

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous American, a great individual who was known perhaps best for being an outstanding football player. I guess he was, indeed, an outstanding football player, Walter Payton, who broke every record, set every record at the position which he played.

Chicago is a great football town. For many years, our football fortunes were not where we wanted them to be. There was not much to cheer about. There was not much to bring the people out. But then, from a small historically black college came Walter Payton, a college that not many people necessarily knew about, had heard about, Jackson State. Here comes a young man with the grace and finesse of a wizard, one who could sneak and weave through lines no matter what the linemen looked like.

While Walter set all of these records and we talk about his greatness as an athlete, if one ever had an opportunity to interact with him, to see him up close, to know the man, to talk with him, to understand him, then one saw much more than an athlete. One saw much more than a football player. One saw a role model. One saw a humanness that existed. One saw just a good solid human being. Walter was well coached and was ready for the National Football League when he came.

I always felt a tremendous sense of pride in his accomplishments because I, too, attended one of the historically black colleges or universities. We were in the same conference, and I must confess that Jackson State usually beat the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff more than we beat them.

But also in that conference was Alcorn University, Grambling, Southern, Texas Southern, Prairie View, sometimes Wiley College, sometimes Bishop, sometimes Mississippi Valley.

The real point is this is an opportunity to highlight the contributions of historically black colleges and universities, not only academically, not only athletically, but in a total sense of what they meant.

Walter died needing an organ transplant. This is also an opportunity to urge all Americans who are able to participate in organ donation programs to help give and sustain life to those who might need an organ, especially if ours is no longer going to be useful to us.

So, Walter, even in your death, you win out victorious because you raised the question, you raised an issue, and you helped America understand the need for a program, an organ donation program and policies which will assure that, when people need organs, they are in fact available. You will be in the other Hall of Fame. Rest easy.

RECENT TRIP TO CUBA BY ILLINOIS GOVERNOR GEORGE RYAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words, just a few, about Mr. Ryan, the Governor of Illinois, and his recent 5-day propaganda junket to Cuba.

I know that Mr. Ryan was motivated by large business interests which hope to profit from deals with the Cuban dictatorship, but that does not excuse his conduct.

Mr. Ryan displayed a pathetic lack of sensitivity and common sense that history will record as constituting a great disservice to the freedom loving people of Illinois.

For example, Mr. Ryan knows that there is a system of medical as well as of tourism apartheid in Cuba. He was specifically made aware of the case of a 2-year-old Cuban child, Christian Prieto, who fell from the second story of a building some months ago and was denied medical treatment at the CIMEQ hospital in Havana, a hospital with the necessary facilities to treat the child's severe neurological injuries, because the child is Cuban and his parents are not tourists with dollars or high ranking officials of the Cuban dictatorship. Only they have access to the CIMEQ, tourists with dollars or members of the regime's hierarchy.

Yet, after bringing up the case of this 2-year-old Cuban child, Mr. Ryan just accepted the hysterical explanations of the case brought forth by Castro.

Mr. Ryan refused to acknowledge the medical and tourism apartheid that the Cuban people have to suffer. In fact, Mr. Ryan demonstrated cold-hearted cynicism when, after referring to hospitals that he visited in Cuba as not meeting conditions that would make them certifiable anywhere in the United States, and knowing that Cubans are denied adequate medical care in that country because it is only available to tourists with dollars and the family of high government officials, Mr. Ryan nonetheless referred to Castro's health care system as an inspirational model for the entire Western Hemisphere.

Mr. Ryan demonstrated another trait, cowardice, when he delivered a speech at the University of Havana. His written prepared remarks included various eloquent quotes from Abraham Lincoln about human dignity and freedom. The Cuban dictator, however, unexpectedly showed up to listen to the speech and sat in the front row. Ryan then proceeded to omit the calls for human rights. But, oh, yes, he did reiterate his brave call in front of Castro for an end to the cruel U.S. embargo on the Castro regime.

Notice how Castro refers himself now to the Ryan speech. Mr. Speaker, if my

colleagues want to learn the truth with regard to anything that Castro says, look for the opposite of what he says.

So what does Castro say now about Ryan? "Governor Ryan is a man of firm character, a man of frankness." Castro says that Ryan "gave a great speech, it is nothing like the speeches we are used to hearing, it was without arrogance or superiority, he said rational things, and he was greatly applauded."

Mr. Speaker, I think it is shameful that an elected official from the United States of America be held in such high regard by this hemisphere's last decrepit dictator.

Nevertheless, despite what Castro now says of Ryan, the Cuban dictator did not fail to embarrass Ryan while the Governor was in Cuba. When Ryan gave Castro a letter asking for the release of Cuba's four best known political prisoners, Castro publicly joked that he would put the letter in the same stack with the hundreds of other letters that he has received asking for the release of those four dissidents.

Castro ridiculed Ryan, but Ryan simply responded by continuing to ridicule himself, repeatedly calling for the number one foreign policy and economic objective of the Cuban dictator, the unilateral lifting of U.S. sanctions with absolutely no conditions, no call for the release of political prisoners in exchange for lifting sanctions, no call for the legalization of political parties or labor unions or the press, there was no call for free elections in exchange for lifting U.S. sanctions from Mr. Ryan.

No, Mr. Speaker. I do not know what business deal Ryan is seeking from Castro for himself or for a family member, but have no doubt that seeking a business deal for himself or a family member he is.

Also have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that, when the Cuban people are free, they will remember Mr. Ryan to make certain that his Cuban business dreams remain unfulfilled.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER PAYTON

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

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, as a native Chicagoan and a pro football