

The option to purchase U.S. goods is not available to Cuba, as it is to China, due to laws that we have passed in this very institution. Their hands are tied.

Yet Cuba is taking steps on its own regarding private industry. Recent progress has been made in the form of joint ventures to facilitate the tourism industry in Cuba. For instance, the hotel we stayed in was a joint venture with the Dutch. Of course the government is still participating, but it is an example of private capital coming in from another source and affecting the people's way of life. The people working at those hotels receive tips from tourists that put them way above the daily wage of average Cubans. Steps made in these directions can only foster and plant positive seeds for change. We can also expect the rapidly and advancing technology of the Internet to help open doors to Cuba. Just as Chinese dissidents communicate today over the Internet in spite of attempts by the Communists to stop them, I can anticipate a day when the Cuban people do the same thing.

The farmers of Cuba are incapable of producing enough to sustain the 11 million inhabitants of the Caribbean island. Therefore, food must be imported. Our allies are already meeting that need and trading with Cuba. Rice is coming into Cuba from Asia, soybeans from Brazil, while our farmers endure some of the worst prices they have seen in decades.

We have put ourselves in a position where we are hurting our own economy and the backbone of our nation, the American farmer. By denying our farmers access to additional markets, like Cuba, we are ignoring a pledge that was made with the passage of the 1996 Farm Bill to open markets, the necessary markets our farmers need. Promises regarding enhanced trading opportunities and the free market abounded with passage of the so-called Freedom to Farm Act. Yet, the recently passed Caribbean/Africa Trade bill was the first trade bill Congress has passed in six years. We have failed to grant the President Fast Track Authority and essentially guaranteed the failure of our nation's farmers by granting them the ability to produce as much as they are capable while denying them access to sufficient markets to move their goods. For the American farmer the combination of this nation's Ag and foreign trade policies is a no-win situation.

For soybeans alone, opening up trade with Cuba could mean a \$60 million market. In Arkansas, we could ship 400,000 tons of rice right down the Mississippi River, through the Gulf of Mexico to the Cuban people. Food products would be a phone call and a couple of days away. Instead, the Cuban people are left paying higher prices for a lower quality product that takes weeks, sometimes months, to arrive in their ports.

Rice is a staple of the Cuban diet and we know how to grow it in Arkansas. Arkansas is consistently the top U.S. producer of rice. Exports are extremely important to the rice industry. Last year, the rice industry exported to more than 100 countries. Trade and trade policy, therefore, are critical to the continued success of the industry.

At the time that the U.S. Government imposed sanctions on trade with Cuba, it was not only our largest export market for rice, but it took more than one-half of our total rice exports. Cubans know good American rice, and they want it. The embargo dealt a major blow to the rice industry, particularly growers in the South who grow long grain rice, which is the rice of preference in Cuba. The only impact the embargo has had on Cuba is on its middle- to low-income citizens. We are hurting the Cuban people much more than the Cuban government or Cuban elite. Due to the high prices the government is forced to pay, less food is available for distribution. U.S. humanitarian organizations are prevented from providing food to starving children due solely to the existence of the embargo.

While in Cuba, I met with opponents of the Castro regime who have been persecuted for attempting to highlight the disparate human rights treatment in Cuba. These dissidents believe that the embargo gives the Cuban government an excuse for what is wrong with the country. Our embargo provides Cuban officials with an excuse for the sorry state of the economy and the challenges the country faces. If we lift the embargo, we expose the Cuban people to many of the problems of their own government. Right now the Cuban people are only getting one side of the story, and they are not blaming their government or Fidel Castro for their troubles, because Fidel Castro is using the U.S. Government as the excuse for those problems.

I understand there are colleagues in this body whom I deeply respect who also disagree with me on this issue. I agree that should the U.S. lift its embargo on Cuba, Fidel Castro will probably declare victory over what he calls his imperialist oppressor to his north. But the real truth which is undeniably is that under current policy absolutely no one wins.

As a farmer's daughter, I am not so concerned about the short-term implications of who can claim victory after 40 years of economic isolation. I believe that the long-term benefits of engagement with Cuba offer economic benefit to Americans; opportunities for democratic influences inside Cuba and better living conditions for the Cuban people. Each of these goals strike me as fundamental principles of our unique, American democracy. Lifting the 40-year embargo on Cuba is the right thing to do. I hope we do it sooner than later.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
JUNE 12, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate, under the previous order, will stand adjourned until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, June 12, 2000.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:54 a.m., adjourned until Monday, June 12, 2000, at 12 noon.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 9, 2000:

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOUGLAS A. DWORIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

##### BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

EDWARD E. KAUFMAN, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2000.

ALBERTO J. MORA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2000.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAVID N. GREENLEE, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY.

SUSAN S. JACOBS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO SOLOMAN ISLANDS, AND AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU.

JOHN F. TEFFT, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.

JOHN R. DINGER, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MONGOLIA.

DONNA JEAN HRINAK, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA.

JOHN MARTIN O'KEEFE, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC.

EDWARD WILLIAM GNEHM, JR., OF GEORGIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO AUSTRALIA.

DANIEL A. JOHNSON, OF FLORIDA, CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME.

V. MANUEL ROCHA, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA.

ROSE M. LIKINS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR.

W. ROBERT PEARSON, OF TENNESSEE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY.

MARC GROSSMAN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

ANNE WOODS PATTERSON, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

JAMES DONALD WALSH, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF