

education and health care to ever give that up. It will be some sort of socialism.

"Don't misunderstand," he adds, when I ask about the one piece of bread a day. "things here are difficult now, but there is absolutely no question that life under Batista was far worse for most Cubans. What you have to recognize is this: Cuba has always had one corrupt form of government or another."

While we are in Havana, everyone is talking about the International Trade Fair, an annual event that showcases products from countries worldwide (72 of them at this fair). Finally, I decide to go to the new exposition grounds outside the city with Roberto, a translator for the medical program that brought us to Cuba. The fair is jammed with people. Cuba is displaying pharmaceuticals, rum and cigars, and there are sparkling new cars from Japan and France, shoes from Italy, tablecloths from Mexico, furniture from Canada and children's clothing from Panama. As Roberto seats himself longingly behind the wheel of a shiny little yellow Fiat mounted on a revolving stand, my eye falls on an Argentinean food exporter's display of Oreo cookies, Ritz crackers, Libby's Vienna Sausages, Wrigley gum, M&M candies, Kellogg's Frosted Flakes and Froot Loops.

Will Cuban children get to eat Froot Loops despite the U.S. embargo? Roberto rolls his eyes, but declines further comment.

I buy lunch at a sunbaked outdoor cafe, and we dine greedily on a cholesterol nightmare of fried chicken, french fries, beer and ice cream. Four musicians—two guitar players, a man on a bongo drum and another on maracas—suddenly appear at my elbow, grinning with mock flirtatiousness and breaking into the songs their fathers sang to diners in the cafes of Obispo Street in the 1950s: "Besame Mucho" and "Perfidia." I am overcome with nostalgia and tip generously, and they repeat the two songs over and over. And then, with almost manic zest, they break into a long song about Che Guevara.

The next day, at the airport gate, waiting hours for our return flight, we Americans—doctors, missionaries, journalists—exchange stories about the charm of the people we've met and the hardships we've witnessed. No one has answers.

The airport's air conditioning has been turned off to save electricity. Everyone is hot and avid to leave. But everyone wants to return "someday."

"Bring soap," we remind each other. "Next time don't forget to bring everyone a few bars of soap."

WAYS & MEANS

Tourist travel to Cuba is severely restricted by the U.S. government. To travel to Cuba legally, Americans must have a passport and visa and obtain a license from the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, D.C. 20020, 202-622-2480). OFAC has a fax-back system (202-622-0077) offering a dozen documents detailing the guidelines associated with travel to Cuba.

Those who may visit Cuba under an official Treasury Department license include: journalists who are regularly employed by a news organization; official government travelers; members of international organizations of which the United States is also a member, traveling on official business; persons making a once-a-year visit to relatives in Cuba in circumstances of extreme humanitarian need; and travelers who have received specific licenses from OFAC before they go. These legitimate travelers can bring home \$100 worth of Cuban goods.

A number of air and travel providers are authorized by the Treasury Department to arrange trips to Cuba for qualified travelers.

One of the best known, Marazul Tours (4100 Park Ave., Weekauken, N.J. 07087, 1-800-223-5334), will advise you about eligibility and the procedure for obtaining a Treasury license. Once you obtain the license, the agency will provide a visa, plane tickets and hotel reservations. For groups, it can set up a program in Cuba if needed.

Visa information also is available from the Cuban Interest Section, 2369 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009, 202-797-8518.

Despite the restrictions, there are indeed American tourists in Cuba. Plane tickets to Cuba and a visa—a separate tourist card—can be obtained in Canada, Mexico or the Bahamas. But beware. Attempts to catch U.S. tourists returning from Cuba have been stepped up, and U.S. Customs officials may now greet you in Nassau or Cancun as you step off your flight.

CHILDREN'S NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I am introducing a very important piece of legislation, and I am joined by 14 of my Democratic women colleagues. This legislation is called the Children's National Security Act, and I want to spend a few minutes this evening telling my colleagues about it.

I am sure we all remember the phrase, women and children first. Well, sometimes I think that we have forgotten that phrase and we think only of children last.

I just got a recent report of the state of America, and our priorities and children do not do very well in that. We are first in military technology, we are first in defense expenditures, but we were 18th in infant mortality, 17th in low birth weight rates, and we are very last in protecting our children against gun violence. In fact, of the 26 industrialized nations, the deaths of U.S. children account for three out of four from gun violence out of all 27 nations.

So my bill is a conglomeration of lots of very good pieces of legislation. It is about priorities and funding what is really important to our Nation's families.

President Clinton said in his State of the Union Address this year, education is a critical national security issue for our future. The problem is that his budget request called for \$234 million more for the military than it does for education.

In the bipartisan budget agreement adopted by the House, over half of our discretionary spending for the next 5 years, in fact, 52 percent will go to the Pentagon. That means that everything else must be divided up of the 48 percent. Fifteen Democratic women Members have joined together and we have submitted 24 pieces of legislation in this omnibus bill. The Children's National Security Act is deficit-neutral, it is funded with savings from the Pentagon.

Among the initiatives included are health insurance for kids, health care

research and education, assistance for caregivers, multi-generational foster care, firearm child safety lock requirements, school construction, and increasing economic security for families.

The gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. HOOLEY] has contributed legislation to promote multi-generational foster care. That is building on something we do in Oregon very successfully. The gentlewoman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD] has included the Firearm Child Safety Lock Act. This is an act which says that the child safety lock must be placed on guns sold in America.

The gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY] has included the partnership to rebuild America's schools. One time, Mr. Chairman, the schools of America were the pride of America, but they are crumbling today. The General Accounting Office has estimated we need \$112 billion to repair them.

□ 1730

My contribution to the bill is a private insurance reform legislation called Kids Only. It will require that insurance companies provide an affordable policy to cover children from birth to age 16. These are available in Oregon, and they should be available across the Nation.

I believe it is time to change the focus of our priorities, to reflect that national security means providing children a quality education, access to health care, and a safe place to live and learn. We cannot continue to invest in outdated Cold War weapons systems while we neglect our children.

Our bill will improve the lives of America's children. It provides real national security by addressing our children's critical needs. There is wide agreement now that we must balance the Federal budget, but as we balance it, we must make tough fiscal choices. The National Children's Security Act is about priorities, funding what is truly important to our Nation's families.

As Congress makes those tough fiscal decisions necessary to balance the budget, we must consider our real national security, our children. The Democratic women in the House of Representatives have joined together to provide for children's access: Access to health care, a safe environment, a quality education. The Children's National Security Act puts our children first, and that, Mr. Speaker, is exactly where they belong.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GINGRICH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET
LESHER-THORSTENSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mrs. TAUSCHER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, the Tenth Congressional District of California was shocked and saddened last week by the untimely death of one of its true community leaders, Margaret Leshler-Thorstenson. Some might say a shining light was dimmed in Contra Costa County with the passing of Margaret Leshler. I say the light will continue to burn bright through her many gifts of generosity, kindness, and friendship.

As individuals and as a community, we are richer for having had Margaret Leshler in our lives. Mrs. Leshler was an extraordinary woman who had many facets to her life: A mother, wife, businesswoman, philanthropist, and friend. In each role she exemplified a spirit of voluntarism and generosity that all of us constantly strive to achieve. In every cause or endeavor upon which she embarked, she would give 110 percent of herself. Throughout all of her community service, Margaret Leshler realized that her family and friends were her foundation.

I had the occasion to meet Margaret Leshler through the Battered Women's Alternative of Contra Costa County, a Contra Costa organization dedicated to aiding and assisting women in need.

In 1990 she established the Margaret Leshler Transitional Housing and Employment Center. She not only gave financially to the program, but she also spent countless hours meeting and talking to the women who went through the center. Mrs. Leshler was always there to listen and support anyone who needed her help.

As first vice president for Leshler Communications, the newspaper chain founded by her late husband, Dean Leshler, she strove to make the papers an accurate reflection of the character and personality of Contra Costa County. Mrs. Leshler worked side by side with her husband to make the publication one of the most successful in California. Even after the newspapers had been sold, the current owners have carried on the exemplary quality established by Dean and Margaret Leshler.

Not many people knew that Margaret Leshler authored music and lyrics for 40 copyrighted songs and 14 poems. In 1982 she was honored with the Bronze Halo Award of Special Merit from the southern California Motion Picture Council for her contributions as a writer, songwriter, and vocalist. These talents inspired her to begin a wonderful collaboration with the arts and the community.

Through the Dean and Margaret Leshler Foundation, the magnificent building bearing the family name houses the California Symphony, the Diablo Ballet, and other theatrical groups. The center, along with many other buildings, are symbols of Mrs.

Leshler's tireless commitment to the betterment of the community.

Barry Jekoywski, the conductor of the California Symphony in Contra Costa County and associate conductor of the National Symphony here in Washington, captured the essence of Margaret Leshler's dedication to the arts when he said that she believed in the vision and importance of the arts in the community, especially for families and children.

Today her memorial service is taking place at the Dean Leshler Regional Center for the Arts, the very center that she was instrumental in establishing. Over 1,000 people are expected to attend today's service to pay tribute to the first lady of Contra Costa County.

It is difficult to explain to my colleagues what a special and unique person Margaret Leshler was. Many people's lives have been touched and blessed by her spirit, warmth, and kindness.

Here on the House floor, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to Margaret's husband, Collin Thorstenson, and her daughters Tricia Ryan Simonds, Wendy Alvs, Roxanne Gibson and Jill Heidt. This is a very difficult time for her family and all of Contra Costa County, an area that considered itself part of Margaret Leshler's family.

With some poetic license, I will borrow the words of Robert Frost to capture the inspiration and dedication Margaret inspired within all of us:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both and be one
traveler,

Long I stood and looked down one as far as
I could,

To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, just as fair,
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the
one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.

At a time when it was not popular to support causes like battered women's alternatives, Margaret Leshler took a path that most would not have ventured down. She neither sought approbation nor applause. In fact, many of her wonderful deeds never received public attention. She simply wanted to make Contra Costa County a better place for all of its residents. In the end, the paths she chose were eventually the paths that all of us have followed.

The many wonderful contributions Mrs. Leshler gave to our community will continue to thrive and flourish through the foundation established in her and Dean's name. We will miss her warmth and presence within our community, yet the light of her spirit will live forever in all the good that she has done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HANSEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LAFALCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

IN HONOR OF ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to notable accomplishments by Asian Pacific Americans as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is commemorated here in the Nation's Capital and in other cities nationwide. The annual celebration of this month of meaningful observance stems back to 1978, and is now carried on under Public Law 102-450, which permanently designated the month of May upon finding that "Asian and Pacific Americans have contributed significantly to the development of the arts, sciences, government, military, commerce, and education in the United States."

Comprising nearly 10 million, or 3.7 percent of the U.S. population, Asian Pacific Americans rank among the highest in our educational institutions, hold high political office and log advances in entrepreneurship. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 1994, nearly 90 percent of Asian Pacific Islander men and 80 percent of Asian Pacific Islander women aged 25 years and older had at least a high school diploma. In addition, an estimated 46 percent of men and 37 percent of women had at least a bachelor's degree.

Median income of Asian and Pacific Islander households in 1995 was \$40,614. Business ownership figures show that the number of businesses owned by Asian and Pacific Islanders increased 56 percent between 1987 and 1992, from 386,291 to 603,439.

Asian Pacific American visibility in government is also on the rise. My State of Hawaii boasts the first Filipino-American Governor, Benjamin Cayetano. Chinese-American Gary Locke succeeded in his bid for Governor of Washington State in last year's elections. In addition, there are 23 State Senators in Colorado, Hawaii and Oregon, and 40 State Representatives in Arizona, California, Hawaii, New Hampshire, New York, and Washington State. The membership of this body includes five Asian Pacific Americans, as well as two in the Senate, Senators Daniel Akaka and Daniel Inoué.

Of particular note are Asian Pacific Americans who, through singular dedication to the greatness of our Federal Government, have thrived and risen to positions of prominence in Federal departments and agencies. The following is a list of top-ranking Asian Pacific Americans in the 14 Federal Departments:

Agriculture: Lon Hatamiya, Administrator of Agricultural Marketing Service, and Jeremy