

Cuban Prisoners

SPEECH

OF

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OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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(Mr. CRAMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, as the Members of this House well know, I have been in opposition to this abortive Castro blackmail and indemnity demand of dollars for prisoners, \$60 million. I see now that there is a suggestion that CIA funds may be used for this purpose.

I would like to ask anyone in this House, did they knowingly and willingly vote any money or any authorization that would permit \$60 million of the taxpayers' money or even foodstuffs to go to Fidel Castro, whom I thought Congress in its recent resolution said is the enemy of freedom, whom we are fighting, not helping—even authorizing the President to use force of arms to dispose of this Communist threat to the Western Hemisphere?

Why do we not be compassionate for American prisoners over there? I am just as compassionate for the prisoners Castro now holds as anyone. Why do we not follow up the situation in Cuba by a strong anti-Castro drive? I am compassionate for Americans who are prisoners in Cuba as well. I said yesterday there were 10 of them. I say now there are at least 20. I have a list of 10 right here.

Why are we not compassionate for American prisoners held in Cuba? Apparently we should be compassionate for all citizens of Cuba who are prisoners of Castro's communism—compassionate for the 100,000 other Cuban prisoners held by Castro on trumped-up charges in Cuban prisons—and certainly for the American prisoners held on charges of a trumped-up nature that Cuba will not even reveal the nature of to the Swiss Embassy.

If we are truly compassionate for all prisoners of communism and Castro's domination our efforts should be consistent with the position taken by this House and the Congress time and time again this session, to exert every effort and pressure to rid this hemisphere of Castro—rather than giving him this added strength in money and/or foodstuffs which he needs badly now because of the failure of his agrarian reform—failure which will have the effect of keeping him in power that much longer.

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