

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CUBA LIBERTY BILL

"LIBERTAD" BILL PASSES SENATE WITH BROAD BIPARTISAN SUPPORT; CONFERENCE TO FIGHT FOR TOUGH PROVISION TO DETER FOREIGN INVESTMENT, DESPITE WHITE HOUSE OPPOSITION

We are about to conclude action on the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act. The Senate has spent a week on this bill. We had three cloture votes. A sustained lobbying campaign by the White House forced Chairman Helms to delete a significant section of the bill. The Senate will pass the bill today, and the conference will certainly address the issue of stolen property.

I am confident that the House/Senate conference will be able to find a way to prevent Fidel Castro from using foreign investment to prolong his tyranny. That is the issue -- do we want to allow the Hemisphere's last dictator to replace his lost aid from the Soviet empire with Western investment? The Senate will have another chance to address this issue when the conference report comes back.

Strengthen International Embargo

We should be clear on what is still in this bill. Title I strengthens the international embargo on Cuba. It requires the U.S. to oppose Cuban membership in international financial institutions. It conditions aid to Russia on an end to support for Cuba. It tightens the restrictions against the importation of Cuban sugar. And it authorizes assistance to the real victims of Castro's repression -- the Cuban people.

Provide Post-Castro Support for Free, Independent Cuba

In the debate, some of the advocates of lifting the embargo have said this bill looks backwards, that this bill does not respond to current conditions. Nothing could be further from the truth. Title II of the bill requires the President to look ahead -- to look at the inevitable post-Castro period. Title II provides for support for a free and independent Cuba and authorizes suspension for the embargo and other restrictions once a transitional government is in place. Title II also provides incentives for a truly democratic government in Cuba.

Senate Speaks Loudly in Opposition to Castro

The Senate will speak loudly today -- in opposition to Fidel Castro, and in support of the Cuban people, Castro and his allies have terrorized for thirty years. Two amendments weakening the bill were decisively defeated. I wish we could have done more to undermine Castro. I wish the White House would have spent some time working with us on deterring foreign investment, instead of lobbying for a position supported by Fidel Castro. The White House has made its views known. By allowing Fidel Castro to enter the United States, and by vigorously lobbying against this bill, there is no doubt about where they stand. Today, the Senate can make its views known, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 4:55 p.m.