

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, after consultation with the Democratic leader and a number of people who are conducting hearings, I withdraw the request. We will just go ahead and complete the votes now.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 614

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question, then, is on agreeing to the Simon amendment (No. 614).

Mr. GORTON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to table the Simon amendment.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE AMENDMENT NO. 614

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on the motion to lay on the table the amendment, No. 614.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced, yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 142 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Ashcroft	Gorton	Lugar
Bennett	Gramm	Mack
Bond	Grams	McCain
Brown	Grassley	McConnell
Burns	Gregg	Murkowski
Campbell	Hatch	Nickles
Chafee	Hatfield	Pressler
Coats	Helms	Robb
Cochran	Hutchison	Rockefeller
Coverdell	Inhofe	Roth
Craig	Jeffords	Santorum
DeWine	Kassebaum	Smith
Dole	Kempthorne	Snowe
Domenici	Kyl	Stevens
Exon	Lautenberg	Thomas
Faircloth	Lieberman	Thurmond
Frist	Lott	Warner

NAYS—49

Abraham	Feingold	Moseley-Braun
Akaka	Feinstein	Moynihan
Baucus	Ford	Murray
Biden	Glenn	Nunn
Bingaman	Graham	Packwood
Boxer	Harkin	Pell
Bradley	Heflin	Pryor
Breaux	Hollings	Reid
Bryan	Inouye	Sarbanes
Bumpers	Johnston	Shelby
Byrd	Kennedy	Simon
Cohen	Kerrey	Simpson
Conrad	Kerry	Specter
D'Amato	Kohl	Thompson
Daschle	Leahy	Wellstone
DeWine	Levin	
Dorgan	Mikulski	

So the motion to lay on the table the amendment (No. 614) was agreed to.

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

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 607

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on amendment No. 607 offered by the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY].

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to table the Kennedy amendment and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 607. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 143 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Abraham	Graham	McCain
Ashcroft	Gramm	McConnell
Bennett	Grams	Murkowski
Bond	Grassley	Nickles
Brown	Gregg	Packwood
Burns	Hatch	Pressler
Campbell	Hatfield	Robb
Chafee	Heflin	Rockefeller
Coats	Helms	Roth
Cochran	Hutchison	Santorum
Coverdell	Inhofe	Smith
Craig	Jeffords	Snowe
DeWine	Kassebaum	Stevens
Dole	Kempthorne	Thomas
Domenici	Kyl	Thompson
Exon	Lieberman	Thurmond
Faircloth	Lott	Warner
Frist	Lugar	
Gorton	Mack	

NAYS—45

Akaka	Dorgan	Levin
Baucus	Feingold	Mikulski
Biden	Feinstein	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Ford	Moynihan
Boxer	Glenn	Murray
Boxer	Harkin	Nunn
Bradley	Hollings	Pell
Breaux	Inouye	Pryor
Bryan	Johnston	Reid
Bumpers	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Byrd	Kerrey	Shelby
Cohen	Kerry	Simon
Conrad	Kohl	Simpson
D'Amato	Lautenberg	Specter
Daschle	Leahy	Wellstone
Dodd		

So the motion to table the amendment (No. 607) was agreed to.

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

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 615

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 615 offered by the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY].

The amendment (No. 615) was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 603, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending measure is amendment No. 603, as amended, offered by the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL].

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and the nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 603, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 603, as amended.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 144 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Abraham	Frist	Mack
Ashcroft	Gorton	McCain
Bennett	Gramm	McConnell
Bond	Grams	Murkowski
Brown	Grassley	Nickles
Burns	Gregg	Nunn
Campbell	Hatch	Pressler
Chafee	Hatfield	Robb
Coats	Helms	Roth
Cochran	Hutchison	Santorum
Coverdell	Inhofe	Simpson
Craig	Jeffords	Smith
DeWine	Kassebaum	Snowe
Dole	Kempthorne	Stevens
Domenici	Kyl	Thomas
Exon	Lieberman	Thomas
Faircloth	Lott	Thurmond
Feinstein	Lugar	Warner

NAYS—47

Akaka	Feingold	Mikulski
Baucus	Ford	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Glenn	Moynihan
Bingaman	Graham	Murray
Boxer	Harkin	Packwood
Bradley	Heflin	Pell
Breaux	Hollings	Pryor
Bryan	Inouye	Reid
Bumpers	Johnston	Rockefeller
Byrd	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Cohen	Kerrey	Shelby
Conrad	Kerry	Simon
D'Amato	Kohl	Simpson
Daschle	Lautenberg	Specter
Dodd	Leahy	Thompson
Dorgan	Levin	Wellstone

So the amendment (No. 603), as amended, was agreed to.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 139 I voted "yea." It was my intention to vote "no." Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote. This will in no way change the outcome of the vote.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 137 I voted "yea." It was my intention to vote "no." Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote. This will in no way change the outcome of the vote.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed very briefly as in the morning business.

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

HAVE THE CUBAN PEOPLE BEEN SOLD DOWN THE RIVER?

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at noon today, Attorney General Reno made a formal announcement that has dismayed the Cuban people.

The Attorney General, speaking for the President, announced that effective immediately the Cubans interdicted at sea will be forcibly returned to face the wrath of Fidel Castro.

Mr. President, of course, Mr. Castro has said he will take no punitive action against Cubans forcibly returned to his tyranny. But the Cuban people, many of whom died before firing squads, and others who languished for years as political prisoners in Castro's prisons, learned the hard way the value of Mr. Castro's word.

Mr. President, there has been another sad and tragic moment involving the Clinton administration's dealings with the Cuban people. I am already receiving in my office an endless stream of telephone calls and faxes from Cuban-Americans who feel they have again been betrayed by the administration.

For more than 35 years, Mr. President, the United States has been a safe haven for Cubans fleeing Castro's repressive Communist dictatorship. Last year, Mr. President, the Clinton administration began a reversal of this policy. Cuban Americans now appropriately fear that the administration has joined hands with the Castro regime in an effort having the continuing effect of enslaving the people of Cuba.

Today's announcement, described as the result of secret negotiations between the administration and the Castro regime, is seen as a sign that the United States will now work in partnership with Castro's brutal security apparatus by intercepting and capturing escaping Cuban refugees and turning them over directly to Castro's thugs. How sad it is, Mr. President, that the United States is now viewed as an accomplice in Castro's repression of the Cuban people.

Mr. President, if the United States wants to send naval vessels to surround Cuba, it should not be done to cooperate with the Castro regime. It should be done to blockade and strangle his brutal dictatorship once and for all. This development is another reason why Congress must pass the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act. In the face of this vacillation, the Congress must reaffirm that United States policy is to isolate and replace Fidel Castro, not to keep the Cuban people imprisoned in Castro's tropical gulag.

I ask unanimous consent the full text of the statement issued at noon by the Attorney General, Ms. Reno, be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

STATEMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO REGARDING CUBAN MIGRATION

I would like to make an announcement regarding Cuban migration.

It has long been the policy of the United States that Cubans who wish to migrate to the United States should do so by legal means. The U.S. Interests Section in Havana accepts and processes requests for visas, and it also operates an in-country program for those Cubans who seek refugee status for entry into the United States.

Pursuant to this policy, last August I announced that Cubans attempting irregular means of migration to the United States on boats and rafts would not be allowed to enter this country, but rather would be brought to the United States Naval base at Guantanamo Bay, where they would be offered safe haven.

Last September, following negotiations with representatives of the Cuban government, the United States announced that it would increase Cuban migration to the United States to permit 20,000 legal entrants per year. This program, which includes immigrant visas, refugee applications, and a Special Cuban Migration Program designed to broaden the pool of potential entrants, is on target, and we expect to continue legal Cuban migration at this level in the years to come. This year alone, we expect to bring 7,000 Cuban refugees to the United States through our in-country program in Havana.

Following recent diplomatic exchanges with the Cuban government, the United States is now prepared to take another important step towards regularizing Cuban migration between Cuba and the United States.

First, with respect to Guantanamo:

We will continue to bring to the United States those persons who are eligible for special humanitarian parole under the guidelines announced by the President last October and December.

The government of Cuba has agreed to accept all Cuban nationals in Guantanamo who wish to return home, as well as persons who have previously been deported from the United States and persons who would be ineligible for admission to the United States because of criminal record, medical, physical, or mental condition, or commission of acts of violence while at Guantanamo.

All other Cubans in the safe haven will be considered for entry into the United States on a case-by-case basis as "Special Guantanamo Entrants", bearing in mind the impact of paroles on state and local economies and the need for adequate sponsorships. As has been true for all Cubans and Haitians previously paroled into the United States from Guantanamo, sponsorship and resettlement assistance will be obtained prior to entry. The number of these "Special Guantanamo Entrants" admitted to the United States will be credited against the 20,000 annual Cuban migration figure, beginning in September of this year, at the rate of 5,000 per year (regardless of when the Special Guantanamo Entrants are admitted).

Second, with regard to future irregular migration:

Effective immediately, Cuban migrants intercepted at sea attempting to enter the United States, or who enter Guantanamo illegally, will be taken to Cuba, where U.S. consular officers will assist those who wish to apply to come to the United States through already established mechanisms. Cubans must know that the only way to come to the United States is by applying in Cuba.

All returnees will be permitted to apply for refugee status at the U.S. Interests Sections in Havana. Cuba is one of only three countries in the world in which the United States conducts in-country processing for refugees.

The Government of Cuba has committed to the Government of the United States that on one will suffer reprisals, lose benefits, or be prejudiced in any manner, either because he or she sought to depart irregularly or because he or she has applied for refugee status at the U.S. Interests Section. The Cuban Government made a similar commitment in the context of the September 1994 agreement, and we are satisfied that it has been honored. Moreover, the Government of Cuba will permit monitoring by U.S. consular officers of the treatment of all returnees.

Migrants intercepted at sea or in Guantanamo will be advised that they will be taken back to Cuba, where U.S. consular officials will meet them at the dock and assist those who wish to apply for refugee admission to the United States at the Interests Section in Havana. They will be told that the Government of Cuba has provided a commitment to the United States Government that they will suffer no adverse consequences or reprisals of any sort, and that U.S. consular officers will monitor their treatment. They will also be told that those persons who seek resettlement in the United States as refugees must use the in-country refugee program.

Measures will be taken to ensure that persons who claim a genuine need for protection which they believe cannot be satisfied by applying at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana will be examined before return.

Cubans who reach the United States through irregular means will be placed in exclusion proceedings, detained, and treated as are all illegal migrants from other countries.

The United States Government reiterates its opposition to the use of violence in connection with departure from Cuba and its determination to prosecute cases of hijacking and alien smuggling.

These new procedures represent another important step towards regularizing migration procedures with Cuba, finding a humanitarian solution to the situation at Guantanamo, and preventing another uncontrolled and dangerous outflow from Cuba.

The United States policy towards Cuba remains the same. We remain committed to the Cuban Democracy Act and its central goal—promoting a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. We will continue to enforce the economic embargo to pressure the Cuban regime to reform. We will continue to reach out to the Cuban people through private humanitarian assistance and through the free flow of ideas and information to strengthen Cuba's fledgling civil society. And we remain ready to respond in carefully calibrated ways to meaningful steps toward political and economic reform in Cuba.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

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

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON CUBAN MIGRATION

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, it had not been my intention to speak at this moment but I happened to be on the floor and heard the Senator from North Carolina. I would like, if I could, to put in context what the Attorney General announced at noon today.