issue that is one of my top legislative priorities, the importance of food distribution in schools to hungry or malnourished children around the world. This bill passed the Senate June 3, 2004, and I hope that we in the House of Representatives can expedite its passage today as well.

As chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, it continues to trouble me that there are more than 300,000,000 chronically hungry and malnourished children in the world. More than half of these children go to school on an empty stomach, and almost as many do not attend school at all, but might if food were available.

Distributing food in schools is one of the simplest and most effective strategies to fight hunger and malnourishment among children. When school meals are offered to hungry or malnourished children, attendance rates increase significantly, particularly for girls.

Improving the quality and access to education for girls is one of the most important factors in reducing child malnutrition in developing countries. Girls who attend schools tend to marry later in life and have fewer children, thereby helping them escape a life of poverty.

At a time when we are trying to encourage many countries to adopt educational infrastructure to lay the groundwork for teaching democratic ideals, we must be more attuned to the barriers preventing children from attending school. Distributing food in schools has been correlated to better school attendance.

We must continue to work to improve the literacy rates and increase job opportunities. Education addresses several of the root causes of terrorism, and we can do something to impact it right now. The distribution of food in schools increases attendance of children who might otherwise be susceptible to recruitment by groups that offer them food in return for their attendance at extremist schools or participation in terrorist training camps.

It is my hope that our President will work with the United Nations and its member states to expand international contributions for the distribution of food in schools around the world.

HONORING CITY OF NOVI POLICE DEPARTMENT ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the City of Novi Police Department as we celebrate the department's 50th Anniversary.

The men and women who protect the Novi community have a long and distinguished record.

In 1954, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department had been patrolling the small farming community of Novi, and protecting its approximately 5,000 residents. As the community grew, the Board of Trustees worked to establish their own force.

The Department's first chief, Lee BeGole, a member of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and World War II U.S. Army veteran, organized the fledgling organization. BeGole served alone initially, adding three or four officers later on. He was a dedicated law enforcement officer who served the City of Novi for 32 years.

During its early years, the Novi Police Department served the community by making the most of its meager means. With a pair of police cars and no police radios, the operation of the Department was very basic. Police equipment was very basic, too. The officers furnished their own firearms and paid for their uniforms. The patrol cars did not have overhead emergency lights, but rather were equipped with red or blue spotlights and a "coaster siren" under the hood.

The size and scope of the department has increased greatly over the past half century. In 1991 Chief BeGole retired and Douglas F. Shaeffer became the second Chief of Police in Novi's history. The Department moved into the 21st Century—the 1968 Rambler with the single red/blue roof light and coaster siren has been replaced by a large fleet of the latest police package Ford Crown Victorias, equipped with multifunction electronic emergency lights and siren. The old faithful police revolvers have been replaced by the newest in semi-automatic Glock pistols. Laptop computers are installed in each patrol unit, and a new in-house data system at the station has taken over most of the hand-written reports and forms used daily.

Today, the City of Novi Police Department is truly a world-class law enforcement organization led by outstanding men and women who are committed to providing the community with the highest caliber service and protection.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask you and my esteemed colleagues to please join me in congratulating Chief Doug Shaeffer, the men and women of the Novi Police Department, and the elected officials and citizens of Novi for their support of 50 years of excellence in law enforcement.

IN HONOR OF GINA BULLOCK'S SELECTION AS A 2005 PRESIDING OFFICER FOR THE YMCA YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the 2004 YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs was held in Black Mountain, North Carolina. This annual conference brings together the best and brightest of the Youth and Government programs from across the country. Over 500 high school student leaders meet and discuss issues of national importance, and at the conclusion of the conference six graduating seniors are selected to serve as presiding officers for the next conference. This is considered one of the highest honors that one can receive in the YMCA Youth and Government program.

I join my colleagues in honoring Gina Bullock for being selected as one of the six presiding officers to serve for the 2005 YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs. Gina becomes the first Texan to serve as a presiding officer at this conference since 1997, and she will be a great representative for the Lone Star State.

I wish her continued success and thank her for outstanding leadership for Texas.

A BIRTHDAY GREETING FOR A HERO

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, somewhere in the dungeon bowels of Prison Kilo Ocho, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet—prisoner of conscience—turned 43 years old.

Dr. Biscet is a hero of the kind that men and nations yearn for their entire lives.

He is a human rights activist, a man of peace and justice, and therefore a sworn enemy of Fidel Castro and his terrorist regime in Havana.

A student of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Dr. Biscet has led nonviolent opposition to Castro and his murderous, kleptomaniac government for years, whether on the streets of Havana or in the foul cages that pass for prison cells in Castro's Cuba.

Despite years-long separation from his wife and family, untreated illnesses, and ongoing abuse by prison guards, Dr. Biscet remains in high spirits today.

He is an inspiration to all who suffer for the cause of freedom, a threat to all who seek to undermine that cause, and a stinging indictment against free men the world over who would ignore the cries of injustice ringing out from an imprisoned island.

But this House and this Nation will not ignore, or forget, or bend in our determination to see human rights and human freedom restored to Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, these brief remarks may be little noted by journalists today and historians to-

morrow, but they merit the saying just the same.

That somewhere in Cuba today, an honest man suffers so his countrymen—so that all men—might be free is a heroic thing, one the world owes it to him, itself, and our Creator to notice.

I recognize Oscar Biscet today not because he needs us, but because we need him.

And I honor Oscar Biscet today, as we all should, Mr. Speaker, because by the life of service he has chosen, he honors all of mankind.

I wish him and his family health and strength for his 43rd birthday and send my hopes that this will be his last separated from his loved ones and suffering under the bootheel of evil.

BOB MICHEL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Illinois delegation in which Bob Michel served with honor and distinction for nearly 4 decades, I rise as an original cosponsor and in strong support of naming the "Bob Michel Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

I didn't have the privilege of serving with Bob Michel in this chamber, but when I worked at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, I found that the Republican Minority Leader worked tirelessly across party lines to serve the best interests of his district, our State, and our Nation.

The distinguished gentleman from Peoria exemplifies the best values of Middle America. Indeed, the values that define Bob Michel as a man and a leader—values like hard work, honesty, integrity and loyalty—are the values that make the State of Illinois a great place in which to live and represent in this chamber. I am proud to share that common bond with him.

Naming the veterans clinic in Peoria is a fitting tribute to an Army hero and veteran of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II—who 10 years after his retirement from Congress remains one of my State's most respected and revered leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to support this measure in recognition of Bob Michel's strength and leadership throughout 38 years of distinguished public service.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BOYERS, INC. 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Association of American Boyers on the occasion of its 100th year anniversary.

In 1905, the Association of American Boyers held its first reunion in Dryville, Pennsylvania.

The original attendees of that grand day have now grown to over 4,000 members. During the first reunion a mission statement was adopted which read "The object of this Association is educational, to hold reunions, and to foster, encourage, and develop the family spirit of the Boyer people."

A two-day celebration to commemorate 100 years of existence for the "Association of American Boyers, Inc." will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 24–25, 2004, on the grounds of the Central Pennsylvania College. On these dates Boyers from around the United States and various overseas points of destination will gather to celebrate their heritage, history, and family accomplishments.

The legacy of the Boyer name can be traced to the fourth and second centuries before Christ. Carrying the name of Boiare early settlers moved into Germany, France and England. Many variations of the Boyer name such as Bayer, Baier, Beyer, Beier, Byer and Bowyer arose in the years to follow.

Segments of these first "Boyers" came to the United States in the 1600's. Transition of some family members brought a Boyer presence to Pennsylvania in the early 1700's. Approximately forty Boyers had settled in Eastern Pennsylvania by 1775 and many served as soldiers under George Washington. Boyers have since spread throughout all of Pennsylvania, maintain large populations in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, New York, California, and Maryland and are present in some number in all fifty states.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the long standing history of Boyers and their impact since coming to the United States and thank them for the many contributions they have made to the growth of our great nation.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD "RIP" HAMILTON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard "Rip" Hamilton for his distinguished career in professional basketball and for the contributions he made to the 2004 NBA Championship team, the Detroit Pistons.

Rip Hamilton first made his mark in basketball when he was a high school student at the Coatesville Area High School in Chester County, Pennsylvania. During his senior year, he was voted to the First Team All-State Basketball team and participated in the McDonald's All-American game before his graduation in 1996.

Upon graduation from Coatesville Area High School, Rip continued to pursue his passion for basketball at University of Connecticut. At UCONN, Rip finished 2nd in career scoring and was the only Connecticut player to score at least 700 points per season twice in his career, and 500 points in his first three seasons. Rip spent three years at UCONN perfecting his game and, in 1999 after scoring 27 points in the Huskies' 77–74 championship win over Duke, Rip was voted the most valuable player of the Final Four. That same year, Rip was also voted 1st Team All-American by the AP and he was also awarded the Big East Conference and ECAC Player of the Year.