

# 6 GOP threatens Reno with contempt 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.

One GOP senator, Orrin Hatch of Utah, said he is asking FBI director Louis Freeh to bypass Reno, his boss, and investigate allegations of Democratic impropriety in fund raising.

"I have no doubt that the 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

OK sign and told her he admired her for standing up to her principles on the independent-counsel decision.

Tuesday, Reno announced her decision not to request a court-appointed 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

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 irregularities 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 fund-raising 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.

# Clinton takes message of harmony to blizzard-stricken Washington church

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 Washington," Clinton said, but he added: "We are committed to becoming a better neighbor."

Crumbling conditions 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 Voncel 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 opportunity," Schulz said. Hill told the *Dallas Morning News* having an all-black audience

did not hurt the district.

"I don't believe the district indicated that every start in the same way."

But Abigail Therns, a conservative author who wrote the Akron dialogue on Sunday, said the exclusion was unfair. She urged adding divergent views to the board on race.

"I want to hear the president say it is racist," Therns said. "You can make more progress if we don't have a monopoly."

Although Sunday's event played to a largely black audience, aides hoped images of Clinton signing letters from the president along with him and entering the district's future would make conversation beyond platitudes that came from the president's mouth.

Metropolitan's pastor Dr. H. Beecher Hicks there, saying blacks have the legacy of slavery for perpetuating wrongs in Washington.

"There comes a moment in my life when I must reckon with my past," Hicks said. "We will not lay all the blame at the feet of racism. We will work at mending the incompetence that has heaped upon ourselves."

Clinton did not repeat his policies or tax relief program. He reiterated his local home rule and pay closer attention to the needs of those who have been in the shadow of the White House's shadow.

"One of the gifts the 21st century is a nation that is a shining city on all America," he said.

Currently, the district is overseen by a commission appointed by the board, and Congress has even over the District's budget. Citizens believe the commission is mostly black, and voters have placed more emphasis on their leaders.



Reno



Clinton

# Gore pushes global-warming solution Signing of pollution treaty still in question at Kyoto conference

WASHINGTON (AP) — When asked about the uncertainties of global warming, President Clinton often defers to his chief environmental adviser — Al Gore.

"Read the vice president's book," is Clinton's advice to those who question the need to rein in heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

Gore was arriving Sunday in Kyoto, Japan, to 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 was in sight.

"It's a very tricky situation, and success is far from assured," he told reporters aboard his plane. "A lot of issues are undecided."

The United States would stabilize greenhouse gases, principally carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels such as coal and oil, at 1990 levels over

a period of roughly the next dozen years. Environmentalists have embraced a tougher European proposal that would cut emissions 15 percent beyond the U.S. plan.

The Clinton administration decided to send Gore to the contentious climate conference after days of debate with political advisers anxious it might backfire on the vice president if no treaty emerges or if he is viewed by environmentalists as accepting a weak agreement.

Gore would not be easily persuaded to stay away. "It is an issue about which he feels very strongly and personally," Carol Browner, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, a member of Gore's staff when he was in Congress, said.

Five years ago, in writing *Earth In the Balance*, Gore cemented his credentials among environmentalists with his very personal plea to protect the Earth from humans' mischief.

He warned in the book of impending environmental crisis because of human dabbling in the Earth's natural balance. The threat of global warming, he says, is "the most serious problem that we have ever faced."

But his call then for "bold and unequivocal action" on global warming and other environmental threats also has been flung back at him by some environmentalists, who now criticize as too timid the administration's proposal before the delegates gathered in Kyoto.

As word of Gore's visit circulated in Kyoto, some environmentalists hoped it signaled administration willingness to move closer to the European numbers. But two-thirds of the way into the 10-day conference, there has been little movement toward consensus, not only on levels of greenhouse emission reductions but even on what gases the treaty should cover.

**GALLERIA DAY SPA**  
Welcomes Renee



Experience the best in Quality & Price

Acrylic or Gel full set \$20  
fills \$15  
in & out in 30 minutes  
822-5756  
Corner of Villa Maria & Cavitt

Due to Student Requests

**AGGIE MEAL CREDIT**

NOW AVAILABLE UNTIL 12:00 MIDNIGHT\*

\*For Department of Food Services Meal Plan Customers. Some limitations apply.

**ATTENTION!**

Coming this SPRING! by Student Request!  
Commons & Sbis Dining Centers

Introduce **OUTBOUND Dining**

TAKE OUT MEALS  
Texas A&M University • Department of Food Services  
Starting Tuesday, January 20, 1998  
for Meal Plan Customers

**FLY NOW** AT UNITED FLIGHT SYSTEMS

LEARN TO FLY NOW

We're now located at College Station Easterwood. Learn to fly the Cessna Pilot Center Exclusive Flight Training System at United Flight Systems, the experienced flight school.

- Private thru advanced training
- Aircraft rental, Pilot Shop
- F.A.A. approved 141 school
- VA Eligible Benefits

United Flight Systems like Easterwood State College Station...  
409 260-4000

**Student Intern Opportunities**

Food and Drug Administration Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)

**Outstanding Students in Biology, Microbiology, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry, Computer Science, Statistics, Pharmacology** to conduct regulatory biomedical research in vaccines, blood, and therapeutics.

Location: Bethesda, Maryland  
Stipend: \$2500 for 10 weeks. No housing provided.  
Application Request: Food and Drug Administration CBER  
1401 Rockville Pike, HFM-3  
Rockville, Maryland 20852  
Attention: Connie Williams  
(301) 827-1278  
FAX: (301) 827-1301

**FIGHTIN' FOX COMPANY PRESENTS**

**99¢ Margarita Nite**  
Tues. December 9; 5pm - 10pm  
**EL CHICO - TEXAS AVE.**

**March of Dimes Fundraiser**  
10% of your tab goes to March of Dimes

**The Quantum Cow Tutoring & Toys: 260-COWS**  
Northgate, next to CD Warehouse: 2-9pm Sun-Th.

**BEANIE BABIES!**

No lines, no limits, just lots & lots of beanies: We've got currents, retireds, and the new ones! They're just piling up, so help us get rid of them!  
**10% Off any beanie baby, with this ad!**

**On-Campus Interviews**

You can have the best of both worlds. Located close to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada with over 2,000 employees and a billion dollars invested in state-of-the-art technologies, NEC Electronics Inc. in Roseville, California is one of the largest semiconductor manufacturing facilities in the world. Roseville is located about 15 miles from Sacramento. Please note the following dates/times for the upcoming events.

**Information session: 12-8-97 at 7-8:00pm, MSC Room 230**  
**On-Campus Interviews: 12-9-97**

We have the following opportunities:

**Equipment Engineer**  
As an Equipment Engineer you will be responsible for integrated circuit manufacturing equipment. You will modify equipment to run new process, troubleshoot complex equipment failures, analyze equipment failure data and design, implement effective design modifications, develop custom equipment specifications for existing equipment, design equipment installations and perform equipment acceptance testing. Requires a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering or Electrical Engineering.

Please sign up at you Career Center - Placement Services  
NEC Electronics Inc.  
P.O. Box 619022  
7501 Foothills Blvd.  
Roseville, CA 95661-9022