

in providing the liquidity and the capital that allow him to continue to exist.

He makes modest changes in how he does business, which have no bearing in reality upon ever becoming truly democratic or allowing a true market system to work, and he is given a reward to do this by the continued open door policies of these allies who pour these dollars in through the businesses that operate there.

In Title III of the law that is known as Helms-Burton that was passed by the last Congress, there was a provision very important to stopping this. That provision stated that an American business or an individual who had been harmed because a business at one time before Castro in Cuba that was American had been confiscated by Castro, confiscated by the Cuban government after the revolution that brought Castro to power, a person, an American situated in this case, either a business or an individual, could sue a company or a business in another nation, Europe or Canada or Mexico or wherever, who did business by investing in and supporting in some way the business entity that had been confiscated that had previously been an American-owned business in Cuba; sue in the courts of the United States for damages, sue in order to be able to recover the lost value of the property that had been confiscated from the companies doing business to allow Cuba to continue to exist by propping up the confiscated property and the business that might have been confiscated, if you will.

What President Clinton has done is succumbed to our allies who have said, oh, this is horrible. You are going to allow our businesses in our countries to be sued for damages by American citizens because they are investing in Cuba and in formerly American property interests in Cuba.

And President Clinton, who has the power under this bill, and I am not at all sure he ought to have it, but he has the power under this bill for every 6-month period to waive these provisions, just on January 3d, a few days ago, January 3d of this year, for the second time since Helms-Burton has been the law, chose to waive it and say we are not going to enforce that at this point in time.

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There can be no lawsuits, no litigation in American courts against foreign corporations, foreign business interests that invest in previously owned American property in Cuba or American interests in Cuba. That is a horrible decision by the President. It is outrageous what he did. It is something that kowtows to the big business interests of our allies and is detrimental to everything that we believe in and to the best interests of our national security and our interests in this hemisphere.

Our interest is in having democracy in Cuba and that can only happen when

the noose is tied tightly enough around Castro and the current Cuban regime that he is ousted and that a new government comes into place. The economy of that country is dependent upon these investments and anything we can do to stop the money from flowing and the support from flowing into this government and into its economy is essential and important and critical, not only to the freedom-loving people who want to be free in Cuba, Cuban Americans and Cubans everywhere, but also to America, the United States' national security interest.

I submit that the President has also played a lot of politics with this. He has indicated that while he is only doing it for 6 months that he plans to make this suspension indefinite, that he apparently has no intention of ever letting title III become law and effective and allow these lawsuits to take place. That is not what he indicated when he first signed that bill. There was no indication of that. He said to the Cubans of the world and the Cuban American community in particular, I am signing Helms-Burton, I am proud of it, support me in the next election, support my party in the next election and you will see that I am true to my word and we will tighten the noose around Castro and bring about more democracy.

Oh, I know there are those who are going to say, well, there is some bargaining going on, there is some quid pro quo, there is some progress being made, and so on and so forth.

There is no real progress being made. Castro's playing us for a sucker, if that is the case, and this administration is blind to that fact. You cannot have your cake and eat it, too, Mr. President. You must understand that if we are to end this tyrannical dictatorship south of the United States, only 90 miles off our coast, a true embargo has to be enforced, a true economic embargo. And this provision, this title III provision of the Helms-Burton law allowing Americans to sue in court companies abroad that are doing business and investing in American interests, formerly American interests in Cuba, has to be allowed to go forward. And if it does, then and only then do we have a chance of ousting Castro in some more peaceable manner other than short of some invading force, which none of us are predicting or expecting or advocating.

But we do need to do what we have to do, and I believe, Mr. President, that you have made a very big mistake in this regard, and I think it borders upon hypocrisy for others to say that this is a wonderful piece of legislation and then we are not going to let it go into play and not going to enforce it. That is exactly what some have said.

I hope and pray that my colleagues will join with me in the next few months as we go back and revisit this issue legislatively. If the President is not willing to enforce title III of Helms-Burton and is going to continue

to waive it, then I would suggest it is within our power and this Congress should pass a law that says that that provision of title III is no longer eligible for waiver, that it indeed is the law of this land, that Americans who formerly had an interest in Cuba can sue foreign companies investing in those property interests in Cuba, to heck with what the President has to say about it. He should not even have a say at all, if that is the way he is going to act on this proposition.

I would urge my colleagues to examine it. It is a very important ingredient in our foreign policy. We should never have allowed a dictatorship to exist for 37 years of such a vile nature as we have in Castro south of here, just 90 miles off our coast. And there is no reason, no reason to allow our allies and their business interests to continue to prop up that dictatorship with its human rights violations any longer. The time has long since passed to do something about it. Let us act in this Congress to force the hand of this President and to allow American citizens to sue, at the very least to try to bring some pressure that can be legitimately brought on the Cuban regime in addition to enforcing the embargo and whatever else we can do within our powers.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JOHN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. THURMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FURSE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OBEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GEKAS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, on January 9.

Mr. GEKAS, for 5 minutes, today.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JOHN) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. MATSUI.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Mr. KLECZKA.

Mr. CONDIT.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. POMEROY.

Mr. MENENDEZ.

Mr. VENTO.

Ms. DELAURO.

Ms. ESHOO.