

Judge throws out line-item veto

U.S. Supreme Court likely to issue final ruling on 1996 act within the next few months

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge threw President Clinton's new line-item veto authority Thursday, delivering a blow to a power Clinton and the Republican Congress said crucial for limiting wasteful spending. A ruling by the Supreme Court seems likely in the next few months.

S. District Judge Thomas F. Hogan said the line-item veto, enacted in 1996 and used for the first time last year, unconstitutionally shifted power from the president to the Congress. The measure allows the president to kill individual items in tax and spending bills that otherwise would be law, though he can be reversed by two-thirds majorities of the House and Senate.

"The line-item veto act impermissibly crosses the line between acceptable delegations of ruling authority and unauthorized surrender of presidential authority to an inherently legislative function, namely, the authority to permanently shape laws and package legislation," Hogan wrote.

Clinton, who called for line-item veto power during his 1992 presidential campaign, said the law has done well, saving taxpayers more than \$1 billion. "Although I am disappointed with today's ruling, it is my belief that ultimately, the line-item veto will be ruled constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court," he said.

Numerous congressional proponents of the

power also predicted ultimate victory — either at the Supreme Court or in a renewed effort to pass a new version, perhaps as a constitutional amendment. The measure in question was a law, not a constitutional amendment, because

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proponents could not muster the two-thirds majority needed to change the Constitution. "We'll fight and win," said Sen. John Mc-

Cain, R-Ariz.

But others conceded that if there is a next time, there might be less enthusiasm for the power. The approaching age of budget surpluses has made deficit reduction less urgent, and many lawmakers were unhappy last year when Clinton used the power to kill projects in their home districts.

"A lot of the reformist zeal that came in in 1994 hasn't died but has retreated," said Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., a line-item-veto supporter.

Souder was elected in 1994, when a constitutional amendment for a line-item veto was part of the Republican "Contract With America."

Opponents of the power rejoiced in Thursday's ruling, including Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., one of six lawmakers who challenged the law's constitutionality last year. Their suit was rejected when a judge ruled they lacked legal standing to bring the case.

"This is a victory for the American people," said Byrd, a fierce defender of Congress' prerogatives. "It is their Constitution, their republic and their liberties that have been made more secure."

Clinton used the new power 82 times last year, all but twice on spending items, saving a claimed \$1.9 billion over the next five years. But those savings represent just 0.0002 percent of the \$9 trillion that will be spent over that period.

Retired insurance exec witness in investigation

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a quest for excitement in his retirement years, millionaire Walter Kaye parlayed \$300,000 in contributions into a friendship with Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton — and a bit part in four Clinton controversies.

His belated debut in national Democratic circles has earned him a bevy of friends who insist it was his "grandfatherly generosity" and not anything sinister that landed him in the controversies.

Nonetheless, his latest scrape with notoriety may earn him a trip to a grand jury to be questioned by prosecutors about Monica Lewinsky. Kaye recommended Ms. Lewinsky, the young woman and family friend at the center of an alleged presidential affair and cover-up, for a White House internship in 1995, officials say.

It would not be his first such appearance. Last December, the New Yorker traveled to Arkansas to appear before another of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's grand juries to explain why he donated \$1,000 to Whitewater figure Susan McDougal's legal defense fund.

According to those familiar with the appearance, Kaye also had donated to lefray other witnesses' legal bills, including Clinton's, and prosecutors summoned him as they investigated a theory that the White House may have orchestrated an effort to buy off or silence witnesses. Presidential aides deny

any such wrongdoing.

Last summer, Kaye's more than \$300,000 in recent contributions to Democratic causes earned him scrutiny in the political fund-raising investigations as lawmakers looked into favors that donors received.

Among them was a night in the Lincoln Bedroom and an appointment to a civilian Pentagon program, in which he has jetted across the country to meet with soldiers and promote the Army.

Kaye also popped up in the Paula Jones controversy, drawing on his four decades in the insurance business to suggest that Clinton invoke a clause in two insurance policies to help defray legal bills in the sexual harassment lawsuit. The policies paid off at \$1.5 million.

Kaye did not return calls to his office or his Park Avenue home seeking comment. He founded Kaye Insurance Associates, one of the country top 20 insurance brokerage firms.

Friends say Kaye, whose retirement left him depressed and searching for a new cause, found rejuvenation in his friendship with the Clintons and the new opportunities that opened up with it.

In 1995 — nearly two years after he first became a large Democratic National Committee donor and visitor to the first lady's office — Kaye was appointed by the Pentagon as one of 75 unpaid civilian aides to the Secretary of the Army.

New allegations made of hazing in Marine Corps

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — A year after the nation was shocked by bloody images of Marines pounding medals into each other's chests comes a new picture of young Marines being subjected to beatings, Thursday night fights and mock crucifixions.

Four privates are in the brig at Parris Island, charged with hazing and severely beating a fellow Marine because he supposedly had gotten his platoon in trouble for failing to do some routine tasks.

Pvt. Maciej Lugowski, 20, of New York City lost his spleen and suffered other injuries in the assault Dec. 17 — six months after the nation's top Marine declared the Corps would not tolerate hazing.

"It's despicable to us to see this type of activity," said Maj. Rick Long, a spokesperson for the Corps' training depot here. "People are shocked that Marines would engage in this type of activity against other Marines."

After a week in the hospital and a month's leave, Lugowski is back at Fort Knox, Ky., the Army base where the assault took place.

He and his alleged assailants were among about 350 Marines, many fresh out of basic training, who go through the Army's armor school each year to learn to be tank mechanics and drivers.

At a preliminary hearing Wednesday for one of the accused, defense attorney Maj. Bill Weber said new trainees at Fort Knox were soon visited by other Marines who punched, cursed and dragged them into the hall. Those who did not fight back had their heads flushed in the toilet, he said.

Navy investigators also have said Thursday nights were set aside for more senior trainees to fight newer ones in "love sessions," in which the only instructions were not to hit in the face or below the belt. Kidney punches were encouraged.

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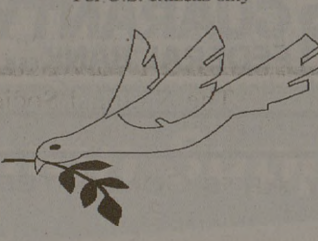
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Wednesday, February 18
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Sign-In tables will be set up. Your chapter must supply their own decorated container.

Thursday, February 19 - Intramurals Begin - 3-6 p.m.
Duncan Field - Your chapter can set up Greek Letters on the field!
Pat Green - 8:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
Pat Green at the Texas Hall of Fame!!!
Elvis T. Busboy & Blues Butchers will be opening.
\$10 in advance/\$12 at the door.

Friday, February 20 - 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Intramurals at Duncan Field - Flag Football Only !!!
WHOO!

Saturday, February 21 - Philanthropy Event - 12:00 p.m.
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