

Smith (MI)	Talent	Walsh
Smith (NJ)	Tanner	Wamp
Smith (OR)	Tauscher	Waters
Smith (TX)	Tauzin	Watkins
Smith, Adam	Taylor (MS)	Watts (OK)
Smith, Linda	Taylor (NC)	Waxman
Snowbarger	Thomas	Weldon (PA)
Snyder	Thompson	Weller
Solomon	Thornberry	Wexler
Souder	Thune	Weygand
Spence	Thurman	White
Spratt	Tiahrt	Whitfield
Stabenow	Tierney	Wicker
Stearns	Torres	Wise
Stenholm	Traficant	Wolf
Stokes	Turner	Woolsey
Strickland	Upton	Wynn
Stump	Velazquez	Young (AK)
Stupak	Vento	Young (FL)
Sununu	Visclosky	

## NAYS—4

Conyers	Stark
DeFazio	Watt (NC)

## NOT VOTING—9

Clay	Hall (OH)	Towns
Dixon	McCollum	Weldon (FL)
Gonzalez	Schiff	Yates

## □ 1844

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1031

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of the bill, H.R. 1031, the American Community Renewal Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. SNOWBARGER]. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. HOEKSTRA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HOEKSTRA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

## RECOMMENDING A CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the subject of the

United States' relations with Cuba. It was my privilege to visit Cuba last week with my colleague the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SANFORD] as part of a delegation in connection with the Human Rights Foundation. Our focus was on the present economic and political circumstances in Cuba and the relationship between the United States and that country, with particular focus on the health conditions in Cuba, and the impact, if any, of the United States' economic restrictions on Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, I am also inspired to speak this evening by my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN] and my colleague, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART], both of whom are friends and both of whom have spoken long and on this floor for human rights in Cuba.

I have two messages, and perhaps I should preface both of them by saying I do not consider myself an expert on Cuba. I was fortunate to spend 1 week there. I believe I was permitted to go where I wished to go. I was permitted to ask questions with no restriction. But I do not consider myself an expert. Still, I do wish to share my observations, largely at the urging of my two colleagues from Florida, who asked that I do so.

I wish to begin by emphasizing that there is a need for all Americans to continue to speak out on behalf of human rights in Cuba; that it is appropriate to call for full, free, and fair elections, including at the presidential level. I was informed during our trip there of the proximity of local elections, and also of the designation of multi-candidates for each available post in the assembly. Surely this is a positive development.

On the other hand, I was also informed that the Communist Party will still be the dominant basis for selecting the candidates for such offices, and that, obviously, should be opened up.

We were privileged to meet with the President of Cuba, Fidel Castro, we were privileged to meet with the Vice President of the Council of Ministers, and with the equivalent of the Speaker of the House, Senor Alarcon, and in each case we were able to raise any subjects that we wished.

When I met with Mr. Alarcon, I raised with him the issue of free and fair elections, access to prisons, and I emphasized the importance of allowing the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the prisons of Cuba, and the presence of political prisoners.

His responses, as I took them down, were that there were still some prisoners in Cuban jails who, in his Government's belief, had received money from our Government to destabilize the Government of Cuba, and that that was the reason why they were in jail, although also other crimes.

He did not say that the International Committee of the Red Cross could visit those prisoners, and I urged him to do

so. Tonight, if members of his Government are listening, it seems to me that the Cuban Government would only benefit from permitting free access by international groups of such repute as the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to ascertain conditions in prisons on a regular basis.

Mr. Alarcon did point out that America has not been as critical of other nations in Latin America as we are of Cuba, and that may well be right. But I do want my colleagues to know that I raised the issue of human rights, of free and fair elections, and of political prisoners, and that those are serious issues and remain so to this day.

I emphasize now in my remaining time the most important lesson, though, that I learned. This was one that reemphasized a judgment that I had made preliminarily before I went to Cuba. That is that it is wrong and shortsighted and harmful to America to continue the embargo between our country and Cuba. The United States ought to trade with Cuba. We ought to trade as we trade with China, as we trade with Russia, as we trade with the countries coming out of the socialist systems.

When we trade we begin to develop an economic group of people, a group of people who are devoted to free markets, to the extent that there is a control over people's lives through the economy that is loosened by free trade, and there is also a very important humanitarian component.

One of the very important issues of our trip was health care. The Cuban Government made a point that even though officially trade in pharmaceuticals and medicines are not prohibited under the Helms-Burton law, there is intimidation that has been practiced or at least felt by American companies who would wish to send medicines to Cuba but feel it is not worth the difficulty of obtaining an end-use license, or making a certification that they would monitor those people who would use it, or guarantee that the medicines will never get into the hands of the Government.

These are very difficult obstacles to overcome, and so many American companies do not send medicines, with the result that the Cuban Government is able, and not inappropriately on all occasions, to say that the United States policy and Helms-Burton in particular is depriving their people of the full medical care that they might otherwise have. To the extent that is true, that hurts our country. It is not the intention of those Members of this body, our colleagues who voted for Helms-Burton, and it would serve the interests of all to end it.

I will conclude, if I might, Mr. Speaker, with just this one observation. When our plane left Nassau and touched down in Havana, the passengers applauded, and I thought, they must be happy to be coming home. When our plane left Havana and touched down in Miami through Nassau again, the passengers applauded.