

Norton is clearly operating, a number of us are asking to meet personally with the President to explain the situation in California. If he is following the counsel of Secretary Norton, he is getting bad advice that needs to be countered.

The President was right to take his action in Florida. It is our hope to convince him to help all of us out on the West Coast who want to protect our environment as well, and to control our economic destiny, just like they want to do in Florida.

FAREWELL TO ULYSSES S. GRANT SHARP, A GREAT AMERICAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in 20 years, I find myself going back to San Diego with my friend and seatmate, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), who is very much interested in national security, as I am, and missing one of our most trusted advisors at the table. That has occurred because we have lost Ulysses S. Grant Sharp, one of our great admirals and one of our great military leaders.

Mr. Speaker, his story is largely the military's story of this last century. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1927. He served before World War II on the battleship USS *New Mexico*, the transport the USS *Sumner*, the destroyers the USS *Buchanan* and the USS *Winslow*, the carrier the USS *Saratoga* and the cruiser the USS *Richmond*. After that, and during World War II, he was awarded two Silver Stars while commanding the USS *Boyd* for action at Wake Island in the Marianas, the Philippine Islands, Okinawa, Formosa and the Gilbert Islands. Admiral Sharp finished the war on the staff of Commander, Destroyer Force Pacific.

He was a great warrior, Mr. Speaker. After he left his battlefield command after World War II, he could see Korea on the horizon and in that war he commanded the Destroyer Squadron FIVE. He served with the staff of Commander, Seventh Fleet as Fleet Planning Officer for the Inchon invasion. In 1951 he was assigned as Chief of Staff of Commander, Second Fleet.

In 1953 he assumed command of the cruiser USS *Macon*, and following the command, he served as deputy for Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet.

But it was during Vietnam, Mr. Speaker, in 1964, in which he was appointed by the President to become Commander in Chief Pacific; that is CINCPAC, a unified command of nearly 1 million Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force personnel in an 85-million-square-mile area and, at that point, the entire Vietnam theater that he really became a very major leader of American military forces in a very critical conflict.

Uly Sharp was responsible at that point to the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff for the overall supervision of the United States combat operations in Vietnam and throughout the Pacific during the 4 years that followed. After that, Mr. Speaker, he came home and retired in San Diego and was a great member of our community.

He wrote a book called "Strategy for Defeat", which I would commend to those who follow military affairs and who need to be reminded that the way we achieve peace in this world and the way we have achieved peace in this world is through military strength. Uly Sharp was really a model citizen, a model soldier citizen in the sense that he thought that when a military person retires, their next duty is to become involved in civic and political affairs, and Uly did that. He was one of my first advisors.

Twenty years ago, when I was running for office and had no chance to win, and when my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) came along in 1990 and similarly had a very difficult race, Uly Sharp showed up and worked hard and tried to drag us across the finish line, and did so successfully. He was a wonderful guy who always had time for the community, was a leader of our military community in San Diego, as a 4-star admiral, a guy who brought everybody together and imparted advice to all of those who were willing to listen about military affairs.

One of my best memories of Uly is going over on a Sunday afternoon with my dad to his house at Point Loma and listening to him as he laid out the wisdom of almost a full century of service in the United States military.

Uly Sharp was a model, I think, for all Americans, not just people that wear the uniform, but especially for people that wear the uniform, because he believed that every citizen had a double obligation, and that was an obligation to serve the country in uniform, and he carried that out very proudly and very well, but also the obligation to be involved in civic and political affairs. He also carried that burden and that mantle very well.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is a sad thing for me personally that I will never see Uly again, going back to San Diego and sitting down with folks who give me great advice on national security. I know the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) would say the same thing. Uly Sharp was a great American and really served our country well. God bless him.

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OPPRESSION OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to draw attention to the struggle of journalists and their work toward freedom of information and freedom of the press in Cuba. Cuba was recently ranked by the Committee to Protect Journalists as one of the 10 worst places for journalists to work. For the past 7 years, the committee has also listed Fidel Castro as one of the top 10 enemies of the press.

Cuba is the only Latin American nation where the press is completely gagged. The Cuban constitution includes a ban on all non-governmental media outlets, giving Castro complete control over all media outlets. After 43 years of power, Castro shows no sign of lessening his stranglehold on the press.

Mr. Speaker, last week the New York Times published an article on the work and struggles of Omar Rodriguez Saludes, one of only 100 independent journalists working in Cuba. Independent journalists like Omar who would choose to work outside the government-controlled media outlets are denounced by Castro as counterrevolutionaries and are barred from covering official events. Independent reporters face repeated interrogation and detainment by Cuban authorities, monitoring and interruption of their telephone calls, restrictions on their travel; and they are often placed under house arrest to prevent coverage of certain events.

A new tactic of intimidation involves arresting journalists and releasing them hundreds of miles from their homes.

To report the news, Omar travels around Havana on a battered child-size bicycle, knowing that he can make his deadline as long as he does not have a flat tire, or if a corner policeman does not confiscate his notes, tape recorder, and camera. Omar writes his articles in longhand, or basically on a 20-year-old typewriter that he and a group of reporters share. He gathers every 2 weeks or so with other journalists in a cramped apartment in Havana's Chinatown, which is the makeshift headquarters of one news agency. He and others await their turn to place a phone call and dictate their stories to several Web sites on Cuban affairs in the United States. And even then, the state-owned telephone monopoly frequently refuses to connect their international calls.

Mr. Speaker, Cuba is the only country in the Western Hemisphere where a journalist is currently jailed for his work. In 1997, journalist Bernardo Arevalo Padron was jailed for "disrespecting" Castro and another Cuban state council member, Carlos Lage. The charges stem from a series of interviews that Arevalo gave to a Miami-based radio station in which he alleged that while farmers starved, helicopters were taking fresh meat from the countryside to the dinner tables of Castro and Lage.

Despite being eligible for parole and in declining health, Arevalo continues to be held in a labor camp.