

birthday recently with a surprise party thrown by her friends and colleagues, as well as her husband, Jim Keithley, and their three children, Rebecca, Annie, and Jimmy.

Clerk Pucinski has been one of the most popular elected officials in Cook County since her election as a delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention. She is currently in her third term as clerk where she administers the world's largest unified trial court system, which handles more than 18 million cases each year.

She has literally guided the clerk's office into the 21st century with improved computer systems and other technological advancements to make the office more efficient and more responsive to the needs of law enforcement officers and attorneys and all citizens.

She has saved tens of millions of dollars for taxpayers during her tenure by reducing staff and overtime, through interest earned on investments and deposits, and returned unclaimed bond money. Clerk Pucinski is also the first county official to institute a code of ethics and internal ethics board.

A testament to Clerk Pucinski's integrity can be found in the fact that during her first campaign for office in 1988, she proposed a 40-point plan to improve the office. She has implemented all those promises.

Clerk Pucinski is an outstanding public official, but perhaps more important, she is an outstanding human being and a wonderful wife, mother, and daughter. I have known her for more than 20 years, when I served on the Chicago City Council with her father, Alderman Roman Pucinski, a revered and respected public official who was a huge influence on his daughter. She remains devoted to her father as well as all of her family members, despite the demands and responsibilities of her office.

Mr. Speaker, I wish my dear friend, Aurelia Pucinski, a happy birthday and of course, many, many more.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND EUGENE RAWLINGS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, I take this opportunity to comment upon the life and the work of the late Rev. Eugene Rawlings, who passed away on Tuesday, April 1, 1997.

Reverend Rawlings was born February 17, 1906, and spent his early years in Lucy, TN, where he attended school and received his early religious training. He graduated from the SA Owens College in Memphis, TN, and received an associate of arts degree in religious education from the McKinley Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS. In 1931, he married Ms. Caldonia Stevens and they have one daughter, Eugenia.

In 1954, Reverend Rawlings migrated to Chicago, IL, where he spent the rest of his life organizing churches, pastoring, teaching, and being a community activist. He was an outstanding lecturer and orator, as he taught at the Chicago Baptist Institute, the Ministers Union of Chicago and vicinity, the Westside Ministers Conference, and Bethany Hospital.

Reverend Rawlings was a great civic, social, and political activist, as evidenced by his position as a Master Mason, organizer for the Westside waste management environment safety project, Block Club treasurer, and planning committee for the Community Bank of Lawndale.

Rev. Eugene Rawlings was certainly an outstanding clergyman, civic leader, and humanitarian. We wish his wife Odessa, daughters Evangelist Eugenia Thomas, Pat Merriweather, and Francis Morris and other members of the family all the best, as they revere the life of this great American.

LOUIS FREEH IS A GOOD MAN

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, FBI Director Louis Freeh is a good man in a thankless job.

There is a tendency in this town, especially during the last 4 years, to go beyond answering one's opponent or critic to the point of destroying him utterly, his name, his reputation, and his livelihood. We can't let that happen to Director Freeh.

Among the other disturbing trends is that of politicizing agencies of the Federal Government and then using them to reward friend and punish enemies. Director Freeh has done everything possible to spare his agency this fate, and this, in the opinion of many, has made his a marked man.

This is unfortunate, because Director Freeh is, again in the opinion of many, one of the best directors in modern FBI history, and it would be a tragedy if his independence and integrity were to be his undoing.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot let that happen. And I would call on Senators from the other body to recognize Director Freeh's merits and to protect him from attempts to undermine him.

I submit, for the RECORD, a recent Wall Street Journal editorial which eloquently states the case for Director Freeh.

FBI LEADERSHIP

With news swirling about the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it might be an apt time to review the last change of leadership there. It took place, you probably do not recall, on the most tempestuous weekend of the Clinton Presidency.

FBI Director William Sessions, under fire over expense accounts and the department of his wife, had already tendered his resignation, pending a replacement. But on Saturday, July 17, 1993, he was told to resign immediately or be fired. Bearing the message was Attorney General Janet Reno, Deputy Attorney General Philip Heymann, White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum and now notorious Associate Attorney General Webster Hubbell. On the way out of the meeting, Mr. Sessions stumbled on the curb and broke his elbow. His replacement, former FBI agent and New York Judge Louis Freeh, was announced the following Tuesday morning.

"It had taken strenuous argument from Nussbaum to persuade Clinton not to name his old friend and fellow Rhodes Scholar Richard Stearns to the post," James B. Stewart reports in his book "Blood Sport." Mr. Stearns is a judge on the Massachusetts Superior Court, and that fateful Monday our own columns had reviewed his résumé:

"Judge Stearns and President Clinton were war protesters together as Rhodes Scholars at Oxford. Judge Stearns was also a deputy campaign manager in George McGovern's 1972 presidential race, as well as national director of delegates in Sen. Edward Kennedy's 1980 presidential nomination bid."

The same editorial said, "Judge Freeh is fine with us," but raised the question of why Mr. Sessions should be summarily fired if a replacement was ready. It started, "So the gang that pulled the great travel office caper is now hell-bent on firing the head of the FBI." In the event, the Freeh appointment was well received, not least, Mr. Stewart relates, because he was not a personal friend of Bill Clinton."

The appointment was announced simultaneously with the Supreme Court nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. "We've just hit two home runs for the President," Mr. Nussbaum said to his deputy Vincent Foster. Mr. Foster had declined a Monday night Presidential invitation to a meeting to appoint an independent counsel in the campaign contribution scandal; the following day her Inspector General issued a scathing report on the mess at the FBI laboratory. And Senator Charles Grassley said the report shows the FBI "needs better leadership."

Senator, wake up. With the country in the middle of an ongoing Presidential scandal, the top ranks of the Justice Department are vacant—except for Ms. Reno herself, who battles Parkinson's Disease. We have an acting CIA head, and lame-duck Secret Service Director. Mr. Clinton is on his fifth White House Counsel. The last law enforcement soldier holding the line in Washington doesn't need carping from Republican Senators; he needs air cover.

The IG report on the lab, where problems clearly started well before the current director, is only the latest incoming fire. In the Washington Post's Sunday edition, for example, Mr. Freeh is accused of losing the confidence of his agents. An example: He told them they couldn't question Richard Jewell under a ruse, but had to give him a Miranda warning; therefore the Jewell imbroglio was the Director's fault, agents say. A somewhat less unflattering Newsweek profile repeats this complaint, while saying Mr. Freeh has thought of resigning.

Under Mr. Freeh the bureau has of course made mistakes, most spectacularly in sharing with the White House drafts of former agent Gary Aldrich's book when it was submitted for clearance. But more recently Mr. Freeh stood up to White House requests for intelligence on Chinese contributions. And most importantly of all, he dispatched top agent I.C. Smith to Little Rock, leading to a new vigor in probing corruption there.

It has to be understood, as well, that any FBI Director needs a perimeter defense, and also a few colleagues with personal loyalty. Veteran law enforcement officials elsewhere relate tales of FBI officials denying help that had merely been promised by "the front office," or that talking to the director "is not talking to the FBI." The carping at Mr. Freeh has to be understood in its full context. Not only that the current White House is a corrosive force on all law enforcement agencies; but also that do director since J. Edgar Hoover has succeeded in establishing effective control of the bureau.

Yes, obviously the FBI has leadership problems. The solution, in the hands of Senator Grassley and other members of the Judiciary Committee, lies in making sure its leader has authority commensurate with his responsibility.