THE BATTALION 6 POLITICS

GOP threatens Reno with contempt Clinton takes mes as FBI is urged to act independently

WASHINGTON (AP) - Republicans threatened Attorney General Janet Reno with contempt of Congress Sunday over her decision to forgo an independent counsel's investigation of White House campaign fund raising.

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One GOP senator, Orrin Hatch of Utah, said he is



Reno

viser — Al Gore.

was in sight.

political appointees in the department who have been influencing her are doing nothing but protecting the president," Senate Judiciary Committee chair Hatch said on CBS' 'Face the Nation.'

Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, shot back: "Was it protecting the president when she appointed four independent counsels that all took aim at the White House?" Before the cameras were turned on, Glenn flashed Reno a thumb-to-forefinger

uncertainties of global warming, President Clin-

ton often defers to his chief environmental ad-

advice to those who question the need to rein in

press before delegates from 150 nations the

U.S. position greenhouse gases must be cut but

not so rapidly as many demand. En route, the

vice president gave no assurance an agreement

heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

"Read the vice president's book," is Clinton's

Gore was arriving Sunday in Kyoto, Japan, to

for standing up to her principles on the independent-counsel decision.

Tuesday, Reno announced her decision not to request a courtappointed independent counsel to look into fund-raising calls President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore made from the White House. In a 69-page brief and accompanying news conference, she said they had broken no federal laws.

Furious over Reno's decision, Republicans used Sunday's talk-show circuit to lob a series of threats at her and the Justice Department.

Rep. Dan Burton, chair of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, said on "Fox News Sunday" the panel will consider recommending a contempt of Congress charge if she refuses to comply with its subpoena seeking Freeh's memo endorsing an independent counsel.

"We're going to reach maybe a little crisis here," Burton said. Asked whether he would cite Reno for contempt, he said: "That's the step we'll have to look at next.'

But he acknowledged an inherent problem with that action: "Obviously, if we cited her for contempt, it would have to go to

as accepting a weak agreement.

ly and personally," Carol Browner, head of the En-

OK sign and told her he admired her the Justice Department for carrying out that contempt citation. And she would be making the decision on that.

Reno did not rule out sending Burton the memo, with sensitive information blacked out.

On "Face the Nation," Reno insisted: "'I'm not protecting anybody. If I were protecting people, I'd close up the shop and go home."

She said Clinton and Gore are not out of the woods.

"We have not closed this investigation in any way," she said. "No one has been exonerated.

Republicans said that is not reason enough for her to continue an investigation of the man who appointed her, which both the GOP and FBI director Freeh consider a conflict of interest.

Hatch surprised Glenn on the program with the disclosure he plans to send Freeh a letter Monday asking him to investigate Democratic fund-raising irregulari-ties separately from Reno, even though the FBI is part of the Justice Department.

"He should conduct an independent investigation without regard to the Justice Department, other than reporting to them and cooperating with them and talking to them,"

Hatch said. "He should do it independently, because that's the only way we're going to have, it seems to me, a way around these conflicts of interest that clearly exist.'

Hatch's House counterpart, Judiciary Committee Chair Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said his panel will hold hearings on how to overhaul the Justice Department — with a critical eye trained especially on the Public Integrity Section, which advises Reno on the fundraising probe.

"It's a little difficult to have confidence looking at their track record," Hyde said on "Fox News Sunday." "We're going to look at everything, we're going to look at the people who run them, their attitudes, how much they spend. We can fashion legislation that will accomplish what we think are the appropriate goals for the Justice Department."

In a separate development, Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., whose Governmental Affairs Committee held inconclusive hearings on the fund-raising question, said his panel would refer criminal perjury charges against several witnesses.

He identified none of them, but The Washington Times reported Saturday one would be Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

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WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton told District of Columbia residents Sunday he is dedicated to making the nation's beleaguered capital "a shining city on the hill for all America."

"I don't believe our national government has always been the

best neighbor to the city of Washing-

ton," Clinton said, but added: "We are committed to becoming a better neighbor. Crum-

bling condi-

tions in the District were the focus of Clinton's visit to Metropolitan Baptist Church, in the heart of the District's black community. But the subtext clearly was to show Clinton himself crossing the invisible barriers that make religious worship one of America's most segregated practices.

The visit came as Clinton's year long campaign for racial reconciliation shifted into a higher gear after last week's town hall meeting in Akron, Ohio. That gathering was followed by several others convened by Clinton aides — one of which has drawn fire for having a black-only audience.

The closed, invitation-only event last week at a Dallas museum, presided over by black Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, was organized by Dallas Municipal Court Judge Vonceil Hill, a friend of Slater's.

Sylvia Mathews, deputy chief of staff overseeing the race effort, said the Dallas meeting was an "isolated incident" that would not be repeated. Slater's spokesman Bill Schulz said the reaction was an encouraging sign that people of all races are eager to talk.

"Clearly, this was a missed op-portunity," Schulz said.

Hill told the Dallas Morning News having an all-black audience

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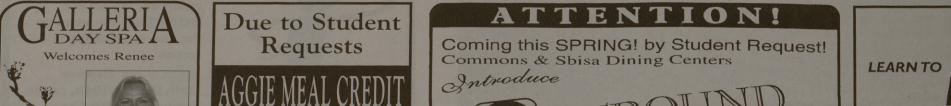
Learn to fly the Cessna Pilot Center Exclusive Flight Training System at United Flight Systems,

Gore pushes global-warming solution Signing of pollution treaty still in question at Kyoto conference WASHINGTON (AP) — When asked about the a period of roughly the next dozen years. Envi-He warned in the book of impending environmental crisis because of human dabbling in ronmentalists have embraced a tougher Eurothe Earth's natural balance. The threat of global pean proposal that would cut emissions 15 percent beyond the U.S. plan. warming, he says, is "the most serious problem The Clinton administration decided to send that we have ever faced.

But his call then for "bold and unequivocal ac-Gore to the contentious climate conference after days of debate with political advisers anxious it tion" on global warming and other environmenmight backfire on the vice president if no treaty tal threats also has been flung back at him by emerges or if he is viewed by environmentalists some environmentalists, who now criticize as too timid the administration's proposal before Gore would not be easily persuaded to stay away. the delegates gathered in Kyoto, "It is an issue about which he feels very strong-

As word of Gore's visit circulated in Kyoto, some environmentalists hoped it signaled administration willingness to move closer to the

"It's a very tricky situation, and success is far vironmental Protection Agency, a member of European numbers. But two-thirds of the way from assured," he told reporters aboard his Gore's staff when he was in Congress, said. plane. "A lot of issues are undecided." Five years ago, in writing Earth In the Balance. into the 10-day conference, there has been little The United States would stabilize greenhouse Gore cemented his credentials among environmovement toward consensus, not only on levels gases, principally carbon dioxide from burning mentalists with his very personal plea to protect of greenhouse emission reductions but even on fossil fuels such as coal and oil, at 1990 levels over the Earth from humans' mischief. what gases the treaty should cover. ENTION Due to Student





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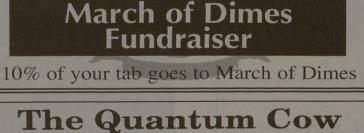
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