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# Police Investigating Burglary at Home Of Gilmanton Town Clerk-Tax Collector

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Staff Writer

GILMANTON — The town clerk's/tax collectors home on Route 140 was burglarized after all of the rooms had been searched and one was ransacked.

Elizabeth Smithers, who has served the citizens of Gilmanton for 25 years, was not home at the time of the break-in, according to police. She discovered her house had been burglarized when she returned home in Thursday afternoon.

"It was a daytime burglary," Chief M. "Bud" Salmon said this morning. "It's very typical of what's been happening."

The town has experience a

rash of daytime housebreaks this year and citizens have organized a crime watch program with Salmon's help to learn how to protect themselves and their property.

The police were called to the Smithers' at 4:17 p.m. to investigate the burglary that occurred sometime during the day between mid-morning and mid-afternoon, Salmon said.

Police did not detail how much property was stolen from the home, but did say an amount of jewelry was taken. Salmon would not reveal how much jewelry was taken.

Police officers searched the

area around Smithers home Thursday and are following up on some leads, Salmon said.

Smithers is one of the town's most popular elected officials and currently serves as the town's town clerk and tax collector.

She was appointed to the position of town clerk in 1966 and has been re-elected consecutively since that time. She was elected tax collector in 1986.

Smithers was elected as the town's first female selectman in 1977 and served the town for three terms. She has also been in the forefront of volunteer programs throughout the town.

talk like this gentleman any more. When was the last time you heard a network newsman knock "African politicians" for failing to seize the opportunities of independence? Probably back in the '60s, when Sevareid was still going strong.

Why? Because criticism of black African leaders is no longer "politically correct"?

Hardly; the truth is more damning than that. But for the horrors in one troubled country on that continent, we simply don't talk about Africa all that much. Not on a regular basis, certainly.

Nor about anywhere else, for that matter.

This is the great difference between the '60s and the '90s, between the grand worldview evoked by the name "Eric Sevareid" and the narrow, "news-you-can-use" confections the networks serve up today. The undeniable truth is that even as the world gets smaller, we Americans become ever more inward-

Air Force One, but on his own, heading to where the story was, then staying on, trying to savor what was really happening.

He was no oracle, simply a shrewd newsman with his own well-worked beat: thinking.

Sevareid's appraisal of the two presidential candidates of 1960, John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon, seems particularly compelling in 1992. "I am not at all sure that Kennedy is a more intelligent or conscientious man than Nixon. What I feel quite sure of is that he is a stronger man, the kind of human creature who can make a fateful decision and, like Harry Truman, sleep soundly in his bed."

Isn't this as good a guide as we're likely to have in predicting how Americans will pick their leader this Nov. 3? That, after all the news and debates and TV ads, we will choose the "stronger" of George Bush and Bill Clinton?

The great veteran journalist

# Bush Shou

## Donald Lambro

Washington

Several months ago I suggested that if President Bush wanted to begin improving his damaged credibility, he should have his chief aides pick out a fat, wasteful appropriations bill that was headed to the White House and veto it.

I recalled a case when President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked an aide to "find me a bill I can veto." A questionable piece of legislation was soon found, FDR vetoed it, and Congress and the nation quickly got the message that he meant business and was someone to be reckoned with.

George Bush has vetoed more