

[From the Albany Times Union, Oct. 8, 1997]  
TALES OF THE TAPES

THE WHITE HOUSE STRAINS CREDULITY IN ITS LATEST ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN WHY VIDEOS OF COFFEES WERE LATE TO SURFACE

The Clinton administration is repeating a tawdry chapter of history in its feeble attempt to explain away its delay in forwarding videotapes of President Clinton attending White House coffees where campaign contributors were guests. The White House has, however, added a new cyberspace twist to it all.

The tapes had been sought by the Senate committee looking into 1996 campaign fundraising practices by both Democrats and Republicans. Though filmed in 1995 and 1996, the videos weren't anywhere to be found until last weekend, when a 90-minute sampler was forwarded to Senate investigators and the Justice Department.

In the words of Lanny J. Davis, a special White House counsel, the tapes had been "inadvertently" overlooked.

Never mind that this administration has used "inadvertent" to explain away so many lapses that the word now ranks in the political lexicon right along with such staples as "stonewall" and "plausible deniability." This time, however, the twist is that the computer made them do it.

How so? The White House says it ordered a search for the tapes, just as the Senate committee requested. Somehow, though, the diligent, trusted White House aides came up empty handed. Turns out they were entering the wrong word search in the computer.

Instead of searching under the word coffee, they were busy searching under the words fund raising.

Thus a new blame-it-on-technology excuse enters the political lexicon, right along with the tried and true evasion of blaming the secretary for an 18-minute erasure on a Nixon audiotape.

It's difficult to decide who looks more foolish in the wake of these revelations—Mr. Davis and his boss, or Attorney General Janet Reno, who wasn't told of the tapes until after she announced that her Justice Department had found no evidence that President Clinton had violated any laws by attending the coffees.

Now there is talk of even more tapes of political fund-raisers that have yet to be released by the White House. Little wonder that Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who is co-sponsor of major campaign finance reform legislation, is shaking his head and saying, "I've never seen anything like it."

All the more reason for Ms. Reno to face up to her obligation to appoint a special prosecutor.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington on the evening of October 8, to cast my vote on the motion to instruct conferees on the foreign operations appropriations bill. This motion to instruct is superfluous and serves only to increase unwanted pregnancies. Had I been here, I would have voted "no" on restricting family planning activities just as I voted "no" when this motion came to the floor yesterday.

RESCUE MISSIONS DESERVE OUR ATTENTION

### HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues to read the following article from Policy Review by Rev. Stephen Burger.

On May 30, I had the opportunity to visit the Atlanta Union Mission, a private, faith-based rescue mission. The Atlanta Union Mission serves men, women, and children throughout the city and in part of a 250-member International Union of Gospel [IUGM]. During my visit, I listened to participants of the mission's program, who talked about their experiences. Many of them stressed that they had been through other programs in the past, and eventually relapsed, but that the Union Mission had been effective in dramatically changing their lives for good. The key to this effectiveness, was that the mission stressed a Higher Power, and recognized the benefits of faith in counseling and rehabilitation programs.

Collectively, the International Union of Gospel Missions represents the sixth largest charity in the United States. Last year IUGM missions provided more than 30 million meals, 22 million pieces of clothing, and 11 million beds to homeless men, women, and children.

I would encourage my colleagues to visit a rescue mission in their districts in the near future. Although most of these missions receive very little, if any, Government funding, they have proven to be the most cost effective, dollar for dollar, and, most important, they have the highest success rate in drug treatment and rehabilitation. As Rev. Stephen Burger has written, the approach that rescue missions take toward helping the homeless become productive members of our society deserves our attention.

[From the Policy Review, Oct., 1997]

ARISE, TAKE UP THY MAT AND WALK

(By Rev. Stephen Burger)

Spend a little time in virtually any city in America and you'll see them—in doorways, under bridges, poking through trash cans, begging for loose change. They are America's homeless. They no longer wear the face of the 55-year-old alcoholic man; they look more and more like young crack addicts, battered women and children, prostitutes, gamblers, and AIDS sufferers. On any given day, about 600,000 people are living either on the streets or in shelters trying to stay alive.

Americans are a compassionate people. But traditional approaches to the problem—promoted through government initiatives and many private charities—have been so ineffective at treating the fundamental causes of homelessness that we must reconsider what it means to help our neighbors in need.

Many government programs assume that homelessness is simply the absence of four walls and a roof. Usually it is not: The lack of affordable housing, though a problem, is not why most of these people have no permanent address. Most people in trouble economically have friends and families whose homes they could share temporarily if they choose to. The level of government spending on the problem likewise leaves deeper issues untouched. There are more than 60 separate federal programs that provide some form of help. The federal Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD) now operates homeless shelters and drug rehabilitation programs in every major city in the United States. But the rates at which the able-bodied homeless graduate to independence from these programs rarely rise above single digits.

America used not settle for this level of failure. If anyone can testify to that, we can.

The International Union of Gospel Missions—whose staff members often emerge from the ranks of the formerly homeless—has been helping the destitute break the cycle of dependence since 1913. Last year, our emergency services and long-term rehabilitation programs helped 14,000 homeless men and women achieve self-sufficiency. These were not "easy" cases. Thousands walked into our doors addicted to alcohol, heroin, crack cocaine, and other drugs. Many have been prostitutes, or veterans who couldn't adjust to civilian life. Many have committed crimes, served time in prison, and failed other rehabilitation programs.

Our experience teaches us that America needs nothing less than a reformation in the way we think about homelessness. Many traditional and government-funded approaches fail not for lack of money but for a deficit of vision: They do not treat the whole person. They neglect the familial and moral aspects of a person's life. They refuse to challenge the homeless person's fundamental way of thinking. Says Rev. Mickey Kalman, the executive director of City Rescue Mission in Oklahoma City: "The philosophy of government homeless programs is to respect and protect lifestyles that produce homelessness."

Most significantly, these programs ignore the central dimension of the problem—the spiritual. After more than 35 years of trying to help homeless people with every imaginable problem, I cannot escape this fact: Men and women who walk away from their jobs, their families, and their homes do so because, fundamentally, they are turning away God and His claim on their lives. But government funded policies, by definition, must exclude this vital dynamic from the discussion. It is a prescription predestined for failure.

Not only are government approaches not working, but government regulations continue to impede or thwart the most innovative programs. Labor laws, zoning issues, licensing requirements are all getting in the way of private, religiously based efforts to deliver effective care. Authorizing block grants and returning power to the states will not by themselves make much of a difference, because it's state and local governments that throw up some of the most egregious obstacles to our faith-based shelter programs. Moreover, much of government's regulatory itch is aggravated by blindness to the moral and spiritual causes of homelessness.

What follows are some of the dynamics of change: We make sure that these elements are present in all of our 245 rescue missions in the 210 cities in which we operate nationwide. Though our missions offer various educational, job-training, relational, and other skills, these three principles establish an ethical and religious foundation without which all our other efforts would amount to nothing.

#### THE FAITH FACTOR

It is very difficult to overstate the importance of the spiritual aspect of this problem. Spiritual renewal is the fountainhead for personal transformation.

Enoch Walker was married and had a child he loved, a job he enjoyed, and a house in Washington, D.C. Then he began abusing alcohol and drugs, what he calls "the great removers" in his life, because they became