



Written by [Jack Kenny](#) on February 16, 2015

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Hillary, Jeb, and Elián González

The professional table setters have planned the next electoral dinner, the political soiree to be presented to us as mere spectators in 2016 as the contest between Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush. Whoever wins will, of course, take the oath of office to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. To either of them, that oath will mean not a blessed, doggone thing.

Mrs. Clinton, the former first lady, U.S. senator, and secretary of state, announced the last time she ran for president that she wanted to be the “commander in chief of the economy” from “day one” of her presidency. That suggests that, for all of her impressive resumé, she does not have clue one about the powers of the president under the Constitution. The president is commander in chief of the armed forces, not of the economy. We do not have a command economy. We have a mostly free-market economy, no thanks to Mrs. Clinton and others of her ideological bent. The Soviet Union had a command economy, and how did that work out for the Russkies?



AP Images

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the promised co-president in her husband’s administration, no doubt played a key role in bringing Janet Reno into the Cabinet as the nation’s first female attorney general. Reno was in office barely a month when she resolved the conflict with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, by turning the wood frame buildings of the Davidian “compound” into raging infernos, killing 82 people, including more than a dozen children under the age of five. “Black lives matter” is the catch phrase of our day. Branch Davidian lives apparently did not.

But Janet “El” Reno went on to greater glory. When the Cuban government demanded the return of child escapee Elián González, Attorney General Reno acted as Girl Friday for Cuba’s “El Supremo,” the notorious Fidel Castro. González, the six-year-old whose mother died on the high seas in bringing her child to freedom, was wanted by his father, who remained in Cuba. During an involved legal struggle, Reno brought an abrupt end to the judicial process by ordering a pre-dawn Gestapo-style raid on the González home in Miami, breaking down the door with riot-gearied storm troopers and seizing the frightened child at gunpoint. Soon after, he was returned to the island prison that is Cuba.

President Clinton approved of the action. If Mrs. Clinton disagreed, she uttered no public comment to indicate a trace of dissent. George W. Bush, then the governor of Texas and the presumptive GOP



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presidential nominee that year, offered a pathetic protest, saying that custody disputes should be resolved in the calm of a courtroom and not “in the terror of middle-of-the-night raids.” Thank you, Oliver Wendell Bush.

The future president’s brother, Florida Governor Jeb Bush, issued a bulletin on the state of his heart, saying he was “deeply disappointed and heartbroken” at the use of force to capture the child.

“Elián’s reunion with his father should not have happened this way,” Jeb Bush said in Tallahassee. “This matter could have been resolved without using force to extract Elián from the home of his Miami relatives.”

“To treat his as if it were a hostage situation, I think shows disrespect for people who love that child,” said Bush, who also indicated he felt an agreement was close before the raid occurred.

Joe Carollo, the mayor of Miami at the time and one who probably had no presidential ambitions, was less guarded and more candid in his description of what had occurred. “They came in with machine guns, they came in gassing people,” the mayor said. “This is America. This is not Cuba, this is not Hitler’s old Germany. This boy did not have to be taken out in such a shameful way.”

Republican Congressman Lincoln-Diaz-Balart of Florida called the raid “an Orwellian monstrosity.” House Majority Whip Tom Delay (R-Texas) referred to the armed raiders of the González home as “jack-booted thugs.” Republican members of Congress promised hearings, but as was the case with the slaughter at Waco, nothing really came of it.

But what should we think of either Mrs. Clinton or Jeb Bush from their reactions to the Gestapo raid on the González home in “Little Havana”? Did they show the type of outrage we ought to have expected of lovers of freedom? Did Jeb Bush oppose with manly vigor the subversion of law and order by the federal forces in the sovereign state of which he was the putative governor? Did he raise the banner of state rights against the military invasion of his state? Andrew Jackson, he was — and is — not.

Hillary Clinton is presented as a champion of women’s rights, but surely not of the rights of a woman who gave her life to give her son a chance to live in freedom. The actions of the attorney general, doing the bidding of the bearded Cuban dictator, showed the tepid nature of the type of devotion to freedom we may expect from either a Jeb Bush or a Hillary Clinton presidency.



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