

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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**OPINION**

## Secret Service Falls Down On Job

Most of us can only imagine how difficult it must be for the U.S. Secret Service to protect the president and his family.

Whenever a president appears in public, the precautions have to be exhaustive and the preparations meticulous. Every threat has to be treated as real. It is an exercise in constant, unblinking, unrelenting vigilance in an atmosphere that is constantly in flux and in locales that present new challenges with every stop.

But the White House should be different. It's home turf, a stable environment, and it should be an impregnable fortress, with every square inch of the place under tight scrutiny.

However, that is apparently not the case. On Sept. 19, a man jumped the fence at the White House, and the Secret Service reported that an unarmed intruder made it inside the building before he was apprehended.

Except, we learned the next day that the accused intruder was actually carrying a knife.

And now, it was reported Monday that the intruder made it into the East Room, located deep inside the mansion, and near the Green Room before he was apprehended.

So, this individual was able to jump the fence and seriously breach what should have been one of the most secure places in Washington.

The Secret Service should be ashamed and needs to be held accountable not only for its poor security measures but its efforts to sanitize the facts.

Unfortunately, Monday's revelation came on the heels of a *Washington Post* report over the weekend about a 2011 incident in which shots were fired at the White House. It was reported that the Secret Service did not immediately respond to the report of the incident; the evidence was found four days later when it was discovered that at least one shot broke some glass on the third floor of the White House. Worse, one of the Obamas' children was at the White House at the time of the incident. According to reports, the Obamas were outraged by the incident, as any parent could certainly understand.

But as Americans, we don't understand — and cannot accept — such lapses in the safeguarding of this nation's commander in chief.

The fact that someone would and could take pot shots at the White House is disturbing, but the apparently sloppy way it was handled is unforgivable.

As for the fence-jumper incident last month, this matter is arguably even worse. After all, the Secret Service has one job when it comes to White House security: Don't let anybody in. Unlike coping with teeming crowds and new venues, the White House should be a stronghold. The fact that it apparently is not is damning and alarming.

This must be fixed. And if it means heads must roll within the Secret Service, so be it.

kmh

**ON THIS DATE**

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 1, the 274th day of 2014. There are 91 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Oct. 1, 1964, the Free Speech Movement began at the University of California, Berkeley, as students spontaneously protested the arrest of Berkeley alumnus Jack Weinberg, who'd refused to identify himself to campus police as he sat behind a table promoting the Congress of Racial Equality.

**On this date:** In 1885, special delivery mail service began in the United States.

In 1908, Henry Ford introduced his Model T automobile to the market.

In 1932, Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees made his supposed called shot, hitting a home run against Chicago's Charlie Root in the fifth inning of Game 3 of the World Series, won by the New York Yankees 7-5 at Wrigley Field.

In 1939, Winston Churchill described Russia as "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma" during a radio address on the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

In 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China during a ceremony in Beijing. A 42-day strike by the United Steelworkers of America began over the issue of retirement benefits.

In 1957, the motto "In God We Trust" began appearing on U.S. paper currency.

In 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit his 61st home run during a 162-game season, compared to Babe Ruth's 60 home runs during a 154-game season. (Tracy Stallard of the Boston Red Sox gave up the round-tripper; the Yankees won 1-0.)

In 1964, Japan's first high-speed "bullet train," the Tokaido Shinkansen, went into operation between Tokyo and Osaka.

In 1968, the cult horror movie "Night of the Living Dead" had its world premiere in Pittsburgh.

In 1974, the cult horror movie "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre" was first released.

In 1987, eight people were killed when an earthquake measuring magnitude 5.9 struck the Los Angeles area.

In 1994, National Hockey League team owners began a 103-day lockout of their players.

**Ten years ago:** Mount St. Helens in Washington state erupted for the first time in 18 years, but without

nearly the force of the 1980 disaster. Police found the body of Lori Hacking in a landfill after picking through the trash for weeks in a search for the young Utah woman murdered by her husband, Mark. Fashion photographer Richard Avedon died in San Antonio, Texas, at age 81.

**Five years ago:** The U.S. and five other world powers held high-stakes talks with Iran in Geneva to demand a freeze of its nuclear activities; President Barack Obama, in Washington, called the discussions "a constructive beginning." David Letterman publicly acknowledged having had sexual relationships with some female staffers as "48 Hours Mystery" producer Joe Halderman was charged in a blackmail plot against the CBS "Late Show" host. (Halderman later pleaded guilty to attempted grand larceny and served four months in jail.)

**One year ago:** The federal government partially shut down because of a budget impasse in Congress, the same day Americans got their first chance to shop for health insurance using the online marketplaces that were at the heart of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul (however, government websites designed to sell the policies struggled to handle the traffic, with many frustrated users reporting trouble setting up accounts). Novelist Tom Clancy, 66, died in Baltimore.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former President Jimmy Carter is 90. Actress-singer Julie Andrews is 79. Actress Stella Stevens is 76. Rock musician Jerry Martini (Sly and the Family Stone) is 71. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Rod Carew is 69. Jazz musician Dave Holland is 68. Actor Stephen Collins is 67. Actress Yvette Freeman is 64. Actor Randy Quaid is 64. Rhythm-and-blues singer Howard Hewett is 59. Alt-country-rock musician Tim O'Reagan (The Jayhawks) is 56. Singer Youssou N'Dour is 55. Actor Esai Morales is 52. Retired MLB All-Star Mark McGwire is 51. Actor Christopher Titus is 50. Actress-model Cindy Margolis is 49. Rock singer-musician Kevin Griffin (Better Than Ezra) is 46. Actor Zach Galifianakis is 45. Singer Keith Duffy is 40. Actress Sarah Drew is 34. Actor-comedian Beck Bennett (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 30. Actress Jurnee Smollett is 28. Actress Brie Larson is 25.

**Thought for Today:** "It is not easy to find happiness in ourselves, and it is not possible to find it elsewhere." — Agnes Repplier, American essayist (1858-1950).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:25. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

**YOUR LETTERS**

**Honoring Veterans**

**Ritch Wilson, Sioux Falls**  
As commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), we wish to thank the businesses and the public for their generous support of the Disabled American Veterans during our DAV annual Forget-Me-Not Drive in Yankton on Sept. 19-20, 2014.

Every cent of the money raised will go to projects that directly assist veterans in the following programs and services in our area: Donations to VA Medical Centers, Financial assistance to needy veterans, Meal pro-

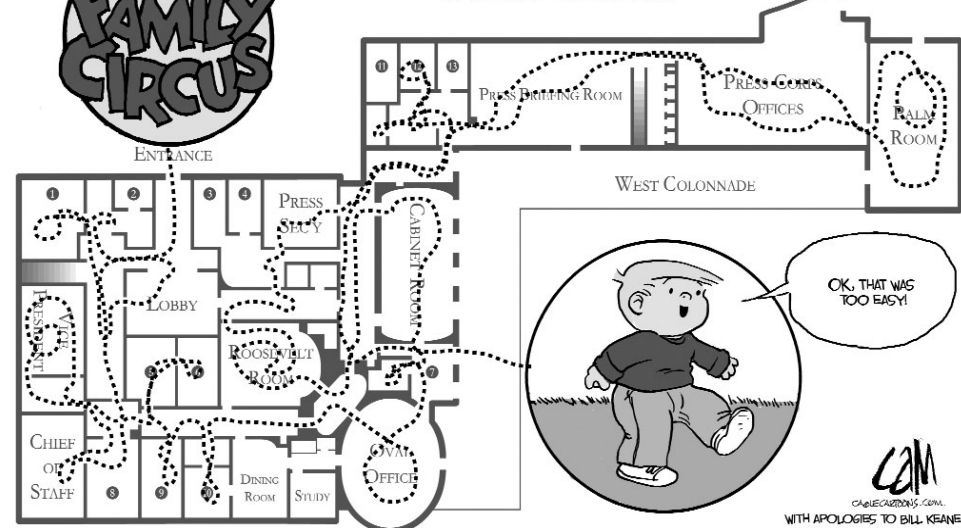
grams for veterans, Homeless and Needy Veterans Program, Hospital Transportation Network — Purchase Vans To Provide Free Rides For Veterans' Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS Program) and Older Veterans Assistance Programs

The public should know that the DAV will put 100 percent of their contributions to work assisting veterans who need our help.

Thanks again for your donations and your support of our country's veterans.



## THE WHITE HOUSE WEST WING - FIRST FLOOR



COM  
CHUCK GARDNER'S GEAR  
WITH APOLOGUES TO BILL KEANE

**Point Of View**

## A Look At The City Budget

BY AMY NELSON

Yankton City Manager



Nelson

On Monday, Sept. 8, the Yankton Board of City Commissioners approved the 2015 annual budget totaling \$55.6 million.

The City of Yankton operates on a "budget to zero" philosophy with the general fund. This means that we take all of the revenue generated from the various sources, including carry over from the previous year, to keep operations going. This philosophy is based on the premise that we do not wish to — or have much flexibility to — raise or create revenue streams that are above what is needed to function in the planned budget. With that being said, we always budget conservatively, especially when it comes to annual budget line items that cover ongoing maintenance operations. Barring the occurrence of a major unfortunate event, such as a bad storm, the end of the year will see some carry over that creates the foundation for the next year's budget.

Here are a few of the highlights of the 2015 adopted budget.

- A substantial investment in equipment. The replacement of the Fire Department's Ladder Truck No. 1 will cost approximately \$1 million. The Fire Department has done a great job of keeping the current ladder truck functioning at a high level, but at 25 years old, it is time for replacement. Replacing a motor grader that is used throughout the year for street construction projects and snow removal is also planned. We also have the normal rotation of police vehicles in the budget.

- I wanted this year's budget to specifically respond to the desires expressed in the recent citizen surveys related to technology. Technology enhancements are focused on convenience for residents. In the upcoming months, city utility customers will be able to pay their bills online and have the option to have an "e-bill" instead of receiving a paper bill in the mail. Our city website will also get a makeover in 2015 and will incorporate new functions for communicating and doing business with your elected officials and city staff. Further, software upgrades in the Community Development Department will provide contractors and developers with accurate, immediate information that will move projects forward quickly.

- Major infrastructure projects in 2015 will include a project to extend Douglas Avenue north of 33rd Street and the reconstruction of Wilson Road as a part of the Tax Increment District No. 5. Not only will this project help support the ex-

## The Economy: Left Behind

BY ROBERT B. REICH

Tribune Content Agency

I was in Seattle recently to congratulate union and community organizers who helped that city enact the first \$15-per-hour minimum wage in the country.

Other cities and states should follow Seattle's example.

Contrary to the dire predictions of opponents, the hike won't cost Seattle jobs. In fact, it will put more money into the hands of low-wage workers who are likely to spend almost all of it in the vicinity. That will create jobs.

Conservatives believe the economy functions better if the rich have more money and everyone else has less. But they're wrong. It's just the opposite.

The real job creators are not CEOs or corporations or wealthy investors. The job creators are members of America's vast middle class and the poor, whose purchases cause businesses to expand and invest.

America's wealthy are richer than they've ever been. Big corporations are sitting on more cash they know what to do with. Corporate profits are at record levels. CEO pay continues to soar.

But the wealthy aren't investing in new companies. Between 1980 and 2014, the rate of new business formation in the United States dropped by half, according to a Brookings study released in May.

Corporations aren't expanding production or investing in research and development. Instead, they're using their money to buy back their shares of stock.

There's no reason for them to expand or invest if customers aren't buying.

Consumer spending has grown more slowly in this recovery than in any previous one because consumers don't have enough money to buy. All the economic gains have been going to the top.

The Commerce Department reported last Friday that the economy grew at a 4.6 percent annual rate in the second quarter of the year.

So what? The median household's income continues to drop. Median household income is now 8 percent below what it was in 2007, adjusted for inflation. It's 11 percent below its level in 2000.

It used to be that economic expansions improved the incomes of the bottom 90 percent more than the top 10 percent. But starting with the "Reagan" recovery of 1982 to 1990, the benefits of economic growth during expansions have gone mostly to the top 10 percent.

Since the current recovery began in 2009, all economic gains have gone to the top 10 percent.

The bottom 90 percent has lost ground. We're in the first economic upturn on record in which 90 percent of Americans have become worse off.

Why did the playing field start to tilt against the middle class in the Reagan recovery, and why has it tilted further ever since?

Don't blame globalization. Other advanced nations facing the same global competition have managed to preserve middle-class wages. Germany's median wage is now higher than America's.

One factor here has been a sharp decline in union membership. In the mid 1970s, 25 percent of the private-sector workforce was unionized.

Then came the Reagan revolution. By the end of the 1980s, only 17 percent of the private workforce was unionized. Today, fewer than 7 percent of the nation's private-sector workers belong to a union.

This means most workers no longer have the bargaining power to get a share of the gains from growth.

Another structural change is the drop in the minimum wage. In 1979, it was \$9.67 an hour (in 2013 dollars). By 1990, it had declined to \$6.84. Today it's \$7.25, well below where it was in 1979.

Given that workers are far more productive now — computers have even increased the output of retail and fast-food workers — the minimum wage should be even higher.

By setting a floor on wages, a higher minimum helps push up other wages. It undergirds higher median household incomes.

The only way to grow the economy in a way that benefits the bottom 90 percent is to change the structure of the economy. At the least, this requires stronger unions and a higher minimum wage.

It also requires better schools for the children of the bottom 90 percent, better access to higher education, and a more progressive tax system.

GDP growth is less and less relevant to the well-being of most Americans. We should be paying less attention to growth and more to median household income.

If the median household's income is heading upward, the economy is in good shape. If it's heading downward, as it's been for this entire recovery, we're all in deep trouble.

Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. His new film, "Inequality for All," is now out on iTunes, DVD and On Demand.