

Clinton appoints Freeh to guide F.B.I.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton tapped "street-smart" federal judge Louis Freeh on Tuesday to lead the FBI in its fight against persistent violent crime, new challenges in counter-terrorism and the agency's own morale problems.

"Our country must be made safe again," Freeh declared at an upbeat Rose Garden appearance alongside Clinton.

The ceremony provided a sharp contrast to the previous day, when a grim-faced Clinton had appeared in the White House briefing room to announce he was firing William Sessions as FBI head because of questions about his conduct and leadership.

Freeh, a 43-year-old federal district judge from Manhattan, was appointed to the bench by President Bush in 1991 after five years as an FBI agent and a decade as a federal prosecutor.

Street-smart judge takes over agency's head spot

"He is experienced, energetic and independent," Clinton said. "He will be both good and tough — good for the FBI and tough on criminals."

Clinton said that Freeh, working with Attorney General Janet Reno and drug policy director Lee Brown, would give the administration "a street-smart front line against crime."

Freeh, for his part, pledged "total commitment to a Federal Bureau of Investigation whose only beacon is a rule of law, whose sole task is protecting all of our people from crime and violence."

Clinton called him "a law enforcement legend," citing his drug and mail-bomb investigations as a prosecutor and his work as an FBI agent against racketeering.

His last name is pronounced "Free." Clinton called him "Louie."

Freeh made a point of introducing his wife and four sons at the White House ceremony. "Come on, guys, stand up," he prompted the older three boys. He picked up the youngest for the cameras.

If confirmed by the Senate, Freeh would take charge of an agency fighting an unyielding violent crime problem and new terrorist activity on U.S. soil.

While the number of murders in America last year dropped 6 percent, total violent crime remained steady, and rapes and assaults increased. The agency has established a task force to work with state and local officials on combating violent crime.

At the same time, the agency has been active in investigating new terrorist challenges, including the February bombing of the World Trade Center and alleged plots to bomb sites in New York and Los Angeles.

General Motors offers rebate on older trucks

\$1,000 for your 'exploding pickup'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — The tide may be turning in favor of General Motors Corp.'s struggle to settle the longstanding debate over the safety of its older pickup trucks.

The tentative settlement announced Monday under which GM will give each of 5 million owners of 1973-87 full-size pickups a \$1,000 rebate certificate on a new GM truck might sound like hush money.

But it's more likely to get people talking. Talking about GM and its trucks. Talking about the deal they can cut at a Chevrolet or GMC Truck dealership before tacking on the \$1,000 certificate.

Moreover, the owners give up neither their truck nor their rights to any other settlement that might result if a recall is ordered.

To be sure, the certificates will cut into GM truck profits, much the way cash rebates have sapped auto earnings for the last decade. The cost of finding the truck owners and asking whether they want to be included in the program will be expensive for GM, too.

Further, the certificates are a setback to an auto industry trying to wean itself off cash rebates, a sales gimmick that consumers have almost come to expect, like frequent flier miles on airlines.

Still, GM decided it had to do something about the truck situation as the number of lawsuits claiming lost resale value increased. Pressing court deadlines meant some of the cases would go to trial soon, guaranteeing a replay of videotape of exploding trucks and testimony from maimed victims of truck fires that are destructive to the automaker's reputation.

Critics claim more than 400 people have died in fires resulting from side-impact collisions involving GM's older pickups.

The Center for Auto Safety, the Washington-based advocacy group started by Ralph Nader, reacted to the \$1,000-per-owner rebate plan by accusing GM of "trying to paper over its exploding pickups with worthless coupons."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has asked GM to recall the trucks because it says the outboard placement of the fuel tanks creates a safety hazard. GM has refused and is battling NHTSA on every technical point it raises, a war of paper that will continue until one side capitulates.

The absence of a NHTSA director appears to be a factor in getting the engineering study wrapped up and moving the case forward to a mandatory recall or dropping it.

GM last week poked holes in NHTSA's methodology of comparing GM's older pickups with similar Ford Motor Co. trucks of that era. GM said hundreds of pairs of like vehicles showed one vehicle had a higher incidence of post-collision fire than another.

So far, GM claims its scrutiny of dealers shows few negative feelings about the older pickup trucks. In fact, resale values — already the best in the industry — are rising as the market improves. New truck sales haven't been hurt either. They were up 16.6 percent through July 10.

GM couldn't be sure how long its truck owners would stand by their iron despite focus groups of truck owners who said they wanted to stay with GM products. The rebate certificates are meant to assure they do.

"GM has no problem selling its trucks," said Dianne Nast, one of the attorneys for plaintiffs in a class action of 23 suits combined in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia. "They don't need this incentive to sell their trucks."

Ginsburg testifies before Senate Judiciary Committee

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Ruth Bader Ginsburg testified Tuesday that while she rose "on the shoulders" of women's rights pioneers, advocacy is not her vision of a justice's role.

"My approach... is rooted in the place of the judiciary, of judges, in our democratic society... third in line" behind the people and their elected representatives, she told a receptive Senate Judiciary Committee at her confirmation hearing.

Quoting Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, she said: "One of the most sacred duties of a judge is not to read her convictions into the Constitution. I have tried, and I will continue to try, to follow that model."

President Clinton's nominee, the first by a Democratic president since Lyndon Johnson, was greeted warmly by members of both parties. No significant opposition has emerged, and the relaxed atmosphere of Tuesday's hearing contrasted starkly with recent experience.

Only Sen. Arlen Specter, re-

cently returned from brain surgery, had any tinge of harshness in his words.

"I admire the positions you've taken, what you've achieved as a litigator and what you've done as a jurist," he said. "But... when you're on the Supreme Court... you'll have a free hand in doing a great deal more... So that I think these hearings are very important."

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said he hoped she took advantage of her new powers.

"I want to know whether Judge Ginsburg will embrace this opportunity to shape the law to make the enduring principles of the Constitution a reality for all Americans," he said.

Not taking her lifetime appointment for granted, Ginsburg sat primly and attentive as each senator delivered his or her welcoming remarks. She delivered her own opening statement with measured diction, giving weight to each word.

Ginsburg would be the second woman on the Supreme Court, joining Sandra Day O'Connor. She is the first woman to face members of the Senate Judiciary Committee who are women.

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Flooding forces evacuation of south St. Louis

Thunderstorms raised the danger of new flooding in parts of Kansas and Nebraska. More than 5,000 people were urged to evacuate in and near Manhattan, Kan. As much as 2.3 inches of rain fell in an hour Tuesday morning, and Prairie Dog Creek in Colby, Kan., spilled over its banks.

"I thought the worst was over," said Kansas City, Kan., Mayor Joe Steineger. "It's not over. If the predictions were right, we will have major flooding."

— Showers in much of Iowa and parts of Missouri made it harder for people to get on with drying out their homes and businesses and scrubbing away the reeking muck the floods left behind.

"It smells like fish, and there's only one way to get rid of the smell: bleach, Pine-Sol and lots of elbow grease," said Dorothy McKinzie, owner of an auto repair shop in downtown Davenport, Iowa. Her business was coated with about a quarter-inch of Mississippi River bottom.

"There is just goop everywhere," she said. — After some businesses flushed toilets and opened faucets before the Des Moines, Iowa, water system was completely refilled, officials pushed back by a day their timetable for restoring running water to 250,000 people. The water has been out since flooding forced a water plant to close on July 11.

Later Tuesday, however, city water chief L.D. McMullen said businesses apparently had begun cooperating, and the city's 810 miles of mains were nearly 80 percent full. Also, workers got a second pump working at the water plant, and McMullen hoped some water service would resume Wednesday.

Flooding since the start of June in 10 Midwestern states has caused at least 31 deaths and \$10 billion in damage, left 16,000 square miles of farmland underwater and damaged more than 22,000 homes.

President's legal counsel found dead in park

WASHINGTON — Vince Foster, President Clinton's deputy legal counsel, was found dead Tuesday night in a roadside park from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound, White House officials said.

U.S. Park Police said Foster's body was found at Fort Marcy, a small Civil War park overlooking the Potomac River in suburban Virginia outside the nation's capital.

The initial investigation indicated the 48-year-old Foster, a friend of the Clinton family and former law partner of Hillary Rodham Clinton, died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to Lt. Patrick Gavin.

Foster was married and the father of three children, the White House said.

Clinton left the White House after learning of the death to be with Foster's family, officials said.

Foster's death stunned the president's staff members, who said they were unaware of anything that might have caused Foster to take his own life.

Clinton issued a statement expressing "deep sadness" and saying Foster had "served ably and with distinction as deputy White House counsel, and was my friend for over forty years."

"Hillary and I love his wife Lisa and their three children, and we want to draw them close to our hearts and keep them in our prayers in this painful moment of grief," Clinton said.

Foster was the No. 2 White House lawyer, serving under Bernard Nussbaum, a Manhattan lawyer who is one of Clinton's closest advisers. Foster kept a low profile, which is common for White House attorneys.

He was a player in the controversial firing of seven travel office employees but he was not singled out for criticism in a White House review of the issue.

The review said that after being alerted to alleged accounting problems in the travel office, Foster agreed to a financial review of the office by an accounting firm and asked the FBI to await the results before proceeding with its own investigation.

'Crazy Eddie' found guilty of stock, mail fraud

NEWARK, N.J. — Home electronics tycoon-turned-frenzied Eddie Antar was convicted Tuesday of fraud and other charges in the collapse of his Crazy Eddie chain.

A U.S. District Court jury deliberated six days before finding Antar guilty of 17 counts of stock fraud, mail fraud, racketeering, conspiracy and related charges.

His brother Mitchell was found guilty of six of eight charges while another brother, Allen Antar, was found innocent of all six counts against him.

The brothers were accused of making more than \$80 million by selling Crazy Eddie stock whose worth they artificially boosted through inflated inventory records and other schemes.

At its height in the 1980s, the 43-store Crazy Eddie chain was the New York area's largest with sales of \$350 million.

It gained a measure of renown through its much parodied commercials in which a frenzied pitchman boasted of "INSAAAAANE" prices.

Over 12 years ending in 1988, invasive breast cancers developed in 2,389 women.

"Within this population of middle-aged women, only 2.5 percent of breast cancer cases are attributable to a positive family history," Hunter and his colleagues wrote.

Women who had neither a mother or sister with breast cancer had about a 7 percent chance of getting it from ages 30 to 70, the researchers calculated.

Most of those have looked back, questioning women who had breast cancer. They may have overestimated its prevalence in their families, attributing deaths to it that were caused by other things, he said.

Hunter and colleagues tracked 117,988 women, enrolled at ages 30 to 55, in the ongoing Nurses' Health Study. Their findings were reported in Wednesday's issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association.

Previous studies have suggested a woman's risk more than doubles if she has even one close relative with breast cancer, he said. This study found a woman's risk increases roughly 50 percent to 80 percent for those with one close relative with

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