

I would like to extend my condolences to Lucy's husband, Ely Maurer, to the rest of the Maurer family, and to the colleagues and friends in Maryland and across the country who are mourning Lucy's passing. I share, and the U.S. Senate shares, your tremendous loss. ●

CUBAN POLICY

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the most shortsighted policies we have anywhere is our policy toward Cuba.

The reality is, we are letting a small group dictate American policy because of domestic political interests.

There is not a single nation in the world that doesn't believe our policy toward Cuba is counterproductive.

Our aim should be to get the Government of Cuba to ameliorate their hard stands on human rights issues, and it has had the opposite effect.

Certainly, if we had followed a different course, it is hard to believe the situation could be any worse than it is right now.

Recently, the New York Times had an article by Larry Rohter titled, "Latin American Nations Rebuke U.S. for the Embargo on Cuba."

They are right in their criticism.

I ask that the New York Times article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the New York Times, June 6, 1996]

LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS REBUKE U.S. FOR THE EMBARGO ON CUBA
(By Larry Rohter)

PANAMA, June 5.—In a display of near unanimity, the countries of the Organization of American States, gathered here for their annual meeting, singled out the United States, criticizing the recent extension of the economic embargo against Cuba as a probable violation of international law.

The criticism came in the form of a resolution aimed at the Helms-Burton Law, which President Clinton signed into law in March.

A vote on Tuesday on the measure, which had 32 co-sponsors, ended with the United States, traditionally the organization's dominant force, as the sole dissenter.

Dismayed by the strong language of the resolution, the United States fired back with a harsh assessment of the behavior of some of its closest allies, including many members of the organization who have supported American intervention in the past in places such as Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

In a stinging speech at the gathering, which ends on Friday, the United States delegate, Harriet C. Babbitt, condemned the resolution as an act of "diplomatic cowardice."

"What is the message that will emerge from this assembly?" she asked her fellow delegates. "That the hemisphere will flex its muscles to defend and justify illegal expropriations, but remain silent while our brothers and sisters in a neighboring state remain subject to the caprices of a brutal dictator? Where is our sense of perspective?"

Cuba was "excluded" from the organization in 1962 as part of an American diplomatic effort to isolate Fidel Castro and the Communist Government he continues to lead.

Since then, Cuban officials and the state-controlled press have regularly ridiculed the

organization as a clique of subservient puppets manipulated by the United States.

In Havana, a spokesman for the Cuban Foreign Ministry said the resolution "was really a surprise," and thanked organization members for their support.

The Helms-Burton legislation tightens the 35-year-old economic embargo against Cuba by allowing American citizens to sue foreign companies that "traffic" in property seized from Americans and denies executives of those companies the right to enter the United States.

Congress overwhelmingly approved the bill after Cuban Air Force pilots shot down two small civilian aircraft owned by Cuban exile groups in February, killing four people.

The resolution is directed against all laws that "obstruct international trade and investment" or "the free movement of persons."

In addition, the Inter-American Juridical Committee, an independent body that advises the organization on legal matters, was asked to "examine the validity under international law" of Helms-Burton and to prepare a "judgment" as soon as possible.

Coming from a forum that has always done its best to avoid controversy, the vote could only be interpreted as a stunning defeat for the United States and a rejection of the Clinton Administration's get-tough policy toward Cuba.

But at a news conference after the rebuke, Ms. Babbitt tried to put the best face on the vote and to mend some fences. "We have in effect agreed to disagree on this issue," she said. "We share the same goal, but we disagree on the methods of attaining that goal."

Privately, members of the American delegation said they were distressed not only with the language of the resolution but also by the manner in which it was pushed through. They also complained of being given insufficient time to consult with Washington. ●

OPERATION SMILE WINS CONRAD N. HILTON HUMANITARIAN PRIZE

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, there are kind hearts in the world.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation—for the first time—is awarding a \$1 million prize to a humanitarian organization committed to alleviating human suffering.

Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Operation Smile, a Virginia-based organization dedicated to bringing smiles to the world's children. Operation Smile, an international, volunteer, medical-services organization, provides reconstructive surgery to indigent children suffering from facial and functional deformities.

I am delighted that Operation Smile was chosen by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

Both Operation Smile and the Hilton Foundation fuel the spirit of volunteerism. Operation Smile, embracing the mission of all humanitarians, touches the face of humanity, literally, figuratively, and spiritually. For centuries, throughout much of the world—even in our great Nation—children born with facial deformities were sentenced to a life of private pain and public humiliation. Operation Smile was founded in 1982 by the husband-and-wife team of Dr. William P. Magee, a plastic sur-

geon, and Kathleen Magee, a nurse and social worker. I particularly want to commend the founders of Operation Smile, their vision and hard work have made the dreams of many youngsters come true.

The generous award by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation will help keep this hope alive. By establishing this prize, the foundation, according to the executive director of the Hilton Prize, seeks to recognize and support all persons working hard, and often under difficult conditions, to alleviate human suffering.

Today, selfless volunteers with Operation Smile provide reconstructive surgery and related health care to children around the world. Thanks to the unwavering dedication of Operation Smile volunteers, over 18,000 children have witnessed a personal miracle and embarked on a new life.

Internationally, Operation Smile educates and trains local medical professions and creates an infrastructures for volunteer and financial support—all of which contributes to a local network of self-sufficiency.

From the State of Virginia, as well as the other 28 chapters around the country, Operation Smile reaches into schools and communities, identifying children in need of reconstructive surgery. With the unwavering support of volunteer surgeons and hospitals, Operation Smile insures that no child will suffer through a childhood made traumatic by facial disfigurement.

Mr. President, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation could not have chosen a more worthy organization. Operation Smile deserves a standing ovation. In fact, I applaud both Operation Smile and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for showing the world the promise of hope and the power of smiles. ●

CAPT. DONALD A. HEMPSON, JR.

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor and congratulate Capt. Donald A. Hempson, Jr. on 27 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Navy. Today, June 19, 1996, Captain Hempson will retire from the Navy as commander of Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service [DRMS] located in Battle Creek, MI. During Captain Hempson's 3-year command, DRMS made great strides in its mandate of reutilization, transfer, and donation of excess government property. Captain Hempson successfully commanded the service under many changes brought about by "Reinventing Government" initiatives. His vision and drive were key to the success of DRMS during this transitional period.

DRMS reuse, transfer, and donation of government property reached an all-time high of \$3.5 billion in 1995, a 21-percent growth since 1993. The DRMS Sales Program saved American taxpayers over \$302 million last year, an increase of 134 percent since 1993. These money saving programs have enjoyed great success during the past 3 years,