

In 1987 she became Director of the Office of Regional Programs and Integrity Reviews. Now she is Regional Commissioner.

Region II of Social Security is in fine hands. Thank you, Mr. President.●

HAITIAN CHILDREN AT GUANTANAMO BAY

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, the current issue of Time magazine includes a beautifully written article by Tammerliin Drummond describing the plight of more than 200 Haitian refugee children being kept at a place called Camp Nine at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba. The children escaped Haiti on rafts nearly a year ago, and many of them are orphans.

News has reached Guantanamo that the Cuban refugees living there will soon be admitted to the United States, yet there is no end in sight for the interned Haitian children. A report in the Washington Post over the weekend indicates efforts are being made to help the Haitian children, but under current United States policy, they are ineligible for "humanitarian parole" to enter the United States because democratic government has been restored in Haiti. The children will be returned to Haiti if relatives can be located there; 60 children have been repatriated thus far. Sadly, however, some of those children have ended up not with relatives, but living in the streets of Haiti.

I commend Tammy Drummond for calling attention to the awful conditions these children are enduring in Cuba. It is not easy for a reporter to gain access to the Haitian children at Camp Nine, but Tammy Drummond did it and we are in her debt. I hope her compelling account will be read widely in the executive branch, and that the children will be released from the camp as soon as possible.

I ask that Tammerliin Drummond's article from the May 22, 1995, issue of Time magazine be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From Time Magazine, May 22, 1995]

SUFFER THE CHILDREN—HAITIAN ORPHANS ARE STRANDED IN GUANTÁNAMO

(By Tammerliin Drummond)

At Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuban refugees cavort happily on the beach in a scene reminiscent of a Club Med. They have good reason to celebrate: soon they will be flying off to freedom in the U.S. Meanwhile, less than a mile away, more than 200 Haitian children lounge listlessly under drab green tents, seeking refuge from the harsh midday sun. Camp Nine, their home since last June, is a desolate patch of cactus-filled desert where the only sign of life is an occasional banana rat or iguana. A fence encircles the camp, which is guarded by American soldiers. The children, many of them orphans, have languished in this dusty purgatory for nearly a year. Despite the efforts of immigrants' rights groups, only a few of the Haitian minors—who range in age from infants to teenagers, including some who are pregnant—have been allowed to enter the U.S.

"When I heard that the U.S. was going to let 15,000 Cubans into the country and leave

450 Haitians in Guantánamo, I felt like someone had stuck me with a knife," says a 17-year-old boy. "This is a very cruel situation." (U.S. military officials will not allow the children to be quoted by name.) When Attorney General Janet Reno announced the new Cuban policy on May 3, dozens of furious Haitian teens first tried to organize a hunger strike with the younger children, then went on a rampage, pelting soldiers with rocks and setting tents on fire. No one was seriously injured in the melee, but a handful of soldiers and children ended up with cuts and bruises.

Earlier this year some of the children attempted suicide by drinking bleach. Marleine Bastien, a Miami social worker, counseled a desperate 16-year-old boy who tried to hang himself from a tree branch in February. He survived only because the branch snapped under his weight. "Many of these children have expressed suicidal ideas," says Bastien. "Are we going to have to wait for a fatality before something is done?"

During the rafter crisis last summer, more than 20,000 Haitians and 30,000 Cubans were intercepted at sea and delivered to hastily erected camps in Guantánamo. Among the refugees were 321 unaccompanied Cuban children, all of whom have since been paroled to the U.S. But of the 356 unaccompanied Haitian children who ended up at Gitmo, only 22 have been admitted to the U.S., because they needed medical attention or had a parent already in the States. Since the island has officially returned to democratic rule, immigration officials say, Haitians don't qualify for humanitarian parole. Some of these children were orphaned in Haiti, and set to sea alone or with friends; others saw their parents drown. Because of the violence the deprivation they have experienced, many of the kids are terrified of going back to Haiti.

Yet the official U.S. policy for these children is to locate relatives in Haiti and send the kids to them. So far, 60 Haitian children have been returned. But last week Florida Rural Legal Services released a report condemning the repatriations. "The claim that what is being done is in the best interest of the children is a farce," said Niels Frenzen, a public-interest lawyer who helped track down some of the returnees and found that many were homeless or living in squalor with strangers. "There is only one humane solution to this problem. Close down the camp and accept the generosity of the families and agencies willing to care for these young people, just as we have done for Cuban children."

According to Florida Legal Services, all but 40 of the Haitian children have U.S. sponsors lined up. "We told the State Department months ago that we had foster parents to sponsor these children," said Deacon Chris Baumann, spokesman of the U.S. Catholic Conference. Yet the children's advocates report that even in cases where they have located U.S. relatives, the State Department has refused to grant them entry. Helene Charles, a 36-year-old Haitian living in Fort Lauderdale, says she has been trying for months to obtain a visa for her 14-year-old son Kissene. She left him behind in Haiti with her mother, but she became ill and could no longer care for him. Kissene got on a raft with some friends, who got word to his mother that he was at Guantánamo.

U.S. authorities will say only that all cases are under review. "You can't just move them lock, stock and barrel to the United States and separate them from their families forevermore," said a State Department official. "You have to find out where each child's family is and go and look for the family." That can be a long, difficult process,

says the State Department, which hopes most of the children will be released from the camp by early July.

"We just want to get out as fast as possible and go elsewhere," says a 17-year-old boy who has a cousin in the U.S. "We are not criminals, but we are living in a prison."●

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF ROBERT A. SESSIONS

● Mrs. BOYER. Mr. President, I rise today to report that over the weekend California lost a great public servant. On Saturday, Barstow chief of police Robert A. Sessions died after a brief battle with cancer. Chief Sessions was a 28-year veteran of the department, and he will be missed by the people of Barstow and all who knew him.

Chief Sessions had a long and distinguished career serving his community. He graduated from high school in Butte, MT, in 1958, and subsequently received advanced degrees in education from Barstow Community College and in sociology from Chapman College. He also graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy, 125th session.

After holding the positions of patrol officer, K-9 officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain, Sessions was promoted to chief of police in 1985. During his tenure at the helm of the Barstow Police Department, Chief Sessions implemented numerous community policing programs and supervised special projects ranging from drug abuse resistance and education to the retired senior volunteer programs.

Chief Sessions was devoted to his family and his community. He married Carol Dawson in 1963 and the couple adopted two children, Jon and Jennifer. He joined the force as a reserve officer in 1967, and was sworn in as a full-time member of the Barstow Police Department the following year.

Chief Sessions was a licensed pilot and led an active life that included hunting, fishing, running, and golf. He was a positive role model for the young people of the city of Barstow and his presence will be greatly missed.

The memory of Chief Sessions' dedication to his family and his community will live in each of us as we remember a remarkable public servant.●

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1995

Mr. DOLE. I discussed that with the Democratic leader. It is our intent tomorrow, when we have an opportunity, to have back-to-back votes in order to save time so that we can reach the 10-hour period.

I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 1995; that following the prayer, the journal of the proceedings be deemed approved to date; that the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in