

# Clinton urges Japan to fix shaky economy

NEW YORK (AP) — In a show of sympathy for Japan's economic predicament, President Clinton said Tuesday that while the world wants Tokyo to kick-start its long-slumping economy, he is willing to give the Japanese government leeway to do "what is politically possible."

Clinton remarked to reporters after a one-hour private conversation with Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. It was their first meeting since Obuchi took office July 30 with promises to spur Japanese economic growth and stabilize its weak banking system.

"They have to work out what is politically possible," Clinton said, alluding to disagreement in Tokyo over how to stimulate the economy and to the shaky state of Obuchi's compromise with opposition parties last week to deal with billions of dollars in bad bank debt.

Reporters also tried to question Clinton about the Monica Lewinsky affair. He responded merely, "I don't have anything to add to whatever the White House is saying." Clinton said, as he has often recently, that he is focusing on official business.

For a second day in a row, Clinton sought to keep his focus on foreign policy. Tuesday's U.S.-Japanese talks lasted about three hours, including a working luncheon, and produced no breakthroughs. The two sides issued joint statements pledging to cooperate on civilian uses for Global Positioning System satellites and on the Year 2000 computer conversion problem.

Aides said the two leaders got on well, agreeing quickly to call each other by their first

names. Obuchi noted wryly that at home his critics have likened him to cold pizza — to which Clinton replied that he liked cold pizza and in fact had eaten some the night before.

In recent weeks both Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky have delivered urgent messages from the administration that Japan, mired in its worst recession in 50 years, must deal more aggressively with its own economic problems to help lift its troubled Asian neighbors from their own steep recessions.

*"They [the Japanese] have unique challenges."*

— BILL CLINTON  
PRESIDENT



In Tokyo, Japanese stocks rebounded on hopes Obuchi would promise Clinton more forceful steps to boost the economy. In their talks at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in midtown Manhattan, the leaders agreed that effective action by Japan is essential, but Obuchi offered no assurances that new remedies are in the offing.

Lawrence Summers, the deputy treasury secretary, told reporters after Tuesday's meetings that Clinton "stressed the importance of swift and effective action." He said Obuchi made

clear he agreed but said the Japanese parliament needs time to work out legislation.

Presidential press secretary Mike McCurry said that while Clinton stressed urgency in his private discussions with Obuchi, the president wanted the American public to appreciate Japan's difficulties.

"They have unique challenges" that Americans need to understand, Clinton told reporters.

"I think there is virtually unanimous support in the world for the kind of financial reforms that would restore economic growth in Japan," Clinton said. "The rest of us want to be encouraging."

In his brief remarks, Obuchi was noncommittal about prospects for getting banking reforms passed.

"I'm neither optimistic nor pessimistic on this," Obuchi said. He added: "I am convinced that we will be able to do something."

Clinton and Obuchi, who is the epitome of the consensus-seeking Japanese politician, also held a 45-minute session that included their top economic aides. They held a working luncheon before Clinton headed back to Washington for an evening reception with black religious leaders.

Clinton invited Obuchi to visit the United States early next year, and Obuchi accepted.

They were to have met in the secluded setting of the Rockefeller family estate at Tarrytown, N.Y., but that plan was scratched at the last minute because bad weather made the helicopter ride too risky. Both leaders were in New York for Monday's opening of the U.N. General Assembly.

# 'Gay Jesus' play

NEW YORK (AP) — The curtain went up Tuesday on an off-Broadway play about a gay Christ-like figure that infuriated religious groups and sparked death threats months before it even opened.

Several members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal — who wore gray robes and sandals, some carrying crosses — held a prayer vigil outside the theater as "Corpus Christi," Terrence McNally's show about a gay Christ-like figure, debuted to a full house.

About 100 people protested, with some carrying placards saying "Why mock Jesus Christ" and "Don't Support Blasphemy." A 70-year-old woman protesting the play was arrested for disorderly conduct, police said.

"Certain segments of the arts community seem obsessed with sex, and ... they're projecting it onto Jesus Christ," Rick Hinchshaw, a spokesman for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, said. "It's just the misportrayal, blasphemous portrayal of Jesus."

Published reports that the play depicted a gay Jesus character who has sex with his apostles set

off a furor last week. Play spokesmen refused to discuss the day, saying McNally's "Corpus Christi" was not a religious play.

He said the play was not a religious play. McNally said the play was not a religious play.

They have the right to be angry. The play is not a religious play.

After being arrested, McNally was released. The play is not a religious play.

He was an outcast. The play is not a religious play.

EXTRA SHOPPING HOURS 9 AM 'TIL 10 PM

# GREAT FALL SALE

## BRING IN YOUR 3 BONUS COUPONS

# EXTRA 20% OFF BONUS COUPONS

### BRING IN YOUR 3 BONUS COUPONS WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 24 & 25

<p><b>3-DAY BONUS COUPON</b></p> <p><b>EXTRA 20% OFF</b></p> <p><b>ANY SINGLE SALE OR CLEARANCE ITEM*</b></p> <p><small>*Discount is 10% on Electronics, Small Electrics, Cookware, Housewares, China, Silver, Crystal, Furniture, Mattresses, Carpets and Rugs. Coupon discount not applicable to Levi's bottoms, Slates and Dockers pants, Children's shoes, Henckels, Fine Watches and Best Values in Fine Jewelry. Not valid with any other offer, phone/mail orders or previous purchases. Limit one coupon per item.</small></p> <p><b>VALID WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-25</b></p> 	<p><b>3-DAY BONUS COUPON</b></p> <p><b>EXTRA 20% OFF</b></p> <p><b>ANY SINGLE SALE OR CLEARANCE ITEM*</b></p> <p><small>*Discount is 10% on Electronics, Small Electrics, Cookware, Housewares, China, Silver, Crystal, Furniture, Mattresses, Carpets and Rugs. Coupon discount not applicable to Levi's bottoms, Slates and Dockers pants, Children's shoes, Henckels, Fine Watches and Best Values in Fine Jewelry. Not valid with any other offer, phone/mail orders or previous purchases. Limit one coupon per item.</small></p> <p><b>VALID WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-25</b></p> 	<p><b>3-DAY BONUS COUPON</b></p> <p><b>EXTRA 20% OFF</b></p> <p><b>ON ANY SINGLE FINE JEWELRY SALE ITEM*</b></p> <p><small>*Excludes Fine Watches and Best Values in Fine Jewelry. Not valid with any other offer, phone/mail orders or previous purchases. Limit one coupon per item.</small></p> <p><b>VALID WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-25</b></p> 
--	---	--

Remember to bring your coupons when you shop since there will be no additional coupons in the store.

# FOLEY'S

# Texas back to summer

DALLAS (AP) — From now, folks, telling the tale of the summer of 1998 seemed to have turned to a hard name.

Security guards didn't have to be able to tell "go home, turn on the strip and play." We also had a two-for-one deal on library, pool, and twice to Colorado anywhere there is a cooler to do Chuck E. Cheese, Walker said.

For this was the deadliest and costliest Texas history. Annually over just his dar says it's fall.

Just how hot was it? Fifty-one times seven weeks in the highs reached or exceeded. Sundown times with overnight temperatures no lower than record 38 times.

Dallas-Fort Worth hottest May-August Overall temperature 85.9 degrees, exceeding average in 1980.

At least 131 people died in Texas, including immigrants near the border. About 100 died in 1980, excluding illegal.

It was the second August on record with of rain. Only the year of 1934 was drier.

The drought of 1998 as the costliest since dry stretch of the 1950s cultural losses estimated at more than \$2.1 billion.

Texas Utilities Electric bills were up 10 percent over last year. Consumption reached 100 billion with 708 million gallons more than record set Aug. 23, 1997.

Trees, shrubs scorched brown by the heat. Many plants died. Similar stories in surrounding states, Oklahoma, where the people and rainfall below normal.

"I'm real glad to over," Luke Duel, Oklahoma's Logan County. "It's been a long, hot Still, like Texas Nolan Ryan — a pitcher even into the summer showed late-career heat. As a leader, we were expected to change in the 90s later this week.

Sheryl Boyles, 48, a courier who drives 100 miles every day, has turned off the air conditioner. Don't try to fall, she said, "not temperature changes."

As a leader, we were expected to change in the 90s later this week.

Sheryl Boyles, 48, a courier who drives 100 miles every day, has turned off the air conditioner. Don't try to fall, she said, "not temperature changes."

As a leader, we were expected to change in the 90s later this week.