

people and who denies his people basic liberties.

Please do not insult my adopted country in that manner.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY).

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Chairman, it is an important night tonight, because I find myself in between a fight with two sets of freedom fighters, two groups that care deeply about freedom. But the suggestion made by the last speaker, who is a dear friend of mine, that we are interrupting relations between families, in my view, is a little bit like saying that somehow the United States was responsible for a catastrophe visited upon us by Hitler because we refused to give Anne Frank lunch buckets before the Holocaust.

My colleagues, there is way too much at stake here to sit back and say that this is a totalitarian regime that we are going to do business with. I have freedom fighters, including the sponsor of this amendment, who is a hero of mine, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), who believes deeply in limited government. He believes deeply in free trade. He believes deeply in the things that make our country and free nations great. But I have to say that the question before us tonight is, are we going to accommodate, will we appease, will we compromise with, will we do business with, will we facilitate, will we provide basic resources to a dictator that has put his own people in jail, under the knife in prison, who has basically undermined every single basic liberty we have ever experienced?

Our own State Department has identified, as one of the sixth major exporters of terrorism, the Cuban government. Are we going to recognize that, or are we going to reward that and facilitate that? That is the question here tonight. The question is what Lady Freedom would do here tonight.

I have freedom fighters on both sides of this argument and people I respect. But fundamentally if we send the message to Castro that he and whoever replaces Castro can stay forever and punish freedom, throw 70 reporters in jail on an annual basis simply for reporting the truth, if they will constantly undermine what is good about our free world, then we have got to live with ourselves as the price comes due for allowing freedom to be undermined.

It is true that this is a policy that for some 45 years has not worked. The first 35 the Soviets supported them. With the last 10 years, we have had a chance to undermine Castro. Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to please oppose the amendment.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) has 5½ minutes remaining and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I think we have to stop and listen and look at what is going on here. What we are talking about is regulations that went into effect 7 days ago. These are new regulations. There was no oversight by Congress. We are providing the opportunity here to give that oversight and to do the checks and balances.

The regulations are anti-American because they only affect us. They do not affect Cubans. We are the ones that cannot do this. Our government is telling us that we cannot be compassionate Americans. We cannot send seeds, cannot send clothing, cannot send fishing equipment, cannot send soap to people in another country. And we are going to have to have a police force that goes out and enforces that? That is not a compassionate America.

We cannot be a country that says that we can leave no child behind when we cannot even send hygiene products to this country. We cannot. Americans cannot. We can send to every other kid in the world something that we cannot send to Cuba. That is not leave no child behind.

What are we afraid of? What are we so afraid of that we have to make these regulations so restrictive that we Americans just cannot send a goodwill package to people? How are we going to have friendships? How are we going to instruct about democracy? How are we going to talk about this great country?

This country is turning into the ugly American, the really ugly American by making these really dumb and anti-American restrictions; and we in Congress should lift them by voting for this amendment.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. We all know that Castro was kept alive for decades by the Soviet regime, and they have collapsed. So how does he stay alive? One of the things he is doing is he is making a lot of money from people that are going back and forth and back and forth.

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There are Americans essentially vacationing down there, and to say, You cannot send packages, you cannot go at all, I mean, these are gross exaggerations.

This is a very well-thought-out policy of the President of the United States, and we should support our President in this. And the Cuban Americans in my district, it amazes me for people to get up and say the Cuban Americans do not like this. The Cuban Americans in my district like this. They think it is a very good thing to do, that Castro is being helped by the previous policy and that this policy will be much, much better for our foreign policy interests, which happen to be to support freedom.

And I think this is a very poorly thought out amendment. Vote against it. Support the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) in this.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support for this amendment. This, to me, is a freedom issue, as the gentleman from Florida has indicated. I think everyone in this body is concerned about freedom in Cuba, and we should be, and we should do whatever we can to encourage it, but obviously some believe you can encourage freedom by sanctions, which has not worked very well, but it seems to boggle my mind that if we restrain freedom here, that we help freedom there.

This is what we are doing. We are restraining the freedom of our people to send a package, and of course not dealt with in the amendment, but travel as well.

The founders of this country gave strong advice to us, and for 100 years or so we followed it. They said friendship and trade with everyone who is willing, alliances with none; and that is pretty good advice. But what have we done in recent years? We have a hodgepodge when we deal with other countries.

Just think of what has happened recently. We took the gentleman from Libya, the so-called gentleman Omar Qadhafi, who is now scheduled to shoot four nurses and a doctor, and we have given him normal trade sanctions, and we are going to subsidize trade with him. And here he admits to having shot down one of our airplanes or blown up one of our airplanes. He is a terrorist, but here we are dealing with him in that way.

We have trade with China. Things have gone better with China, not worse.

Where are the free traders? It really bothers me when I hear the free traders who promote free trade in every other area except the freedom of an American citizen to send a package to Cuba.

I do not believe you can enhance freedom in Cuba by limiting the freedom of American citizens. We must be more open and more confident that freedom of choice by American citizens is worth something to defend; and I stand strongly for this amendment and I compliment the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) for bringing it to us.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment, and I will tell you why. Ask the Cuban exiles if they support this amendment. Every single one of them in my district says no. They know what Castro represents. Ask Cuban exiles all over.

I want to be able to walk into a free Cuba with the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), with the gentlemen from Florida, the DIAZ brothers, and the millions of people that