

Women, and Ileana Somellan 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