

education and health care to ever give that up. It will be some sort of socialism.

"Don't misunderstand," he adds, when I ask about the one piece of bread a day. "things here are difficult now, but there is absolutely no question that life under Batista was far worse for most Cubans. What you have to recognize is this: Cuba has always had one corrupt form of government or another."

While we are in Havana, everyone is talking about the International Trade Fair, an annual event that showcases products from countries worldwide (72 of them at this fair). Finally, I decide to go to the new exposition grounds outside the city with Roberto, a translator for the medical program that brought us to Cuba. The fair is jammed with people. Cuba is displaying pharmaceuticals, rum and cigars, and there are sparkling new cars from Japan and France, shoes from Italy, tablecloths from Mexico, furniture from Canada and children's clothing from Panama. As Roberto seats himself longingly behind the wheel of a shiny little yellow Fiat mounted on a revolving stand, my eye falls on an Argentinean food exporter's display of Oreo cookies, Ritz crackers, Libby's Vienna Sausages, Wrigley gum, M&M candies, Kellogg's Frosted Flakes and Froot Loops.

Will Cuban children get to eat Froot Loops despite the U.S. embargo? Roberto rolls his eyes, but declines further comment.

I buy lunch at a sunbaked outdoor cafe, and we dine greedily on a cholesterol nightmare of fried chicken, french fries, beer and ice cream. Four musicians—two guitar players, a man on a bongo drum and another on maracas—suddenly appear at my elbow, grinning with mock flirtatiousness and breaking into the songs their fathers sang to diners in the cafes of Obispo Street in the 1950s: "Besame Mucho" and "Perfidia." I am overcome with nostalgia and tip generously, and they repeat the two songs over and over. And then, with almost manic zest, they break into a long song about Che Guevara.

The next day, at the airport gate, waiting hours for our return flight, we Americans—doctors, missionaries, journalists—exchange stories about the charm of the people we've met and the hardships we've witnessed. No one has answers.

The airport's air conditioning has been turned off to save electricity. Everyone is hot and avid to leave. But everyone wants to return "someday."

"Bring soap," we remind each other. "Next time don't forget to bring everyone a few bars of soap."

#### WAYS & MEANS

Tourist travel to Cuba is severely restricted by the U.S. government. To travel to Cuba legally, Americans must have a passport and visa and obtain a license from the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, D.C. 20020, 202-622-2480). OFAC has a fax-back system (202-622-0077) offering a dozen documents detailing the guidelines associated with travel to Cuba.

Those who may visit Cuba under an official Treasury Department license include: journalists who are regularly employed by a news organization; official government travelers; members of international organizations of which the United States is also a member, traveling on official business; persons making a once-a-year visit to relatives in Cuba in circumstances of extreme humanitarian need; and travelers who have received specific licenses from OFAC before they go. These legitimate travelers can bring home \$100 worth of Cuban goods.

A number of air and travel providers are authorized by the Treasury Department to arrange trips to Cuba for qualified travelers.

One of the best known, Marazul Tours (4100 Park Ave., Weekauken, N.J. 07087, 1-800-223-5334), will advise you about eligibility and the procedure for obtaining a Treasury license. Once you obtain the license, the agency will provide a visa, plane tickets and hotel reservations. For groups, it can set up a program in Cuba if needed.

Visa information also is available from the Cuban Interest Section, 2369 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009, 202-797-8518.

Despite the restrictions, there are indeed American tourists in Cuba. Plane tickets to Cuba and a visa—a separate tourist card—can be obtained in Canada, Mexico or the Bahamas. But beware. Attempts to catch U.S. tourists returning from Cuba have been stepped up, and U.S. Customs officials may now greet you in Nassau or Cancun as you step off your flight.

#### CHILDREN'S NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I am introducing a very important piece of legislation, and I am joined by 14 of my Democratic women colleagues. This legislation is called the Children's National Security Act, and I want to spend a few minutes this evening telling my colleagues about it.

I am sure we all remember the phrase, women and children first. Well, sometimes I think that we have forgotten that phrase and we think only of children last.

I just got a recent report of the state of America, and our priorities and children do not do very well in that. We are first in military technology, we are first in defense expenditures, but we were 18th in infant mortality, 17th in low birth weight rates, and we are very last in protecting our children against gun violence. In fact, of the 26 industrialized nations, the deaths of U.S. children account for three out of four from gun violence out of all 27 nations.

So my bill is a conglomeration of lots of very good pieces of legislation. It is about priorities and funding what is really important to our Nation's families.

President Clinton said in his State of the Union Address this year, education is a critical national security issue for our future. The problem is that his budget request called for \$234 million more for the military than it does for education.

In the bipartisan budget agreement adopted by the House, over half of our discretionary spending for the next 5 years, in fact, 52 percent will go to the Pentagon. That means that everything else must be divided up of the 48 percent. Fifteen Democratic women Members have joined together and we have submitted 24 pieces of legislation in this omnibus bill. The Children's National Security Act is deficit-neutral, it is funded with savings from the Pentagon.

Among the initiatives included are health insurance for kids, health care

research and education, assistance for caregivers, multi-generational foster care, firearm child safety lock requirements, school construction, and increasing economic security for families.

The gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. HOOLEY] has contributed legislation to promote multi-generational foster care. That is building on something we do in Oregon very successfully. The gentlewoman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD] has included the Firearm Child Safety Lock Act. This is an act which says that the child safety lock must be placed on guns sold in America.

The gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY] has included the partnership to rebuild America's schools. One time, Mr. Chairman, the schools of America were the pride of America, but they are crumbling today. The General Accounting Office has estimated we need \$112 billion to repair them.

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My contribution to the bill is a private insurance reform legislation called Kids Only. It will require that insurance companies provide an affordable policy to cover children from birth to age 16. These are available in Oregon, and they should be available across the Nation.

I believe it is time to change the focus of our priorities, to reflect that national security means providing children a quality education, access to health care, and a safe place to live and learn. We cannot continue to invest in outdated Cold War weapons systems while we neglect our children.

Our bill will improve the lives of America's children. It provides real national security by addressing our children's critical needs. There is wide agreement now that we must balance the Federal budget, but as we balance it, we must make tough fiscal choices. The National Children's Security Act is about priorities, funding what is truly important to our Nation's families.

As Congress makes those tough fiscal decisions necessary to balance the budget, we must consider our real national security, our children. The Democratic women in the House of Representatives have joined together to provide for children's access: Access to health care, a safe environment, a quality education. The Children's National Security Act puts our children first, and that, Mr. Speaker, is exactly where they belong.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GINGRICH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]