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CROOK?

God fails to make TV appearance

satellite trucks and legions of reporters streamed Tuesday into a Dallas suburb where a Taiwanese religious group awaited God's appearance on television's Channel 18 - an event they say presages His return to earth next week.

But the appointed hour passed early Wednesday without the promised TV appearance

The group's leader said his faith was not shaken.

"Even though the image doesn't show on television, I don't have any reason to doubt the existence of the Supreme Being, God, in this universe," church leader Chen Hengming said through a translator at a midnight-hour news conference.

Police erected barricades and cordoned off a 165-house area in the tree-lined neighborhood around Ridgedale Drive, where nearly 140 members of God's Salvation Church are living in various upleader's, serves as their church.

Chen, known to followers as 'Teacher Chen," had said God would appear on Channel 18

"I don't have any reason to doubt the existence of the Supreme Being, God, in this universe."

Chen Hengming

God's Salvation Church leader

across the country at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday to mark the beginning

In Garland, cable Channel 18 offers religious-oriented program-

scale houses. The main house, their ming; in nearby Dallas, it is a home shopping channel. There is no station on broadcast Channel 18.

After midnight, the cable channels continued with their scheduled programs. The broadcast channel had only white noise.

Though church members most clad entirely in white, with white hats — have spoken openly about their principles in the past, on Tuesday they politely declined comment as they entered the fenced-in backyard of Chen's

"I'm sorry. I can't," one said gently in Mandarin Chinese, smiling as he waved off a reporter.

At 8 p.m. Tuesday, church members began arriving at Chen's house

Most carried sleeping bags or bedrolls. All the adults wore the trademark white cowboy hats that the group has favored in recent

Independent Counsel

David Barrett did not re-

turn a phone message left

at his Washington office

1996 immunity agreement

in exchange for testimony

against Cisneros, but Bar-

continuing to lie and hide

evidence, such as original

versations with Cisneros.

Jones had entered into a

by The Associated Press.

prison terms a attorney gene In 1994, the al's office hads sentenced to tence actually

each of the men Elio Hernar Serna Valdes tinez Salinas w

1994 of murder, trafficking, stoo reserved for the tary and desect Also convi "godmother" S

Villarreal and S alistic murder ment of the bo

recordings of phone con-Among the Jones, who returned to her hometown of Lubbock dent Mark Kilro after the affair ruined her marriage, pleaded guilty to tween Mat obstruction of justice, con-Brownsville, Tex spiracy, bank fraud and ping with friends March 14, 1989.

After a month were buried. Mu were filed relating it

Ex-mistress sentenced to 3-year term

LUBBOCK (AP) — The dence, including whether Dec. 11. Jones also faces -mistress of former she provided original two obstruction counts ex-mistress of former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, at one time the star witness in his independent counsel investigation, was sentenced to 3 1/2 years in federal prison Wednesday for obstruction of justice and bank fraud.

It was Jones who prosecutors say received \$185,000 in hush-money payments from Cisneros from 1990-92, after their 2 1/2-year extramarital affair disintegrated.

Attorney General Janet Reno called for a special prosecutor in 1994 when it appeared Cisneros might have grossly understated the payments during an FBI background check.

Jones, 48, became a target herself in 1996 when prosecutors caught her in series of lies about evicopies of taped conversations with Cisneros or copies. She was indicted on 28 counts last year and not require her testimony

deal Jan. 15 'My definition of a crimiwho committed a crime against

agreed to a plea

society against another person," said Jones, who will spend her sen-

tence at the Carswell Fed- children across the naeral Medical Center in tion shooting other chil-Fort Worth because of a dren, and we're spending decade-long bout with millions and millions depression. "By no means and millions of dollars on do I think of myself as a criminal, that I ever have been or that I ever will be."

Even without Jones' assistance, prosecutors won an 18-count indictment of

In her first public statements about the 3-year-old investigation, Jones lamented that she was going to jail for what she

there that are not covered

by her Lubbock plea

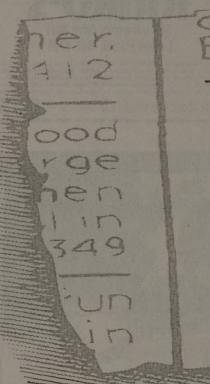
arrangement, which does

this," said Jones, referring to Tuesday's Arkansas school shootings. The price tag on the

and millions of dollars on Cisneros investigation is

said was a victim-

money laundering. The money laundering charge carried a possible seven-year sentence, and defense attorney David Guinn said he could not guaranestimated to be between tee Jones that a jury Cisneros in Washington on \$4 million and \$6 million would find her innocent.



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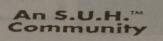
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