

Senate halts impeachment trial to debate attempts to dismiss Clinton's charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate closed its doors Monday to debate a Democratic attempt to dismiss all charges against President Clinton and bring his impeachment trial to an end.

House prosecutors pressed their case for testimony by Monica Lewinsky and a shortened list of additional witnesses.

The senators deliberated into the night in a rare secret session as the White House, confident of Clinton's ability to win eventual acquittal, announced it would ignore a written list of questions submitted by Majority Leader Trent Lott and other Republicans.

An attempt by two Democrats to open debate was rejected by a vote of 57-43 — it would have needed a two-thirds majority to pass — after last-minute legal arguments by the White House and House prosecutors on the question of dismissal.

Rep. Henry Hyde, the lead prosecutor, told

the Senate that dismissal would mean that "charges of perjury, obstruction of justice are summarily dismissed, disregarded, ignored, brushed off, and these are charges that send ordinary folk to jail every day of the week and remove federal judges."

There will be continuing contention about Clinton's case, he said, unless the articles of impeachment themselves are brought to a vote.

"The case cannot be made. It is time to end it," countered Nicole Seligman, a private attorney who has long represented Clinton and is part of his impeachment defense team.

No votes are expected before Tuesday or possibly Wednesday, but after more than two weeks, the first presidential impeachment trial in 131 years was fast approaching a pivotal moment.

House Republicans are expected to produce a formal proposal for witnesses on Tuesday, to be voted on after the Democratic attempt to dismiss the charges.

A decision by the House prosecutors to winnow their witness list during the day marked an attempt to hold the support of wavering Re-

publican senators whose votes will be crucial when the roll is called.

Lewinsky, remains at the top of the list, House officials said, and there is continued interest in seeking testimony from Betty Currie, the president's secretary. Additional consideration is being given to adding presidential friend Vernon Jordan to the list, or perhaps a White House aide, either chief of staff John Podesta or Sidney Blumenthal.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the idea of trying to question Kathleen Willey had been dropped, as had the idea of summoning any of a handful of other, less well-known women who have alleged that Clinton made unwelcome sexual advances. House prosecutors had long sought their testimony to see whether Clinton or associates tried to intimidate them to change their stories.

"We've got to prioritize this and get down to the bare minimum and not run the risk of getting zero witnesses because we put on too many," said Rep. James Rogan, R-Calif., a member of the House team prosecuting the president.



CLINTON

Supreme Court rules against statistical sampling in 2000 census

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that the 2000 census cannot use statistical sampling to enhance its accuracy, a decision making it more likely millions of people will be left out. The 5-4 ruling requires the traditional nose count to redraw congressional districts.

Left in doubt was whether the sampling the Clinton administration favors will be used to determine state-by-state eligibility for \$180 billion in federal money each year of the coming decade — or for drawing election districts at all levels of government.

That may depend on whether the Republican-led Congress provides enough financing for the Census Bureau.

The nation's highest court ruled that a 1976 federal census law "directly prohibits the use of sampling in the determination of population for the purposes of apportionment."

White House spokesman Joe

Lockhart called the setback a "disappointment" and noted that the Clinton administration did not say sampling is unconstitutional. That means Congress decide to amend the 1976 support the method.

Such action by Congress would have since Republicans opposed statistical sampling. The Republican majority in Congress also voted to resist efforts to let the census employ two differing methods of counting the population.

"The administration should not do its illegal and risky scheme and start preparing head count," said House Democrat Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

Sampling probably would have been used by Democrats because inner-city residents, who are Democratic, made up a large part of the estimated 4 million missed by the 1990 count.

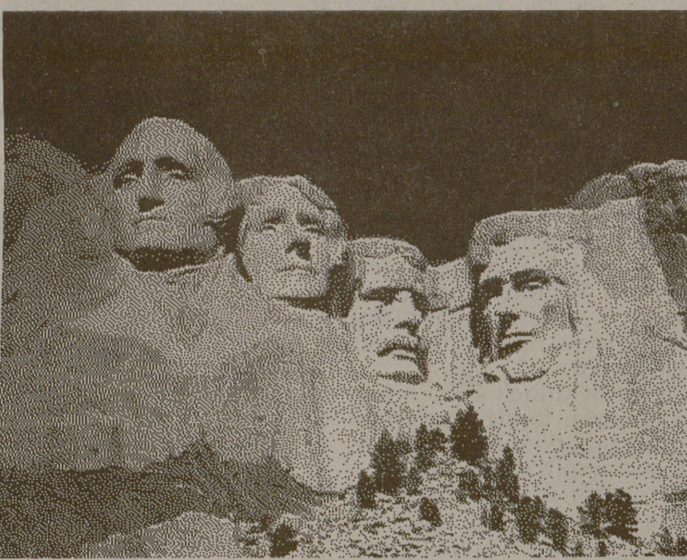
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George Washington:

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor."

Abraham Lincoln:

"Intelligence, Patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land are still competent to adjust in the best way all our present difficulty. ...As was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, 'the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether'"



Thomas Jefferson:

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever."

Teddy Roosevelt:

"There are those who believe that a new modernity demands a new morality. What they fail to consider is the harsh reality that there is no such thing as a new morality. There is only one morality. All else is immorality. There is only true Christian ethics over against which stands the whole of paganism. If we are to fulfill our great destiny as people, then we must return to the old morality, the sole morality."

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8:00 - 10:00 p.m. | **80's Night
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7:30 - 9:30 | Crazy Board Game Night
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