

That, I believe, Mr. Speaker, colored the way that they failed to completely report the entire incident that happened in that location. I believe that honorable people will see it differently if they believe someone has been shot in the altercation. I do not believe that Ramos and Compean believed that anyone had been shot, that the drug smuggler had received a bullet. I don't believe that at all. I suspect that they would have filed a complete report had they believed or even, I'll say, deeply suspected that they had hit the drug smuggler.

There was no sign of which I know that there was any blood at the scene. The drug smuggler ran back to Mexico. All of his muscles seemed to work. He healed up. Apparently, they found the bullet, and matched it up to the gun of Agent Ramos'. Those are the facts as we know them.

I'm not alone in calling for the pardon of Agents Ramos and Compean. There are many of us in Congress on both sides of the aisle who have stood with these officers and who have pointed out that the punishment is too severe and that they have paid their debt to society. Whatever was due is surely paid, Mr. Speaker.

The compassion that I ask for out of the White House in these last days is the compassion that recognizes that the President has the power. The agents have served the time.

When U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton made the statement that, when asked, would he make a recommendation to the White House for a pardon, he said this: "With regard to a pardon or a clemency, at some point, the Department of Justice will probably ask for my recommendation, and when that comes, we'll make one." That was May 18, 2007 on CNN.

Mr. Speaker, I would point out that I read to you at least six quotes from U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton. Each of those referenced the harshness of the sentence, and the word "harsh" he uses himself several times over. The punishment was too high. It was too much. I have sympathy for that. I've said it often. It's a harsh sentence.

Johnny Sutton said he disagreed with the 11- to 12-year terms the border agents received. He said again, "I've always said the punishment in this case was harsh."

Well, I'll follow that up with this response again:

"With regard to a pardon or a clemency, at some point, the Department of Justice will probably ask for my recommendation, and when that comes, we'll make one."

I'll submit that U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton has made his recommendation. He has made it many times over the national media. I've quoted him six times. There are many other quotes that reference the same thing. The punishment was too harsh. The man who led the prosecution, who succeeded in his job of seeking a conviction, has also many times over announced that it's too harsh.

We're not arguing. Those of us in this Congress and across this country are not arguing guilt or innocence, Mr. Speaker. We're arguing about a sentence that's too harsh. We're arguing that, for officers who have put their lives on the line and for officers who have no blemishes, that I know of, on their records that would be further strikes against them, this anomaly in their careers should not ruin their careers, their lives, their families. I believe that they are deserving of a pardon. There are those here who are asking now for a commutation of a sentence.

Mr. Speaker, I don't ask for the commutation. I believe that their records should be swept clean. I believe that they have served a time and that leaving it on their records does not serve a purpose. I believe they are deserving and that a just President would look in the last days and find a way to provide justice for the highest profile cases that we have in America that cry out for the sympathy of the entire Nation and of the world and for the action on the part of our compassionate, conservative President.

I have covered this territory. I would point out there are 171 pardons by President Bush. There are eight commutations of sentences by President Bush. There are several days left in the Presidency. There likely will be other pardons and commutations and, perhaps, a whole rush of them that are queued up to go.

Mr. Speaker, I pray that the pardon for Ramos and Compean is in that work stack that will be presented to the President for his signature between now and January 20 and that the counsel who is advising the President and the Department of Justice who have defended their prosecution so aggressively can understand clearly:

They've made their point. They're successful in their prosecution and in their conviction and in their sentencing. So now the point needs to be made—the point made by U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton that the sentences are too harsh. Eleven and twelve years is too long.

In these last days, I ask only one thing of our Honorable Commander in Chief, and that is to find the compassion in his heart to pardon Agents Ramos and Compean.

Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate your indulgence and the honor to address you on the floor of the House of Representatives tonight.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. MALONEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, January 21.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, January 21.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, today and January 15.

Mr. BOOZMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CAMPBELL, for 5 minutes, January 15.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at her request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 60. An act to prohibit the sale and counterfeiting of President inaugural tickets, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

77. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Farm Program Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility for 2009 and Subsequent Crop, Program, or Fiscal Years (RIN: 0560-AH85) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

78. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia; Interstate Movement and Import Restrictions on Certain Live Fish [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0038] (RIN: 0579-AC74) received January 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

79. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change in Disease Status of Surrey County, England, Because of Foot-and-Mouth Disease [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0124] received January 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

80. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of an Antideficiency Act violation, Army case number 08-05, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

81. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review