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OPPOSING THE MAKAH WHALE
HUNT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, recently one of the television networks presented a new production of Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. As we all know, this is a drama about a whale hunt in the 18th century. In this drama, Melville gives a detailed and gory account of a whale hunt.

Now, two centuries later, whaling has become one of the things that just is not done anymore. Because the world's whaling ships hunted whales almost to extinction 100 years ago, whales occupy a special place in our conscience. Protecting whales has become one of our civilization's most noble undertakings. But the struggling to protect these special animals is not over yet.

I regret that it is in my State, the State of Washington, that an Indian tribe has announced its intention to hunt whales again. The Makah tribe, backed by the U.S. Government, is preparing to repudiate rulings of the International Whaling Commission and kill four California gray whales each year.

Furthermore, it is evident that the tribe, with the backing of the United States Government, is willing to set a trend which will lead to a resurgence of whaling around the world. And here is the reason: If they are allowed this hunt, 13 bands and tribes of Indians in British Columbia say that they will also begin to hunt whales.

Earlier this month, the Makahs met with other aborigines around the world to talk about whale hunting. They attempted to keep the meeting quiet by staging the meeting in Canada and avoiding the press. They intend to assert a "cultural subsistence" right to hunt whales. But here is the danger.

If a cultural subsistence is recognized, then what do we say to Japan and Norway, two nations that we have for years tried to get them to stop whale hunting but still hunt whales? If anybody has a cultural right to hunt whales, it is Japan and Norway. Whether or not the Makahs are justified in these claims, the real danger in allowing their hunt to go on is the encouragement it will give to others around the world.

Mr. Speaker, this is a slippery slope. Once aborigines around world are whaling again, will that not give encouragement to nations who want to continue commercial whaling?

I have already mentioned Japan and Norway, and they continue to practice commercial whaling in violation of the International Whaling Commission. I have just learned that the Japanese and Norwegians were both represented at the Makah meeting in Canada earlier this month with the other aborigines. It is unimaginable that this kill-

ing could start up again on a commercial scale, starting in our State of Washington.

The gory drama in *Moby Dick* cannot be repeated in the 20th century. For the Nation, it will be a horrible spectacle certain to be televised. As the Makahs set out in their canoes, a media event will be created. The tribe's reputation and our Nation's reputation will be sullied as the Makahs pursue and kill their four gray whales. The gray whales swim together, and it is certain that more than four gray whales will be wounded or will die for the four that the tribe will take back to shore. Because they do not kill each whale; they have a lot of misses too and injuries.

But the worst aspects of the Makah whale hunt are the worldwide ramifications, the possible resurgence of commercial whaling. The 18th century killing described in *Moby Dick* will be repeated many times around the world. I shall continue to oppose the Makah hunt or any other killing of whales.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRES-
SIONAL RECORD OF WEDNES-
DAY, MARCH 25, 1998

THREATS TO U.S. NATIONAL SECUR-
ITY FROM CUBAN DICTATORSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE STEVEN SCHIFF

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House of Representatives just a few hours ago had the sad duty to report to us the death of one of our colleagues, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SCHIFF). So I would like to begin my remarks this evening expressing my sincere condolences to the Schiff family and letting them know that my prayers go out to them in this very difficult moment.

We will miss in this House STEVE SCHIFF. He was a great man. But I would say that he was really a great man, above all else, because he was a good man. He was a man of extraordinary integrity as well as great intelligence. He possessed a brilliant legal mind that he put to use serving not only this House but our country.

And so, I will certainly miss my friend and colleague STEVE SCHIFF. I will always recall with much affection how, based on the fact that he was of such discipline of mind, he was, for example, teaching himself Spanish and he would enjoy conversing in Spanish; and it was remarkable that just literally months after beginning his Spanish classes he had achieved a great fluency.

Anyway, we will miss, I will certainly miss my friend STEVE SCHIFF.

Mr. Speaker, in just a few days, and I think it is important for the American people to realize it, the Pentagon, the Department of Defense, is scheduled to make public a report, an assessment, of the security risks, the danger to the national security of the United States posed by the Cuban dictatorship just 90 miles from our shores.

A number of us here in Congress have received preliminary reports with regard to that assessment that will be made public in just a few days by the Department of Defense, disturbing reports, because we are of the understanding, we have been led to believe that the Pentagon is about to say that there is, in essence, no threat from the Cuban dictatorship. That is a grave mistake if, in fact, that is the assessment that is made of the threat.

It is a grave mistake and it is really unfortunate. Because the only way in which the conclusion can be reached that there is no threat from the Cuban dictatorship 90 miles from our shores is based on a political decision, an imposition by the White House upon the Department of Defense with regard to the report, its threat assessment, of just a few days.

So if it is the case then, the preliminary reports that we have received, that in effect the Pentagon will say in a few days that there is no threat coming from the Cuban dictatorship, if that is the case, we, those of us in Congress who had received these preliminary reports are of the belief that a political decision is motivating that report.

Just a few days ago, a number of us wrote to the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State with regard to this very issue. And if I could, I would like, Mr. Speaker, to be able to read this letter:

"Dear Mr. Secretary,

"We are writing to express our concern about the ongoing national security threat from the Cuban dictatorship. Specifically, we are convinced that the Castro dictatorship is a major enemy of our efforts to shield America's frontiers from the drug threats, and we are additionally concerned about Castro's ability to develop biological and chemical weapons. Castro is technically capable of many of the same types of things we know Saddam Hussein is doing, and the Castro dictatorship is the only rogue regime that is 90 miles from our shores.

"We are appalled about current attempts to downplay the Castro threat and are deeply disappointed that the Department of Defense refuses to acknowledge Castro's ongoing threats to the United States. We have received extremely disturbing reports that the Department of Defense plans to officially minimize the threat assessment of Castro's Cuba and that this may be utilized to subsequently remove Castro from the State Department's terrorist list. Despite Cuba's economic situation, Castro remains a dangerous and