

Women, and Ileana Somellán Fernandez, her home was ransacked by state security on August 25 for doing that. Also, September 1 and September 2, several members of the group called Mothers for Solidarity were arrested.

Marta Maria Vega Cabrera was summoned to appear at headquarters of state security in Havana, where she was interrogated, also, for a statement she made to an international journalist.

On September 2, state security agents visited Mercedes Paradas Antunez, where she was accused along with Aida Rosa Jimenez, of "planning a protest march" on Havana.

On the same day, Raquel Naranjo Ruize and Aida Rosa Jimenez were continuously followed by state security agents in Havana in a manner that they subsequently describe to the international press as insolent and incessant.

Moises Rodriguez Quesada, Leonardo Calvo, and Manuel Cuesda Morua also have been victims of threats and interrogations from state security. And, of course, Carmen Arias Jose Miranda, Francisco Chavino, Omar del Pozo, and Colonel Enrique Labrada and Reverend Orson Villa, these are all political prisoners. They remain incarcerated.

I want to see where the international community is, Mr. Speaker. Where is the Clinton Administration? Where is that State Department that we pay those salaries to? Where are they denouncing this? Where is the international community? Where is the United Nations denouncing this, Mr. Speaker? Where are they? Earn your salaries, bureaucrats. Earn your salaries. At least denounce this every once in a while.

This is going on now in Cuba, and I want to hear one condemnation by the international press or the international organizations.

Where are they Mr. Speaker? We will continue talking about this.

#### CRUNCHING NUMBERS, CRUNCHING PEOPLE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I would tell the last speaker that where some of those people from the State Department are is that they are at home or maybe they are out doing their Christmas shopping because under the orders of Speaker NEWT GINGRICH we are paying our Federal employees not to work again this week, just as we paid them not to work in November.

You see, this is part of an extremist approach to Government that, if you hate Government so much, as some of these Republicans do, the way to demonstrate how much you dislike the Government is to pay the Government workers not to do any work, and so some, I think it is 9,000 members of the State Department, are not at work today, even though I am confident that

the vast majority of them would like to be at work doing their job for America, dealing on issues with Cuba and dealing with issues even closer to home.

But our Republican colleagues have decided to shut down the Government and to pay our Federal worker not to work.

I guess perhaps all of this is designed to focus national attention on the whole concept of a Republican Christmas. You know, the Republican Christmas, it is probably just like the Christmas that you celebrate in your hometown. The only difference is that the only stockings that Santa stuffs are the silk stockings, and that is the way that the Republican Christmas proposed in this Republican budget would be presented to the American people were it not for the steadfast position that President Clinton and others of us within the Democratic Party have taken with regard to its misplaced priorities.

You see, it is my position that our Republican colleagues have, to this day, not ever come forward with a budget that is truly balanced. Yes; they do know how to crunch the numbers and calculate it all out so that that part will become even, and that is an important part of having a balanced budget.

But balancing the budget is being concerned with more than just crunching the numbers. It is also as a set of national priorities, a matter of considering how much you crunch the people. And when it comes to crunching the people, this Republican balanced budget is way out of balance because it crunches a good many middle-class families in this country. It crunches many seniors in this country because its objective is to stuff those silk stockings with one tax advantage after another.

Indeed, even that very gross tax loophole that we attempted to close earlier this year that lets those people who have prospered the most from America, who have made literally billions of dollars and who can celebrate this Christmas in Belize or in the Bahamas or somewhere in the Caribbean, having renounced their American citizenship and burned their citizenship card, torn it up, at the same time having burned the American Treasury and the American taxpayer, renouncing their citizenship to avoid paying their taxes, that loophole is still largely present under this Republican budget.

Of course, on the eve of the elections next year, our Republican colleagues propose with their eat-dessert-first budget to provide the checks to people on the eve of the election, not unlike some old ward heeler passing out hams just prior to the election time, to try to sell the idea that the only way to get the deficit down is to make it go up next year, which is the approach that is taken in this Republican budget.

But the vast majority of the tax breaks, though there is an occasional sweetener, is designed to go to those at

the top of the economic ladder, who have benefited from America.

We have heard that we have had nothing but horrors in this country for the last six decades, to hear the majority leader speak the other day. Well, some people have done rather well in America during those six decades of evil. They prospered. They have become millionaires and billionaires, and now the Republicans would reward them with huge tax breaks, tax breaks that will drive the deficit up next year, that will cause it to explode in the year 2002, in the last part of this decade, and all of that is going to be paid by the impact that it has on middle-class families.

A commentator just earlier this week reported on the impact on middle-class families that suddenly find a parent, a loved one who has to go into a nursing home either because of a disability or because of advanced years, and it is going to be possible under the Republican budget as proposed to require the children to pay for the nursing home expenses which can run up to \$30,000, \$40,000 a year of the senior, to tap into the assets of those middle-class families at the same time they may be trying to get a young person through school, through college, trying to struggle to make ends meet themselves, but to force them to have to pay those expenses.

That is the way people get crunched under this Republican budget. We need a truly balanced budget that is balanced to the people of America.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE BRAVERY OF MARIETTA POLICE OFFICER MIKE POWELL

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise before the House today to pay tribute to the brave actions of Marietta GA, police officer Mike Powell, a 6-year veteran of the department, a constituent, and a friend. Officer Powell's quick response to a 911 call this past Saturday saved the life of a local woman while placing himself in great danger.

Approaching the apartment building in which this woman and her husband lived, officer Powell heard screams from the woman upstairs as she hid from her attacker in a bedroom. Upon entering the stairwell leading to the apartment, he found the husband already dead. Then suddenly Mike started receiving gun fire. He quickly returned fire on the man until back-up arrived and subdued the perpetrator.

While making this extraordinary stand, officer Powell was hit two times. Thankfully he escaped serious harm, with one shot grazing his side and the other ricocheting off his gun and hitting him in the arm. The woman was able to flee the apartment unharmed

during the commotion. It is certain the quick response of officer Powell saved the woman's life.

Every day the heroic actions of men and women serving in police departments across the country save lives. The job is stressful, dangerous, and frightening, yet thousands put their lives on the line so that all of us may live more securely. Mike Powell's bravery is a tribute to him and a reminder to all of us of how much the man and women in blue do to protect and to serve. On behalf of the citizens of Marietta and the entire Seventh District of Georgia, I commend Officer Powell for his selfless actions in the line of duty and at great personal sacrifice.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WATERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### RTC REPORT EXONERATES CLINTONS

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, we live, as we all know, in an era in which good news is no news. So the recent report issued by Jay Stevens on behalf of the Resolution Trust Corporation which exonerates President Clinton and Mrs. Clinton from any liability to the RTC involving Madison Guaranty has gone largely unnoticed in the press. People who have an interest in perpetuating inaccurate accusations against President Clinton and Mrs. Clinton have understandably ignored this.

People will remember that Jay Stevens is the Republican who was a U.S. Attorney appointed by the previous Republican administrations who was considering running for the U.S. Senate as a Republican. He is a deeply committed conservative partisan, but also an honest man, not that there is any inconsistency there. He was hired by the RTC to investigate President Clinton and Mrs. Clinton. Indeed, it was the fact that so committed a Republican partisan had been hired that caused the uproar in the White House, when people said to the Treasury Department, how could you let this happen?

Well, Mr. Stevens has now given his final report.

The RTC has asked that grand jury information not be released, and I have none here. They have asked that their future litigation strategy not be discussed, and I would not do that here. I will quote from Mr. Stevens' report.

"The foregoing list contains essentially all the documents regarding Whitewater that seem to have been ad-

ressed to or written by the Clintons." I skip a little bit. It says, "Therefore, on this record, there is no basis to assert that the Clintons knew anything of substance about the McDougals's advances to Whitewater, the source of the funds used to make those advances, or the source of the funds used to make payments on bank debt. In particular, there is no evidence that the Clintons knew anything of substance about the transactions as to which the RTC might be able to establish liability as to people other than the Clintons."

Skipping again to the summation, "On this record," this is Jay Stevens, the very committed Republican who was hired by the RTC over the objections of the Clinton administration to investigate the Clinton involvement with RTC, Madison Guaranty, Whitewater, here is his final recommendation based on his extensive survey of all of the evidence: "On this record, there is no basis to charge the Clintons with any kind of primary liability for fraud or intentional misconduct. This investigation has revealed no evidence to support any such claims, nor would the record support any claim of secondary or derivative liability for the possible misdeeds of others."

Skipping a little, "There are legal theories by which one can become reliable for the conduct of others—e.g., conspiracy and aiding and abetting. On this evidentiary record, however, these theories have no application to the Clintons. To hold one liable for conspiracy or aiding or abetting, the RTC must plead and prove the elements of these theories. These elements include a general awareness of the wrongful acts being committed by others and an intention to assist in the commission of the primary offenses. There is no evidence here that the Clintons had any such knowledge or intent. Accordingly, there is no basis to use them."

Mr. Speaker, partisan Republicans, extreme right wingers, and others have been engaged in a desperate, unyielding, incessant search for evidence to tarnish the Clintons with regard to Whitewater. They have found none. There is no evidence, and here we have a comprehensive report by a Republican prosecutor, a would-be candidate for office, who thoroughly investigates this and, as conclusively as you can get an investigator to say, he says there is no basis for this.

Pirandello wrote a play, "Six Characters in Search of an Author." Our Republican colleagues have collaborated on a more fantastic creative work. It is hundreds of accusations against the Clintons in search of any evidence. And Mr. Stevens, a professional investigator and Republican charged with looking into not just criminal liability, but civil liability, has concluded that after all of the evidence is examined, there is no basis whatsoever to make an accusation against the Clintons.

Will this stop our colleagues from their accusations? No. But it ought to

mean that the public will receive those accusations with the total lack of respect to which Jay Stevens says they are entitled.

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

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

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to exchange places in the special order list with the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

#### PROBLEMS IN THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of nonsense about the Republicans ruining Christmas for some of the Government workers. I want to talk a little bit about the Fourth District of Kansas. We have 1,038 Federal workers subject to furlough. This week the President vetoed legislation that would have put 940 of them back to work, 940, but the President vetoed Christmas for those employees and their families. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

You know, there is struggle going on here about balancing the budget, and we have come to a real critical point, because if we are unable to balance the budget now, then when will we balance it? We have a future to think about for our children. We are \$5 trillion in debt. It is a tremendous amount of money. We are trying to strengthen our economy.

We have seen two dramatic moves in our economy. No. 1, when we went through the 5,000 mark on the New York Stock Exchange, it was the same week when we thought we had an agreement to balance the Federal budget in 7 years. This week, when we thought the balanced budget had failed, the stock market dropped dramatically, over 100 points, and then bounced back the next day, when Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, said that he hoped that we could get to a balanced budget, and in good faith he was going to lower interest rates a quarter of a percent.

But it is going to be very difficult for the President to concede to a balanced budget, because his liberal agenda does not include balancing the budget, only