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In the wake of impeachment Lawmakers say Independent Counsel Act's days number

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers from both parties saw almost no chance Sunday for survival of the Independent Counsel Act, which provided the framework for Kenneth Starr's investigation of President Clinton, when it comes up for renewal this year.



STARR

"This law needs to terminate. I don't want it to be amended. I want it to be ended," Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said on CNN's "Late Edition."

The act passed in 1978 as the

post-Watergate Congress sought a means to ensure that politics did not interfere when the president, his cabinet and other senior officials are investigated for wrongdoing. It expires June 30 unless Congress and the president approve its reauthorization.

Attorney General Janet Reno, at the urging of Republicans, has seven times asked for the naming of an independent counsel to investigate administration officials, most notably Starr who has pursued President Clinton's connections to Whitewater, Travelgate, the FBI files and, finally, his affair with Monica Lewinsky, which led to Clinton's impeachment.

Democrats contend the act gives an independent counsel, while Republicans joined Democrats in providing an amount of money spent more than \$40 million more than four years ago by the president.

Another independent counsel, Donald Smaltz, took \$17 million looking for charges against former Secretary Mike Espy.

Espy was acquitted of charges, and Clinton was not impeached that grew out of Starr's investigation.

New Yorkers, Sharpton motorcade with body of police victim

NEW YORK (AP) — Thousands of people in everything from trucks, taxis, beat-up cars and shiny Mercedes Benzes gathered Sunday in a sendoff to a West African immigrant whose death at the hands of police has outraged the black community.

A motorcade of somber supporters assembled outside the headquarters of the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network in Harlem and accompanied Amadou Diallo's family to Newark International Airport as they prepared to fly his body home to Guinea for burial.

"It was in the midst of all this pain, a beautiful sight to see all these brothers and sisters driving down the highway," said Sharpton, who was to accompany the family to Africa. "As we go to Guinea we must continue the struggle for justice here. ... This cannot be the end, but the beginning."

Four plainclothes police officers fired 41 bullets at Diallo, 22, as he stood in the vestibule of his apartment house in the Bronx on Feb. 3. Many have questioned why so many shots were fired.

An attorney for the officers has said that police thought he was armed. At the time, the officers were searching for a rapist, who is still at large.

The shooting is being investigated by the Bronx district attorney's office with the assistance of the FBI. The officers have been placed on administrative non-enforcement duty.

On Sunday, many of the thousands who took part in the motorcade said they were trying to prevent another killing.

"I am doing this so they don't shoot any more of our people," said a taxi driver who identified herself only as Fatima.

High school cancels celebrations of holiday

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — A school district is scrapping celebrations of Black History Month and Cinco de Mayo, worried ethnic celebrations will spark ethnic tensions between black and white students.

Inglewood High School, 10 miles from downtown Los Angeles, has been a hotbed of tensions between black and white students. The campus was forced to close for a day last May after a riot broke out between students. A task force found that the fighting was in part, because Hispanic students constitute about half the school.

The school was set aside to honor black history a day to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Instead of celebrating Black History Month and Cinco de Mayo, Principal Lorne has told teachers to follow a "multicultural education approach" throughout the year.

"Let's talk about all cultures and traditions all the time," Winston said. "We have had racial problems that are old ways didn't work."

February is marked by a national holiday in May 5 is a national holiday in Mexico commemorating an 1862 battle in which defeated French occupation troops of Mexico City.

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