

human rights and to bring freedom to all Cubans.

"Laura and I continue to pray for your health and that of the many political prisoners held unjustly in your country.

"Sincerely, George W. Bush."

The President sent this letter. Obviously, Castro cannot stand the fact that a Cuban would receive such an honor as a letter of this type from the President of the United States.

Well, Dr. Biscet's trial, after having languished for month after month after month, without being even charged, his summary trial has been announced for commencement and perhaps for finishing, for termination on Monday. And there are reports that Castro's prosecutor will either ask for the death penalty for Dr. Biscet or, in an act of great totalitarian mercy, request life imprisonment.

This cannot continue. This cannot continue and the Cuban people cannot continue, as the gentleman stated, in this nightmare.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I imagine that now the Members of this body who may be well intentioned thought that we should do business as usual, as the gentleman well stated, with that dictator, will now realize that Castro is what he is. He is an assassin, he is a thug, he is a murderer, and he jails people for having computers in their homes.

So I would imagine and, of course, encourage everybody in this body to now join us, join the President of the United States, join the European Community in condemning this dictatorship and also making sure that we put pressure by applying every possible sanction possible to make sure that this nightmare goes away.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for being here this evening. We will come back next week. I know that the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) has been working hard, and we have been working along with her, on precisely a resolution to condemn this Stalinist crackdown on the peaceful pro-democracy movement in Cuba 90 miles from our shores in the strongest possible terms by this House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I will include for the RECORD the letter sent by President Bush to Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet that I previously referred to.

Mr. Speaker, we shall return.

PRESIDENT, GEORGE W. BUSH,

March 26, 2003.

Dr. OSCAR ELÍAS BISCET,
*Combinado del Este Prison,
La Habana, Cuba.*

DEAR DR. BISCET: Congratulations on your recognition by the International Republican Institute with its first Democracy's People Award.

Your work and your example are the embodiment of democratic values, including self-determination, free expression, and liberty. I applaud your courageous and dignified struggle for human rights and to bring freedom to all Cubans.

Laura and I continue to pray for your health, and that of the many political prisoners held unjustly in your country.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MCINNIS (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of surgery.

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. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today and April 7.

Mr. OXLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BONNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 7, 2003, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1661. A letter from the Deputy Associate Attorney General and White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

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1669. A letter from the Deputy Associate Attorney General and White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1670. A letter from the Attorney/Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1671. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report entitled, "Federal Assistance for Interjurisdictional and Anadromous Fisheries, Program Report 2001-2002"; to the Committee on Resources.

1672. A letter from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting notification that funding under title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as a result the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia has exceeded \$5 million, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1673. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Security zone; Cruise ship, Resurrection Bay, Alaska [COTP Western Alaska 02-010] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received February 27, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 760. A bill to prohibit the procedure commonly known as partial-birth abortion (Rept. 108-58). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.