

have introduced with my colleagues, Senator GORTON from the State of Washington, Senator ASHCROFT, Senator DODD, and others, is very simple. It says all current sanctions on the shipment of food and medicine shall be abolished within 180 days—gone. This country will not use food and medicine as a weapon.

Second, no President will be able to impose sanctions on the shipment of food and medicine unless he comes to the Congress and gets an affirmative vote by the Congress to do so. In other words, this ends the sanctions on the shipment of food and medicine.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. DORGAN. Of course, I am happy to yield.

Mr. WARNER. This is a subject in which I have been heavily involved, as have others. Senator DODD and I on repeated occasions have put legislation up, I presume comparable to what the Senator has in mind. I clearly associate myself with the Senate's goals.

As a matter of fact, on the authorization bill for the Department of Defense, there is a Warner-Dodd amendment which asks for the appointment of a commission, to be appointed by President Clinton, drawing on nominees from not only the President but the majority, the Democratic leader, and others in the Congress, to begin to focus on a broad range of policy considerations with regard to the relationship between the United States and Cuba. So I am highly supportive. I have listened to the Senator enumerate a few Senators, and with a lack of humility I ask my name be included among those who strongly support, as I have now for 2 years, with Senator DODD and others, the lifting of particulars. If we are to make any inroads on the Government in Cuba, it has to be done people to people. What better way than food and medicine because if there is anything that does not have the taint of politics, it should be food and medicine. So I commend my colleague.

Mr. DORGAN. The Senator from Virginia, of course, has been involved in this issue. I certainly agree the embargo has not worked. I mean, 40 years of embargo with respect to Cuba, speaking only now of Cuba, ought to tell us that when a policy doesn't work, you should change the policy—especially that portion of the policy that deals with food and medicine. It is immoral, in my judgment, for this country to use food as a weapon. It is not only unfair to our farmers—I have talked about that at some length—It is unfair to say to farmers we have the freedom to farm but not the freedom to sell. But it is immoral for this country to use food as a weapon. I want to change it.

The Senator from Virginia described the support for this. I don't know if he heard me say I intend to offer it as an

amendment on the Defense authorization bill. That will not be deemed a great pleasure by the Senator from Virginia, I am sure, but the only opportunity I have to get this done is to put it in legislation that is going to go to the President.

The legislative leaders have the opportunity in the appropriations process to strip this from the appropriations bill. They did it last year and they are going to do it this year. This year I am not going to sit back and say: That's fine; we do all this work and we get rid of the food and medicine sanctions in appropriations, only to have you hijack it in conference or with some parliamentary procedure, and at the end of the day this country still prevents the sale of food and medicine to the poor people in Cuba and Iraq and Libya. That is not something I am willing to accept. It is not going to happen anymore.

I mentioned previously I sat in a hospital in Havana, Cuba, last year when I visited Havana—sat in a hospital in an intensive care room and watched a 12-year-old boy in a coma. His mother, at a bedside vigil, was holding this boy's hand—and in an intensive care room—there was no beeping going on because there was no machinery or equipment there. This hospital had no equipment for a young boy in a coma in intensive care. The doctor at that hospital said, "We are out of 250 different kinds of medicine; we don't have it. We are just out of it."

And our country says we cannot move medicine to Cuba? We cannot sell medicine to Cuba? We can't sell food to Cuba? It doesn't make any sense to me.

I have been to many of the poor countries around the world. I do not want to be a part of a government that says we want to continue to use food as a weapon; we want to continue to use food and medicine as weapons. That is fundamentally wrong. It is a wrong-headed public policy.

Again, I say to the Senator from Virginia, I do not think he heard me. He has been a strong supporter of these issues. I have great respect for him. He will not be pleased that I intend to offer this as an amendment to the Defense authorization bill at some point. I feel I must do that because it is the only way we will get it done. The legislative leaders intend to strip this out of the appropriations process. The only opportunity for the Members of the House and Senate to express their will is to put this in a bill that is going to be signed by the President.

Do I understand the managers wish to do some business?

Mr. REID. If the Senator will be kind enough to withhold, without losing his right to the floor, we have a unanimous consent agreement we would like to have entered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WARNER. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent the Senate, at 11 a.m., immediately proceed to consider the following nomination on Executive Calendar: The nomination of Gen. John Gordon to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Department of Energy, with the time until 11:30 to be equally divided between myself and the ranking member.

I further ask unanimous consent that a vote occur at 11:30 this morning on confirmation of the nomination of General Gordon, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, any statements relating to the nomination appear in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

I further ask unanimous consent that no later than July 12, 2000, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 473, the nomination of Madelyn Creedon to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration. I further ask consent that there be 2 hours for debate, equally divided in the usual form. I finally ask consent that following the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination, the President be notified of the Senate's action immediately following the vote, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEVIN. No objection, Mr. President. We support this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, just further administrative observation by myself, I thank the distinguished colleagues on the other side for trying to work it out such that at some point this morning Senator LEVIN and I may move to consideration of 40 or more cleared amendments on the Defense authorization bill. I know every effort is being made to achieve that procedural opportunity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, that effort would be made, as I understand it, immediately following the vote on the confirmation of General Gordon. I am just wondering if that is accurate, so we can inform our colleagues who have an interest in this that the effort which the Senator from Virginia, the manager of the bill, has just described would occur immediately following the vote on the confirmation of General Gordon.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the Senator is correct.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the Gordon nomination at this point.