

Now he is hiring a personal wyer to deal with pre-presidential legations — a step suggesting just ow disruptive the character quesion has become to his presidency. Robert Bennett, one of Washingm's best-known white collar crimhal lawyers, is being brought in. White House counsel Lloyd Cutler aid he had spoken with Bennett about the possibility of him help-

ng" if Paula Jones, a former rkansas state employee, files suit against Clinton.

Jones is said to be contemplating rgal action; she asserted at a Feb. 11

ers. But once Nixon was elected president in 1968, Herblock gave him a shave.

No one has given Clinton a clean shave. During his campaign he had to deal with a barrage of questions about his personal life and behavior. He carried an Arkansas sobriquet, "Slick Willie."

As a result, he came into office without having established the moral authority Americans traditionally give their presidents, says Suzanne Garment, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Insti-

whether he committed this or that sin, but whether he's a grownup and can be trusted.

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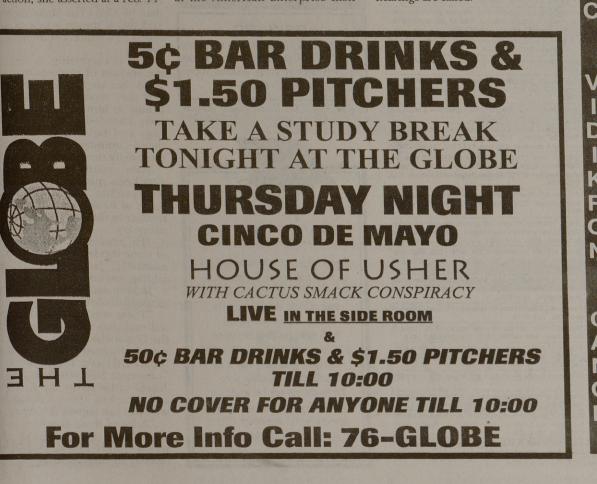
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In addition, Republicans have found it useful to capitalize on personal questions because Clinton hasn't given them much political ground from which to attack him. He's stolen some of their issues. The economy is doing fine.

So Whitewater becomes a way to slow his progress. Senate GOP Leader Bob Dole threatens to bring the Senate to a halt until Whitewater hearings are called.



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