

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to briefly discuss the Waco tragedy that has been so much in the news over the past few days.

Before coming to Congress, I spent 7½ years as a criminal court judge trying felony criminal cases. I tried the attempted murder of James Earl Ray, several death penalties cases, and many high profile cases of all types. I believe in the death penalty as it is now used, meaning on our most horrible cases, and I believe in very long sentences for violent, hardened criminals. I am very strongly anticrime; but I must say tonight that I think this Waco tragedy was one of the most tragic episodes in our Nation's history and one of the most despicable things the Federal Government has ever done.

Eighty-six people, including 24 children, were put to death simply for attempting to be left alone, so they could practice what I and most other people felt were kooky religious beliefs. But in a free country, people are supposed to have the right to have kooky, weird or unusual beliefs as long as they are not hurting anyone else.

The Waco victims were killed apparently because federal law enforcement officials were bound and determined to conduct a raid that would make the national news. This was not about law enforcement; this was about publicity.

Now, after 6 years, we discover, as many people suspected all along, that the FBI has been lying about this sordid affair. We heard a few days ago that contrary to previous Justice Department statements, incendiary devices were placed by the Government into the Branch Davidians' home.

Today, we are told even more incendiary devices were put in there, something called military star flares, highly flammable. The federal law enforcement people bombarded this home for many weeks, hour after hour, minute after minute, with extremely loud noises, extremely bright lights throughout the night. Then they moved in the tanks.

Hundreds of officers, thousands and thousands of highly paid man-hours, hundred of millions of taxpayer dollars wasted in a massive overkill of people who were of no threat to anyone.

Then the Government attempted to do a false public relations campaign about child abuse, of which there was no proof, and illegal weapons, also not proved.

What makes all of this even worse is that the kooky leader, David Koresh, was frequently out of the Davidians' home alone and could have easily been arrested on many occasions if the ATF and others were not primarily interested in publicity in the first place.

Eighty-six people killed, 24 children dead, in what many people now say was a raid done in an attempt to justify increased appropriations.

Five or 6 years ago, Forbes Magazine had a lengthy cover story about the Justice Department. The story said that we had quadrupled the Justice De-

partment funding since 1980 and that prosecutors and federal law enforcement people were falling all over themselves trying to find cases to prosecute.

The article said they were resorting to going after honest business people who had unintentionally violated laws they did not even know were in existence, shades of the IRS.

Several months ago, Newsweek Magazine had a cover story which said on its cover, "The IRS, Lawless, Abusive, Out of Control."

Well, the same thing could be said today of the Justice Department under Attorney General Reno and our federal law enforcement agencies. Today, our law enforcement dollar is out of whack. The highest paid law enforcement people are federal bureaucrats who sit here in Washington and never see a real criminal unless they are mugged on the way to their cars after work.

The lowest paid law officers are the local police and sheriffs deputies, the people who are fighting the real crime, the street crime, the violent crime that people want fought.

The tragedy at Waco, the deaths of the children, the lies about it since it happened, are all the outgrowth of a Federal Government that has grown too big for its own good, and certainly too powerful and too arrogant for the good of the people for whom these Government officials are supposed to be working.

While I am discussing this, I should also mention the cold-blooded killing by the FBI of 13-year-old Sammy Weaver and his mother at Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

This small boy was cowardly shot in the back and his mother was shot as she held her small baby in the doorway of her house.

And no one is ever held accountable for all of these deaths and all of these lies, because today we do not have a Government of, by and for the people but instead have one that is of, by and for the bureaucrats, the unelected elite of this Nation.

The only thing these people really care about is their money. What we should do, but will not, is to drastically cut the money for these agencies and give it instead to local law enforcement agencies or back to the hard-working citizens we took it from in the first place.

It certainly, Mr. Speaker, will not satisfy anyone to have a whitewash investigation by establishment types handpicked by the Justice Department and approved by our very biased national media.

VA-HUD INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, the VA-HUD bill that we are considering today is unacceptable. At a time of unprece-

dent economic prosperity, the question is: Why is it that we are cutting the supply of affordable housing instead of increasing the supply of affordable housing?

The cuts proposed by the Republicans will be devastating to our Nation's most vulnerable citizens. The majority proposes to cut \$1.6 billion below last year's levels. The VA-HUD bill does not include any of President Clinton's requests for new housing and economic development assistance, such as 100,000 new Section 8 vouchers, APIC, which is America's Private Investment Companies, and other initiatives.

In the City of Chicago, these cuts would deprive 2,530 people of jobs; 1,915 people of affordable housing; and deny assistance to 397 homeless families and persons with AIDS. It is estimated that the City of Chicago will lose \$33,975,000 as a result of the VA-HUD cuts.

My constituents are asking, what is going on here in Washington? Well, I will tell what is going on here.

The proponents of this huge tax cut are looking for ways to pay for their plan for their wealthiest supporters. Unfortunately, they chose to do this on the backs of the poor, our most vulnerable citizens. I urge my Republican colleagues to fully fund VA-HUD. We must expand, not cut, the programs that meet vital housing and economic development needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

TAX RELIEF, IT IS GOOD FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address tonight the Republican budget and the tax relief package which Americans certainly deserve and is long overdue to them and particularly in respect to the rhetorical terrorism that we seem to hear from the White House.

I guess it is the fall. Everybody is back on the football field. The kids are back in school and the White House hot air machine is in full force spreading the lies which they seem to be so good about. Now here we have a budget which is a three-point budget, Mr. Speaker; and basically what it does, as a triangle, the apex of the triangle does one thing, protects Social Security and Medicare, setting aside \$1.9 trillion for Social Security and Medicare protection. Unlike the President's proposal that he made in January of this year, standing right in front of where the Speaker is, saying let us put aside 62 percent of the Social Security surplus, the Republican plan puts aside 100 percent.

Now, even if someone is a liberal over at the White House, they know that 100 percent is more than 62 percent, and this is good for your grandmother and my grandmother.