

commitment and work for equal opportunity. Clearly, this giant of a human being has paved the way for the success of countless individuals. For this, we are deeply grateful.

During a time when bipartisanship cooperation is badly needed for addressing the critical issues of our time, Mr. Fletcher stands out as one who truly embodied this spirit. We personally remember his efforts at working "both sides of the aisle," never forgetting what was fair and good for Black America was good for our Nation. We owe Mr. Fletcher a tremendous debt of gratitude for setting this exceptional standard of leadership.

On July 21, 2005, Mr. Fletcher's wife Bernyce, his three children and the rest of his family and friends will gather in Washington, DC to celebrate his extraordinary life. Mr. Fletcher's work as a presidential adviser and a champion of civil rights and affirmative action shaped the course of countless individual lives. Mr. Fletcher's tireless advocacy for equal opportunity made higher education and professional success possible for entire sectors of our society that otherwise would not have had those chances, and the effects of his activism will continue to be felt for generations to come. On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, we thank Mr. Fletcher for his truly invaluable contributions to our society, and for his work in making success, opportunity and the American dream possible for all people.

SUSPEND RESTRICTIONS TO CUBA
TO ALLOW FAMILY ASSISTANCE
IN AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE
DENNIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a resolution to temporarily suspend restrictions on remittances, gift parcels, and family travel to Cuba in order to allow Cuban-Americans to assist their relatives in the aftermath of Hurricane Dennis.

I have long opposed the embargo against Cuba, as I strongly believe that restricting travel and trade is a failed policy that harms the people of Cuba, and works against the promotion of democracy on the island. This is clearly evidenced in the wake of Hurricane Dennis when due to political sanctions Cuban Americans are powerless to reach out and assist their loved ones in a time of need.

Hurricane Dennis was a disastrous force that killed 16 people, destroyed numerous buildings and homes and left Cuba with \$1.4 billion in property damage. The embarrassingly small \$50,000 in aid offered by the U.S. is not nearly enough to address the needs of the millions of Cubans who have been left without food, clean water, electricity, and shelter caused by the devastation of Hurricane Dennis.

It is unfortunate that the U.S. government is unwilling to make a substantial contribution to the humanitarian mission in Cuba, but to deny Cuban Americans the right to help their families in a time of overwhelming need is an outrage. It is a policy that is both unethical and un-American.

The Cuban people are the ones who are suffering and it is time to put politics aside and

ease restrictions to allow Cuban-Americans to help their families and assist in disaster relief. This disaster is a prime example of why U.S. policy towards Cuba must be reevaluated. As it stands there is no exception in the law for emergency situations on the island and is therefore inhumane and serves as punishment to the people who are most vulnerable: Cuban citizens.

The recent case of Sgt. Carlos Lazo and his inability to visit his sons in Cuba is another example of why rigid U.S. policy towards Cuba must be reevaluated. Sgt. Lazo deserves the opportunity to visit his sons in Cuba. His story has become well known to many in Congress through his activism in trying to change Cuba policy. He has served in war for his adopted Nation, and the fact that he is denied the ability to see his sons more often than once every three years is absurd and indefensible.

For years Cuba policy has been driven by the Cuban-American community in Miami. It is clear, however, that the community no longer supports a hard-line approach. Many Cuban-Americans feel betrayed that their government dictates which family members they travel to see and how often they may do so. Cuban-Americans should have the right to visit their families, send them gifts, needed supplies, and money without the government restrictions now in place.

Developing a relationship with Cuba is an important foreign policy goal and in order to achieve this goal a new and rational approach to relations between our countries is urgently needed, based on dialogue, open travel and increased trade.

[From the New York Times, July 6, 2005]

FLORIDA'S ZEAL AGAINST CASTRO IS LOSING
HEAT

MIAMI.—Fidel Castro is not dead, but he has haunted Miami for nearly 50 years. This is a city where newscasters still scrutinize Mr. Castro's health and workers conduct emergency drills to prepare for the chaos expected upon his demise. Spy shops still flourish here, and a store on Calle Ocho does brisk business in reprints of the Havana phone book from 1959, the year he seized power. But if Mr. Castro's grip on Cuban Miami remains strong, the fixation is expressed differently these days. The monolithic stridency that once defined the exile community has faded. There is less consensus on how to fight Mr. Castro and even, as Cuban-Americans grow more politically and economically diverse, less intensity of purpose. Some call it shrewd pragmatism, others call it fatigue.

In May, Luis Posada Carriles, a militant anti-Castro fighter from the cold war era, was arrested here on charges of entering the country illegally and was imprisoned in El Paso, where he awaits federal trial. Barely anyone in Miami protested, even though many Cuban-Americans consider Mr. Posada, 77, to be a hero who deserves asylum.

A month earlier, two milestones—the 25th anniversary of the Mariel boatlift, which brought 125,000 Cubans to the United States and transformed Miami, and the fifth anniversary of the seizure of Elián González—passed almost quietly.

When a Miami Herald columnist went to Cuba in June and filed dispatches critical of Mr. Posada, who is suspected in a deadly airline bombing and other violent attacks, indignant letters to the editor were the only protest. In the past, Cuban-Americans boycotted The Herald and smeared feces on its vending boxes to protest what they considered pro-Castro coverage.

This city where raucous demonstrations by exiles were once as regular as summer

storms has seen few lately. One theory is that the people whose life's mission was to defeat Mr. Castro and return to the island one day—those who fled here in the early years of his taking power—have grown old and weary.

"We are all exhausted from so much struggle," said Ramón Saul Sánchez, leader of the Democracy Movement, an exile organization that once ran flotillas to the waters off Cuba to protest human-rights abuses. Mr. Sánchez, 50, also belonged to Alpha 66, an exile paramilitary group that trained in the Everglades, mostly in the 1960's and 70's, for an armed invasion of Cuba, and later protested around the clock outside Elián González's house. Now, he said, he prefers less attention-grabbing tactics, quietly supporting dissidents on the island from an office above a Laundromat.

The subtler approach is gaining favor. Cuban-Americans have grown more politically aware since the Elián González episode, many say, when their fervor to thwart the Clinton administration and the boy's return to his father in Cuba drew national contempt. Americans who had paid little attention to the policy debate over Cuba tended to support sending Elián home, polls showed, and were put off by images of exiles blocking traffic and flying American flags upside down in protest.

"Elián González was a great lesson, a brutal lesson," said Joe Garcia, the former executive director of the Cuban-American National Foundation, a once belligerent but now more measured exile group. "It woke us up."

Mayor Manny Diaz, a Cuban-American whose political career took off after he served as a lawyer for Elián's Miami relatives, said he decided afterward it was more important to heal the wounds in Miami than to criticize the Castro government. Mr. Diaz did not mention Cuba in his State of the City speech this spring—an absence the local alternative newspaper called "downright revolutionary." In fact, Mr. Diaz said he had never used Mr. Castro's name to rouse support.

"I wish he'd get run over by an 18-wheeler tomorrow," Mr. Diaz said of Mr. Castro. "But as mayor, I'm supposed to fix your streets and your parks and your potholes."

Also revolutionary is that Cuban-Americans, solidly Republican since President John F. Kennedy's decision not to support the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, are reconsidering their allegiance. Most still stand by President Bush, which helps explain their silence after the arrest of Mr. Posada. Yet they also say Mr. Bush has repeatedly let them down.

He has continued the "wet foot, dry foot" policy that President Bill Clinton adopted, letting Cuban refugees who make it to shore remain in this country but sending back those stopped at sea. Mr. Bush also adopted new restrictions last year on visiting and sending money to relatives in Cuba, which all but the most hard-line exiles say hurts Cuban families more than Mr. Castro.

More recently, the Bush administration discussed reassigning to Iraq a special military plane it bought to help broadcast TV and Radio Marti in Cuba, a priority of exile groups.

"The Cuban-American community helped elect this guy," Mr. Garcia said, "and even then Cuban-Americans get short shrift."

Mr. Garcia made waves last fall by resigning from the Cuban-American National Foundation to join a Democratic advocacy group. José Basulto, the leader of Brothers to the Rescue, a group that flew over the Florida Strait in the 1990s seeking rafters in distress, held a news conference in 2003 to announce that he was abandoning the Republican Party.

But while Mr. Garcia, 41, has severed ties with the Bush White House, Mr. Basulto, 64, has hope. His new goal is the indictment of Mr. Castro's brother and chosen successor, Raúl Castro, for drug trafficking or for the 1996 shooting down of two Brothers to the Rescue planes by Cuban fighters, in which four men were killed.

Mr. Basulto announced in May that he was offering \$1 million for information that could lead to the indictment. So far, he said, he has received no word from Washington.

"The United States is duty bound, duty bound to act in bringing justice for these guys," Mr. Basulto said, speaking of the downed pilots. Like other outspoken exiles, he questions the administration's ousting of Saddam Hussein in Iraq before Mr. Castro.

"We don't want to see a double standard," he said. "We don't want to see democracy in Iraq and not in Cuba. We are owed that much."

His frustration was echoed by Miguel Saavedra, the leader of Vigilia Mambisa, a hard-line exile group. Mr. Saavedra said some exiles had been discouraging protests for fear of antagonizing the White House—but not his faction.

"We're not calming down," he said. "We're not tired. We haven't surrendered."

But when Vigilia Mambisa tried to rally support for Mr. Posada in May at the revered Cuban restaurant Versailles in Little Havana, and at the Torch of Friendship, a downtown monument, only a few dozen people showed up. Their shouts could not pierce the buzz of traffic.

The eclipse of the old exile passions is looming in a more literal way down the street from the Torch of Friendship, at the Freedom Tower, an elegant yellow beacon where more than half a million Cuban refugees were processed in the early years of the Castro government.

The family of Jorge Mas Canosa, the founder of the Cuban American National Foundation, once had plans to spend \$40 million restoring the building as a museum of the exile experience. The tower's new owner is Pedro Martin, a Cuban-American who remembers going there in the 1960s to pick up food for his family.

The museum is still in the works, but Mr. Martin's larger plan is to erect a 62-story condominium building around it, all but making the Freedom Tower vanish from the Miami skyline.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Chairman. I rise today to address H.R. 2601, legislation to authorize appropriation for the Department of State for FY '06 and '07. While I firmly support the underlying measure and the essential funding it provides, I opposed final passage to underscore my disappointment over several amendments that were made part of the legislation.

I opposed the Hyde amendment, which will withhold U.S. dues unless the international

body adopts a specified list of reforms. Based on the United Nations Reform Act, the Hyde Amendment also requires the U.S. to veto new or expanded peacekeeping missions if the reforms are not implemented. Reforms are necessary, but the Hyde Amendment requires unreasonable timetables for reform and requires punitive action that is counter-productive.

The Rohrabacher amendment also concerned me because it gives the appearance that we support the operations at Guantanamo Bay. I believe that our actions at Guantanamo are causing more harm than good for American interests as it has become one of the most potent propaganda and recruiting tools for terrorists.

Finally, I opposed the Ros-Lehtinen amendment which would have us to stay in Iraq indefinitely. I strongly believe that the American people have been misled into war with Iraq and much of what we have been told about this war has been wrong. It has created even more terrorists in the region. It has not made us more secure. It has made us less secure. It has diminished our standing in the world. It has even compromised our credibility as a defender of human rights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on Monday, July 18 and Tuesday, July 19, I would have voted "aye" on: Monday's Rollcall vote #380—Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass House Resolution 328; Monday's Rollcall vote #381—Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H. Con. Res. 175; Monday's Rollcall vote #382—Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H. Res. 364; Tuesday's Rollcall vote #383—Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 365; Tuesday's Rollcall vote #384—Passage of House Resolution 365; Tuesday's Rollcall vote #385—The Hyde amendment to H.R. 2601, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal 2006 and 2007.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, "Today, I rise to discuss the need for the United States to be a true leader in the fight against global poverty. More than 1 billion people live on less than \$1 a day and another 2.7 billion people struggle to survive on less than \$2 a day. So what do these numbers

really mean? They mean that well over half of the world's population is struggling in poverty and one-sixth of the world's population can't meet even the most basic needs for survival. This is morally unacceptable.

I applaud the President's leadership on the issue, including his commitments to increased debt relief and direct assistance to Africa that were discussed recently at the G-8 summit in Scotland. Programs like the Millennium Challenge Account, which have allowed us to increase development aid and target it more effectively, are an important part of the solution. But, the United States still lacks a comprehensive strategy to help eliminate extreme global poverty. We need to leverage development aid, debt relief, technical assistance and public private partnerships. We need to coordinate with world bodies, including the United Nations, in helping impoverished countries devise plans that will work for them.

I'm pleased that this bill includes language that will move us in the right direction. The language, that I requested be added to the bill as it was being drafted in committee, declares that the elimination of extreme global poverty should be a top foreign policy priority for the United States and that the U.S. should work with all the players involved in this fight, including developing and donor countries and multilateral institutions to coordinate polices to address global poverty. Most importantly, the language urges the President to develop a comprehensive strategy to eliminate extreme global poverty. It says this plan should include foreign assistance, foreign and local private investment, technical assistance, private-public partnerships and debt relief.

I'd like to thank Chairman HYDE and the entire International Relations Committee for including this language in the bill. The United States has the opportunity to take a firm leadership role in bringing relief and a better future for billions of people around the world. The time to act is now and we can get started with developing a comprehensive plan and I look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan fashion on increasing the United States commitment to global poverty."

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, yesterday I voted in favor of H.R. 2601 which authorizes multilateral aid for the Department of State, the primary diplomatic arm of our government. It is more important than ever that we resolve international conflicts through persuasion and negotiation where it is possible, and I believe this bill, on balance, strengthens our ability to pursue that strategy. I am also pleased that this bill takes much needed steps to dismantle global nuclear