

Clinton urges honesty as Whitewater envelopes White House

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton told aides to "be very open" Wednesday, a day before they faced grand jury questioning in the probe of possible meddling in the Whitewater investigation. The special prosecutor pleaded on Capitol Hill for Republicans to hold off their own hearings.

With aides summoned to testify on Thursday, the White House bundled relevant papers for prosecutors. The appearances of at least two of President Clinton's closest aides — Bruce Lindsey and Harold Ickes — were postponed.

Special prosecutor Robert B. Fiske called the Clinton administration "very responsive and coopera-

tive" after trying to persuade Republicans to delay congressional hearings until he completes his inquiry into whether the White House attempted to influence the investigation.

He said he planned to finish that part of his inquiry within a few months, after which he would have no objections to hearings.

Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and William Cohen said they couldn't agree with Fiske's request to hold off on all hearings. Both said they had assured Fiske that prosecutors would get first crack at critical witnesses and that Congress would not grant immunity to anyone it called to testify.

"We have assured the counsel we can conduct our oversight hearings in a manner which will not deter

or preclude him from carrying out his responsibilities," D'Amato said.

Fiske is probing the failure of Arkansas' Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association and whether investors in the Whitewater land venture benefited from questionable Madison transactions during the 1980s.

Fiske is examining a series of meetings between White House officials and federal regulators who were looking into Whitewater.

He subpoenaed 10 administration officials to testify before a grand jury beginning Thursday.

Asked Wednesday what advice he'd give to subpoenaed aides, Clinton said, "Just the same advice I've given everybody: Just tell them what happened.

Answer the questions and go on. Be very open."

White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said officials have collected a stack of Whitewater-related documents to be turned over to investigators on Thursday. The documents "could be a foot (high) but it's not like many, many boxes," she said.

She also said some of the subpoenaed aides would not be appearing Thursday. She did not name them, saying the matter was being dealt with by the various attorneys.

Among the other White House officials subpoenaed to testify were: former Counsel Bernard Nussbaum, Communications Director Mark Gearan, Margaret Williams, chief of staff to Mrs. Clinton and Lisa Caputo, Mrs. Clinton's press secretary.

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Yeltsin disgruntled by Nixon's visit with political opponents

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A peeved President Boris Yeltsin froze Richard Nixon out of the Kremlin on Wednesday, complaining about the hard-line Communist company the former president has been keeping.

Nixon's meetings with Yeltsin and other government officials were all canceled as a result of his talks with Yeltsin opponents, particularly the man who proclaimed himself Russian president during last October's uprising.

Then Yeltsin really got nasty: He took away the bodyguards and black Zil limousine his government had put at Nixon's disposal. He did the same thing two years ago to another former

president who angered him, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Yeltsin said his snub should be no surprise.

"This is impossible after the sort of meetings Nixon has had here, and I'm glad President Clinton supports this position," Yeltsin said in unusually harsh remarks to reporters on Red Square.

Yeltsin said Clinton had distanced himself from Nixon's private visit, but Clinton said Wednesday he believed the Russian president should meet Nixon.

"It's up to President Yeltsin whom he sees and doesn't see," Clinton said. "I wish he would see him (Nixon) because I think they'd enjoy talking to one another."

Yeltsin was in no mood for a friendly chat.

"How can one do something

like that? Coming to a country and looking for some sort of stains here?" he said, scowling and jabbing his finger in the air to emphasize his disgust.

"No, after that, I will not (receive Nixon)," he said. "Nor will the government. ... So that he knows: Russia is a great country after all. And playing with it like this, doing it this way ... this won't work now."

A Nixon adviser accused Yeltsin of overreacting and of picking on the former president.

"I am surprised first of all that President Yeltsin would not find anybody but an 81-year-old former U.S. president who is his friend and Russia's friend to reassert his macho and to tell us that Russia is a great country," Dmitry Simes told reporters.

Retarded Elf

Continued from Page 4

concrete meaning.

"You could ask anyone in the band and nobody would remember exactly how we got it," said Chia Pet, the band's bass player. "I think it had something to do with Nintendo football. Somebody threw a pass and yelled, 'retarded elf!' and then yelled, 'touchdown!'"

All members have unusual nicknames that, according to them, may or may not have any meaning. The band is made up of Wonderbread on guitar, Chia Pet on bass, Wubba Dis "on microphone," his brother Ricky Dis on

trumpet, Shugga Doo on drums, Rooster on saxophone, Rico on trombone and Madame Scorpio and Fu Flex doing "off-beat dancing with props."

Retarded Elf has released three tapes including "Ah Yea" in 1989, "Respect" in 1990 and "Money" in 1991. Their first album, "Retarded Elf," was completed and released in Japan after the band signed a contract with the second largest label in Japan, Pony Canyon.

"It's apparently doing well over there (in the East)," Pet said. "You could go to any record store in Cambodia and find our stuff. Maybe we're going to be big stars in Osaka."

Right now, Retarded Elf is gearing up to perform at SXSW, a music conference held in Austin, said Detko, who has managed the band

for almost two years.

After performing for all the big record labels there, he said, the band's goal is to get a deal and begin touring.

"Of course our goals are to become as rich and famous as we possibly can," Pet said. "We're at peace with ourselves and with that."

"It's all a matter of getting a major record label to jump on top of us," Detko said. "They (Retarded Elf) tour places like Dallas and Little Rock, but we want all of America."

For now, though, the band seems to be content with its scheduled stops.

"I look forward to going to Bryan more than anything else in life," Pet said. "And that's no lie."

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