

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

paying off liberal interest groups. Plus he is being dragged down by members of his own Cabinet.

Currently Secretary O'Leary in the Department of Energy is falling under fire. It started out with GAO reports as early as the first part of this year when they reported that she had a "mission a minute," quote-unquote, a mission a minute, that there were very large management problems within the Department. Then Vice President Gore's National Performance Review came out, which said that portions of the Department of Energy, like of the environmental management portion, was 40-percent inefficient, and it could cost taxpayers \$70 billion over the next 30 years.

Then we started to see travel problems, with the Secretary of the Department of Energy having the highest travel budget per trip of anyone inside the President's Cabinet, staying at four-star hotels, traveling first class, taking along large staffs for her domestic travel. But that was all based on her current responsibilities in the Department of Energy, which are all domestic.

Then we started to hear about the international trips. Secretary O'Leary has taken 16 international trips, taking along as many as 50 staff members, as many as 68 guests, often CEO's who do not pay their portion of the travels. One trip cost \$720,000. With 16 of them, it is in the millions of dollars, the costs of this. Often she travels on the same plane as Madonna leases. So the material girl of Clinton's Cabinet is spending unwisely taxpayer dollars in these travels.

She hires photographers and video crews to come along, because she wants to be caught at her best. She is very worried about the public image she is presenting and has been quoted as trying to bring the second term of the President's campaign, the ideals of it, to the forefront now.

In the zeal to project a good public image, Secretary O'Leary has hired a personal media consultant at a cost of \$75,000 per year to the taxpayers. She also employs inside the Department of Energy more than 520 public relations employees at a payroll of over \$25 million per year. She has even hired a private investigative firm to investigate reporters and Congressmen who are tarnishing her favorable image. She has developed a list of unfavorables.

Well, it is going to be hard to hit the budget target, especially when you are unable to control spending like this. This is excessive, it is unnecessary, and it is a waste. We are so concerned about the poor, and yet we allow first-class travel within members of the Cabinet overseas, on the same airplane that is leased by Madonna. That is not the lifestyle that is projected by the administration when they are trying to speak for the poor. It is quite the opposite.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage President Clinton to ask for the resignation of Secretary O'Leary. I would

urge him to get back into some honest negotiations on the Federal budget, so that we can enjoy Christmas as a government, get everyone back to work, and also preserve a future for our children, strengthen our economy, and just plain do the right thing. Balancing the budget is the right thing to do.

PRESIDENT RIGHT TO STAND FIRM ON BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let me just comment on one thing that the prior speaker mentioned at the beginning of his remarks, and that was that the President was holding out, was hanging tough, whatever phrase you want to use, on the budget, because of the people that he cares about, or the interests that he cares about.

I have got to tell you I am very proud of the President and his holding firm on this budget, because of in fact who he is holding out for, and that is for the folks who are on Medicare, those elderly who are in nursing homes, that get their health care paid for through either in whole or in part by Medicaid, by concerning himself with the environment, and by concerning himself with the working families of this country.

By the same token, Speaker GINGRICH is trying to hold the President hostage on this budget because of the special interests that he has, and I will match the President's commitment to the working people of this country with Mr. GINGRICH holding out for those special interests, those who are going to get the benefits of \$245 billion in tax breaks, those richest of American corporations who are going to see a \$17 billion windfall with the repeal of the alternate minimum tax.

Last month Speaker GINGRICH shut the Government down. He shut it down, and, in his own words, he shut it down because he did not like his seat on Air Force One. Now he is at it again. This time the Speaker has shut the Government down because he is not getting his way on the budget, even though the overwhelming number of Americans reject Speaker GINGRICH's budget, and I might add, that 60 percent of the American public wanted President Clinton to veto the Gingrich budget because of the issues of Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment.

The Speaker is not getting his way on this budget. He would like to cut Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment, all to help finance that tax break for the wealthiest Americans. Those may be the Speaker's priorities, but in fact they are not America's priorities. But instead of listening of the American people and fixing this unbalanced budget, the Speaker has chosen to shut the Government down for the second time in a month. His decision to shut the Government down

has thrown more than 200,000 people out of work 1 week before the Christmas holidays.

Yesterday my colleague from Virginia, Mr. MORAN, was on the floor, and he put the Government shutdown into human terms that I think everyone who is listening can understand. He said he visited a school in his suburban Washington district where the teachers told him that the children are not enjoying Christmas this year as they have in the past. Why? Because many of their parents are Federal employees who are out of work today, people who want to go to work, people who take on personal responsibility for themselves and their families. They are out of work today, thanks to Speaker GINGRICH. Their parents are fighting more, worried that they will not get paid, and afraid to spend money on the Christmas holiday gifts.

We should not be surprised that Speaker GINGRICH is willing to go to such extreme lengths to get his way if you take a look at what the Speaker said in September about shutting the Government down. This is a quote from the Washington Post on September 22. It says, "I don't care what the price is. I don't care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 30 days—not at this time. I don't care what the price is."

□ 1445

Quite honestly, that sums up the philosophy of the Speaker. It explains why he is willing to shut down the Government and ruin the holidays for thousands of hard-working families in this country.

This is someone who talks about a budget that is good for our children. What happens to these youngsters who are watching their parents worry about their jobs and what they are going to be able to do in the future? It explains why Speaker GINGRICH's budget cuts health care for the elderly and the poor while providing massive tax breaks for the wealthiest people and corporations in this country.

Believe it or not, this is the same man who last week was named Times "Man of the Year," leaving America to wonder who was the runner up, Ebenezer Scrooge?

BALANCING THE BUDGET IS A MILESTONE FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, to respond for a moment to the prior speaker, it is not about ruining the holidays for Federal Government employees, it is about restoring faith in America. It is about people coming to Washington and honoring their commitment to balance the budget.

It is interesting when we have votes on the board whether Democrats and