

Lewinsky leaves town; investigation moves into president's inner circle

WASHINGTON (AP) — Monica Lewinsky left Tuesday for a California respite as her lawyers waited for prosecutors to make the next move to secure her cooperation. The investigation into an alleged presidential affair and excessive press coverage pressed deeper into the White House in the days following her departure.

Prosecutors questioned one of President Clinton's former senior advisers and confidants, George Stephanopoulos, before a grand jury and subpoenaed one of the president's top deputies, John Podesta, to testify this week.

"I have no firsthand knowledge at all about the nature of the relationship, if any, between the president and Monica Lewinsky," Stephanopoulos said. He said he had met Lewinsky a few times.

The summons to Podesta, the White House chief of staff, along with another subpoena to Clinton's most trusted adviser, Bruce Vladeck, prompted White House lawyers to preliminary discussions about whether to revoke executive privilege to bar certain officials, who spoke on condition of

anonymity, stressed the discussions were preliminary and some of Clinton's political advisers worried the strategy might create a public appearance of stonewalling.

Meanwhile, Lewinsky took a flight back to Los Angeles to spend time with her father, departing the nation's capital for the first time since the controversy arose two weeks ago.

Ginsburg said his talks with prosecutors about whether his client should receive immunity from prosecution in exchange for her testimony remained "cordial" and that "generally speaking, we are where we want to be."

He said Lewinsky's offer to testify had not changed over the last two weeks.

"Quite honestly, it is up to him to be in contact with us," Ginsburg said of Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr, who is heading the investigation.

Lewinsky already has been told that she is a target likely to be indicted. Her trip to Califor-

nia signaled a new, lower-profile strategy by her defense team after a two-week national media blitz on her behalf.

For his part, Starr promised to move his investigation forward as swiftly as possible.

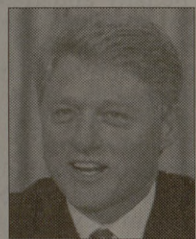
"We're trying to gather evidence as quickly as we can, and that's important to clear people or to make an assessment of whether there are issues that have to be faced," he said.

At the federal courthouse in Washington, a federal grand jury heard from Stephanopoulos and a former White House intern, Caroline Self, who signed for courier packages that Lewinsky sent to the White House.

"I know of no improper relationship between the president and Monica Lewinsky or any other White House intern," said Self.

Hank Self, who served as his daughter's attorney, said she did not know Lewinsky and had no specific recollection of signing for the packages.

Prosecutors' interest in Podesta, one of Clinton's longtime troubleshooters, stems from his efforts to help Lewinsky get a job in New York late last year just before she emerged as a figure in the Jones case.



Clinton

Zamora says victim deserved to die

PORT WORTH (AP) — A former Naval Academy cadet accused in the killing of a romantic rival told a courtroom that the victim deserved to die because she took something that was not hers, the student testified Tuesday.

Y Guild, who befriended Diane Zamora at the Naval Academy, told the jury in Zamora's capital murder trial that the defendant had disdained the killing of Adrienne Jones after several conversations with Zamora in 1996.

Diane said she thought Adrienne should die because she took

something she knew did not belong to her," Guild said.

Prosecutors say Zamora insisted that her former fiance, David Graham, kill Jones because of a one-time high-school fling the pair had. Graham has also been charged in the killing and will be tried later.

Guild also said Zamora had admitted to ordering the Dec. 4, 1995 killing.

"One day I asked her what she would do if anyone cheated on her. At first, she told me she shouldn't tell me because I would have to follow the honor code ... Later, she

said, 'If you really want to know, I told him to kill her,'" Guild said.

When Guild asked her if she was remorseful about the killing, he said Zamora replied: "She deserved it. It was something that had to be done."

Zamora was a freshman at the Naval Academy and Graham was in his first year at the Air Force Academy when they were charged in September 1996.

According to statements the pair gave police, they lured Miss Jones to a secluded road, Zamora hit the girl with a dumbbell weight, then Gra-

ham shot her in the head when she tried to flee.

Though statements show that she made a pact with Graham to stay silent about the killing, prosecutors say she couldn't keep quiet and told several people, eventually even confessing to police.

Earlier, Graham's mother, Janice Graham, said she warned Ms. Zamora that her son had "the potential to get rough" when he was angry.

Zamora's attorneys are suggesting that Graham might have been solely responsible for Miss Jones' death.

Scientists discover AIDS case from 1959

CHICAGO (AP) — Scientists have pinpointed what is believed to be the earliest known case of AIDS — an African man who died in 1959 — and say the discovery suggests the virus first infected people in the 1940s or early '50s.

Where AIDS came from is still a mystery, although experts assume an ancestor of the virus crossed from monkeys or other primates into people at some point. However, whether this occurred in recent decades or centuries ago is a matter of debate.

Now, researchers say they have conducted genetic analysis of an HIV sample that appears to date from early in the epidemic. They believe it is an ancestor of the viruses that have infected more than 40 million people worldwide, most of them since the early 1980s.

Dr. Toufu Zhu of the University of Washington in Seattle presented the findings Tuesday at the Fifth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. They will also be published this week in the journal *Nature*.

"This is to date the oldest known HIV case," said Dr. David Ho, head of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center at Rockefeller University and a co-author of the study.

Until now, the earliest, undisputed cases of AIDS were from the late 1960s and involved members of a family in Norway, Ho said.

In the new study, scientists looked for signs of HIV in 1,213 blood samples that were gathered in Africa between 1959 and 1982. They found clear signs of the virus in one taken from a Bantu man

who lived in Leopoldville, Belgian Congo — what is now Kinshasa, Republic of Congo — in 1959.

The virus in the sample had degraded, but the scientists were able to isolate four small fragments of two viral genes. One gene holds instructions for assembling the outer coat of the virus, while the other is code for one of the proteins the virus needs to reproduce.

The scientists compared the genes from the 39-year-old sample of HIV with those carried by current versions of HIV.

"We realized that if we had an old sequence it would serve as a yardstick to measure the evolution of the current HIV," Ho said.

Zhu said this suggests that all the HIV subtypes evolved from one introduction of HIV into people, rather than from many crossovers from animals to humans, as some have speculated. And given the steady rate at which HIV mutates, it also means that the virus probably first got into people sometime in the 1940s or early '50s.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the latest discovery does not help those who have AIDS now, but having the early genetic snapshot of HIV may allow experts to predict how the virus will evolve over the next 10 or 15 years.

The study also does not explain how AIDS spread and became an epidemic.

The researchers speculated that it could have been unwittingly transmitted in Africa through unsterilized needles used in vaccination campaigns.

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