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House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. GILLMOR].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 31, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable PAUL E. GILLMOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] for 5 minutes.

CRISES IN OUR CARIBBEAN IMMIGRATION POLICY

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, our Caribbean immigration policy is a three-sided disaster. It is a disaster for Floridians, actually for all Americans, for Cubans, and for Haitians. When the Federal Government fails to control our borders or to enforce our immigration laws, the financial responsibility for that inevitably falls to the States. Florida in fact has borne the brunt of the combined impact of the last 2 years of ineffective Caribbean policymaking and inability to enforce laws designed

to create a fair and orderly asylum process which we all want.

We are talking here about hundreds of millions of dollars of unfair costs. Floridians recently applauded Senator BOB GRAHAM for his amendments to the unfunded mandates bill in the other body requiring that the Federal Government must acknowledge the cost of its failed immigration policy. No more ducking and hiding on this.

The Clinton White House has been unable to address the problems in our failed national immigration program. Perhaps it is because they are unwilling, perhaps because they do not know how. They keep repeating pledges to fix what is broken, but it is not happening.

In fact, the administration is headed in exactly the wrong direction in one important area. By negotiating and striking deals with Fidel Castro, the Clinton team is playing into the hands of what we know to be a brutal dictator who stands at the core of one of the most serious immigration enigmas we have. The White House has given him exactly what he wants, a safety valve to drive out a minimum of 20,000 Cubans a year, most of them dissidents, all headed for America, and the legitimacy that comes from a high-level dialog with the United States that gives Castro some cover. Of course, he is also getting a diversion from the internal human rights violations that are going on in Castro Cuba, including the inhumane sinking of the tugboat March 13.

Then there is Haiti where the administration's performance has been especially troubling. In what I would call a ham-handed effort to bring the military regime to its knees there, the White House slapped a brutal embargo on the poorest people in the hemisphere and then trumpeted a policy that said, "If you can make it out to international waters, we'll pick you up and give you a safe haven."

Is it any wonder that desperate Haitians came by the tens of thousands? It was a self-manufactured crisis that is now a serious infection festering under a band-aid solution.

At the height of the combined Cuban and Haitian crises this past summer, more than 30,000 Cuban refugees and thousands of Haitian refugees sat in limbo in the heat, in tent camps in Panama and Guantanamo, patrolled and operated by United States soldiers at a very substantial cost to United States taxpayers.

In the past few months, the administration has been quietly paroling many refugees into the United States, more than we know, we do not have a number, more than 1,000 from the Panama camps alone. No matter how much compassion Americans have for the plight of these refugees, and we do have compassion because of the miserable situations in their countries, they also know that this type of open-ended policy creates more problems than it solves. Why? Because the Federal dollars do not flow to the places where the refugees do, and when it comes time to settle these newcomers into the United States, there is no provision for them. It discourages individuals from using the orderly asylum process that is out there, which has worked well and served this country for years. And it encourages the truly desperate to take to the high seas in their rickety, overloaded boats, and sadly we have many examples of tragedy.

It is also a losing proposition for most of the refugees. The White House has just completed the process of returning Haitian refugees to their country, the last 4,000 dramatically against their will, literally kicking and screaming, being dragged off boats. These repatriations occurred despite the protests of the Haitian Government which asked for time to set up a system to reintegrate the refugees and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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