

Unfortunately, this is just one of a host of signs that things may be beginning to unravel in that small Caribbean nation. October 15 marked 1 year since more than 20,000 American troops returned President Aristide to his demisland nation.

Even as Vice President GORE traveled to Haiti to celebrate the first anniversary of that happy event, wire services began to report the Haitian Prime Minister, Smerce Michel, unable to get the support of the President for his vital economic reform proposals, had tendered his resignation.

While the American media was quick to suggest on Monday that he stepped down because of pressure from the incoming Parliament, the fact is that Prime Minister Michel has been fighting for many weeks against the rear guard action of left-leaning, antireform elements, and apparently anti-American activists in the Aristide government.

Why is this so important? Because the inability of the Aristide government to summon the collective will to make the economic reforms required to access \$1.2 billion international aid package means that Haitians could face their worst economic crisis to date.

For Americans, this ultimately could mean another costly refugee interdiction operation in the windward passage. While the Aristide government has been talking reform with the international community, there are troubling reports that, as happened in 1991, it may be actually working behind the scenes to gain control of key industries like flour, cement, sugar, and rice rather than privatizing as promised.

Already what were very promising bidding cycles for the cement and flour plants have been suspended indefinitely—not for lack of bids.

An unnamed international official quoted in the New York Times last week summed up well the frustration of working with a government that appears to be working dual agendas: "The President is not playing straight with us and that means we are on a collision course * * * it is unacceptable for him to give aid and comfort to the international community behind closed doors and then say something completely different to his own people." With the overwhelmingly Lavalas National Assembly seated last weekend with the blessing of the Clinton administration—but not of the Haitian political parties—President Aristide and his supporters now have a Parliament to rubberstamp the creation of a new cabinet and what is apparently their real agenda—the consolidation of power for the left and leftist authoritarian rule.

It should come as no surprise then that, after publicly stating his intention to depart, Aristide has said he will let his new Lavalas Parliament guide him with regard to his tenure in office. We may be further from the Presidential elections in Haiti than any of us dared to think—even though the 1987

Haitian Constitution says that President Aristide must go come February.

The U.S. House of Representatives has even passed the Goss amendment to encourage the Haitians to stick to that Constitution and elect a new president to lead them forward.

With almost \$3 billion American tax dollars on the line, rest assured that Americans across the country, myself included, are going to be looking to Port-au-Prince come February expecting a new Haitian President to take office and to help his people take the fate of their country back into Haitian keeping.

If that isn't going to happen, then the Clinton administration owes this Congress and the taxpayers of this country an explanation about what is happening and what is not happening, as they have promised.

These things matter for lots of reasons. They matter because we are the champions of democracy, and they matter because we have a lot of taxpayers' dollars invested, and when we do that we have an accountability to the world and to our taxpayers, and that accountability time has come.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We know that Your words of grace and truth reign in all eternity, O God, and today we pray that those same words will live in our hearts and minds and souls. O gracious Creator, from whom we have come and to whom we shall return, we pray that Your message of good will and understanding, of life and peace, of faith and hope and love, will prevail not only in the wonders of the heavens, but lead us in our tasks, guide us in our thoughts, forgive us in our errors, and bring us in the way everlasting. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TOURISM

(Mr. ROTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud as can be today, as chairman of the Travel and Tourism Caucus, to announce that as of last Friday, we had our 300th Member sign up as member of the Travel and Tourism Caucus. This is a most propitious time, because a week from today we are going to have the White House Conference on Tourism.

As my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, PAUL GILLMOR, representing the Fourth District, who became our 300th member knows, if you want to have jobs in America, then you have to be in sync with travel and tourism. It is the second largest employer in America. Travel and tourism employs 11 million people. That is why I am so delighted to point out today that the largest caucus in the Congress is the Travel and Tourism Caucus.

Next week we are going to have 1,700 people from all over America, every congressional district in America, will be converging on Washington for the White House conference on travel and tourism. From this conference, we are going to develop a strategy for the 21st century, because, as Nesbitt points out in his most recent book, in the 21st century travel and tourism is going to be the key to economic success.

In my district alone, Mr. Speaker, we have some \$700 million coming in from tourism. We have 302 members today. There is room for more. Please come and join.