

Walter Reuther, who remained in office during the purge, also remained a marked man.

In April 1938 two gun-wielding anti-union thugs forced their way into Sophie Reuther's 25th birthday party at Walter Reuther's Detroit apartment (a delivery of Chinese food had been expected) and began pistol whipping her brother-in-law until a guest scrambled out a second-story window and began shouting for the police.

When the police, widely assumed to be in the pay of the auto makers, began a perfunctory investigation and asked Mrs. Reuther to describe the thugs, she did not miss a beat. "They looked very much like you," she said.

In 1951, after an attempt on Mr. Reuther's life, the family including three children, moved to Paris, where he spent three years as the Congress of Industrial Organization's European director.

They moved to Washington in 1954, when Walter Reuther took over as U.A.W. president and Victor became his special assistant and director of international affairs.

Although Mrs. Reuther held no official union position after 1937, she remained very much a union woman, so much so that when her husband, who she believed had been neglecting his domestic duties, returned from one of his frequent trips he found a list of her demands written large in rug shampoo on the living room carpet.

Known as a woman who recognized no limitation on what she could do, Mrs. Reuther obtained a fine arts degree from George Washington University at the age of 55 in 1968 and was a Robert F. Kennedy delegate to the Democratic National Convention that year.

It was during an official union visit to India that year that Mrs. Reuther left her husband with the enduring image of her humanity. At a mine near Calcutta, he recalled, a miner's widow, an untouchable, approached his wife, bent down and kissed her shoe.

Then, in a breach of caste protocol, "my Sophie reached down and lifted the women up and embraced her." Mr. Reuther recalled. "The women were shocked. The men were shocked."

"That was my Shopie," he said. "She felt a kinship with the suffering of all people."

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Reuther is survived by a daughter, Carole Hill of Cowden, Ill.; two sons, Eric, of Washington, and John, of Moscow; a brother, Edward Bezuska of Warren, Mich, and six grandchildren.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

GETTING GOVERNMENT OFF THE BACKS OF AMERICANS

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, I certainly appreciate the opportunity, and we are glad to be back in our Nation's Capital, and obviously it is tax week. April 15 has come and gone, and the American public has obviously hopefully filled out all of their appropriate papers. But it gives us cause to look at Government and talk about how we are trying to make a difference here in Washington, trying to get Government to look at itself and reflect on what its true mission is, to look at all levels of spending, to look at all that we do in trying to determine what is the most appropriate role for the Federal Government, what would be best reserved for the States, what would we expect from our leaders.

I am particularly pleased that the National Taxpayers Union released its report on Congress. The National Taxpayers Union released its ratings from the 1995 session of Congress, the first of the 104th. I was proud to note 78 Members of this body scored an A rating. I was particularly delighted in the fact that 33 Members of the freshman class were A rated this year.

In their release, the National Taxpayers Union suggested that Members did not only talk about reduction of spending in their districts, they emphasized it here on the floor of this Chamber. They showed by their deeds and by their actions their commitment to reducing the size and scope of Federal Government.

Yes, we need to make priorities. Yes, we need to seek the direction that this Nation hopes to accomplish. But, by these ratings, we have clearly indicated, at least this Member personally, that we are prepared to make the tough votes, to bring us in balance in our Nation.

We are spending in excess of \$200 billion a year that we do not have. We have a \$5 trillion national debt. It is costing us \$300 billion in interest payments on the debt alone to service that debt. Even in the year 2002 when we fully balance the treasury and we do not have more going out than we have coming in, we will still have in excess at that point of \$6 trillion in debt.

Now, when you are spending \$300 billion alone this fiscal year on interest payments, no principle reduction, you are clearly spending that \$200 billion, and you are spending in excess \$100 billion further in reducing the debt. Without that \$300 billion you would have a surplus revenue to the treasury of over \$100 billion.

So part of the significant concern is reducing the debt, ratcheting it down, much like an individual does on a 30-year mortgage. They start paying down the debt, small incremental principle reductions, in order to bring down that devastating debt burden on our Nation.

If the Members would think of \$300 billion of free flow cash that could be used to enhance programs, actually you would have \$100 billion, but you take that toward education, pre-K programs, Head Start, things vitally important to getting our Nation's youth up and running so they enter first grade with reading and writing skills, basic skills, in order to become productive.

I talked a little bit about what we tried to do in the crime areas in this Nation. It is time we stop coddling the criminals. I was entirely depressed the other day when I read the story about the gentleman from Texas who had committed sexual offenses against minors, who was being released from prison, and readily acknowledged that he would commit the crimes again. In our society we suggest that he be released and we put a monitoring bracelet on him.

Here is a man that indicates he is going to perpetrate crimes against children, he may kill his next victim, and our Nation releases him. The penal system in Texas releases him because they claim they cannot hold him any longer. The mere utterance of the fact that he threatened bodily injury on another human being I think should have proven beyond a reasonable doubt that he should have been held in custody.

If we are going to get tough on crime, we are having to get tough on sentences like this, where they are releasing perpetrators of serious felonies against children out into our society. We are not going to prove to the young people of America that crime does not pay, if in fact they witness daily people being released by judges, released by prisons, serving half the time allocated by the judge, serving 25 percent of the allocable time.

We tried to mandate we will not provide prison funds for States if they do not require serving 80 percent of sentences. We come up with gimmicks like "three strikes and you're out." What is wrong with the first strike? Why do we need baseball metaphors to feel safe in our homes? Why not put them away the first time.

When kids bring knives and guns to school, do not suspend them from campus. Do not send them home into the communities with guns and knives so they can rob homes while we are working. Put them in a boot camp. No marine wants to go back to basic training. Once they have completed it, they never want to return to basic training.

The same could be held for our young juvenile offenders. If in fact they commit these types of crimes, put them in a boot camp and make them serve a sentence so they will not commit a crime again or will think twice about it.

We can make a difference in America in this Congress. We can get tougher on criminals. We can balance the budget and save the Nation from fiscal collapse. But we must act now in the week of IRS' big gulp. Let us get the taxes reduced and Government off our backs.