

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise for two reasons this evening.

First, I want to say, I would like to say, how embarrassed I was for the drug czar, Mr. McCaffrey, recently when I read wire reports that he continues to cover up the well-known, established, reiterated, longstanding participation by the Castro dictatorship in drug trafficking. This is an extremely serious reality, but the drug czar and other officials of this administration continue to cover it up. And so I make reference once again to the letter that, along with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), I sent General McCaffrey in November of 1996 in detail relating the evidence that has been made public; it is not classified, it is well known; of the longstanding and reiterated participation of the Cuban dictatorship in facilitating the importation of tons of Columbian cartel cocaine into the United States. And I asked that he answer, the drug czar, Mr. McCaffrey, our letters, that letter and subsequent letters, with the seriousness that this issue deserves.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION REFUSES TO RETURN  
"THE HUMAN RIGHTS"

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. I also rise, Mr. Speaker, because a very distinguished friend of mine in South Florida at this point is on a hunger strike. He is the leader of a movement known as the Democracy Movement. It is a peaceful movement that advocates change, democratic change, in Cuba.

And they have two vessels, and on December 10 they were heading south, and, pursuant to an executive order issued by the President, the Coast Guard boarded the vessel. It is known, it is called, The Human Rights, and it was the day that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was being commemorated, the anniversary of it, the 50th anniversary, in fact, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And the Coast Guard boarded it and found some documents that referred to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and since that day dissidents within Cuba had announced that they were going to attempt to demonstrate peacefully in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

This vessel, The Human Rights, was boarded by the Coast Guard and confiscated, and to this date the Clinton administration refuses to give it back.

Mr. Speaker, it is really unconscionable. More than even unfortunate, it is unconscionable.

So I asked the administration to note the hunger strike by Ramon Saul Sanchez to return The Human Rights vessel that was confiscated, as I say, for the crime, in quotes, of being found on the high seas with documents in support of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and here is the official communication of the Department of Treasury.

The Coast Guard received information; this is to Mr. Sanchez; that you

planned to disembark in Cuba, received information, by the way, from the Castro government, and that you planned to join a demonstration in support of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. During the boarding it was determined that there was sufficient evidence indicating that the vessel was intending to enter Cuban waters, and a decision was made to seize the vessel.

By the way, the evidence that the Clinton administration says existed with regard to intent to enter Cuban waters was finding documents that contained the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That is happening in this country at this time because of this administration. It is shameful, and it is time to release the vessel The Human Rights.

#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF REV- EREND CLARENCE E. STOWERS, SR.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, leadership can be defined in many ways: the position or office of a leader, capacity or ability to lead, giving guidance and/or direction. The definition which I like best is that leadership is the ability to get others to do what you want them to do but because they want to do it.

Such has been the life and such is the legacy left by the Reverend Clarence E. Stowers, Sr., former pastor of the Mars Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago who recently passed away.

Reverend Stowers grew up in Mason, Tennessee, married his childhood sweetheart, Miss Margaret Malone Stowers, and they were blessed to produce five children, one of whom has succeeded him, the Reverend Clarence E. Stowers, Jr., who is now pastor of Mars Hill.

In 1963, Reverend Stowers and 17 members of his family, friends and associates founded the Mars Hill Church and located it at 3311 West Roosevelt Road. However, within 2 years, the church outgrew that facility and relocated to a larger one at 2809 West Harrison Street. Twelve years later, the church acquired its current facility at 5916-22 West Lake Street, a massive structure which seats over 2,000 parishioners, houses their own elementary school and space for other programs and activities.

As Reverend Stowers' congregation grew, so did he. He earned both his Bachelors and Master of Arts degrees in religion and theology from the Chicago Baptist Institute and Trinity Evangelical Seminary.

Reverend Stowers recognized that being involved beyond the sanctuary of his church was vitally important to his ministry. Therefore, he helped to organize and served as President of the Illinois Baptist State Convention for 8 years. He also served as Recording Sec-

retary of the National Missionary Baptist State Convention of America, President of the West Side Ministers' Conference and the Religious Council on Urban Affairs.

Reverend Stowers had a powerful preaching style and delivered messages not only throughout America but also preached in Israel, Jordan, Egypt and in Rome, Italy. He was actively involved in his local community and hosted many of the large rallies during the Harold Washington political era in Chicago history.

He led Mars Hill in the development of its own school, the Musical Acres Resort in Adams, Wisconsin, a housing development of new homes near the church, and the establishment of a health ministry where people learn how to care for themselves and to make the most effective use of health resources within their community.

Mrs. Margaret Stowers, Reverend Clarence Stowers, Jr., Sharron Lynn, Robin Denise, Shawinette Michelle and Marcie, as well as the entire Mars Hill family can take pride in the leadership and accomplishments of their pastor, husband, father, friend, mentor and leader, the Reverend Clarence Edward Stowers, Sr. His work stands as a living testament, and his legacy shall continue through the life and works of those whom he has left behind.

#### BILLION DOLLAR BLACK HOLE

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is amazing to me that many in the environmental movement believe that we as a society do not spend enough money on implementation of the Endangered Species Act. They constantly blame the problem with the ESA on lack of funding. While a convenient excuse, it is simply not true.

When measured by how many species are recovered under its draconian rules and regulations, the ESA is a total failure. The rate of recovery has been minimal, and some listed species continue to go extinct. However, we continue to throw money at the ESA in the hope that somehow funding might recover species. This approach will not work.

Let us look at the numbers and how the ESA forces the Federal Government, the State and local governments and countless private citizens to waste money on a system that is broken. It is almost impossible to figure out how much money is being spent under the auspices of endangered species protection, but the figure is nearing a billion dollars a year by many estimates.

In 1998, Congress, concerned about rising ESA costs and seeking better information on how we were spending, required the Secretary of the Interior to report to Congress how much the Federal Government is spending directly on endangered species.