

Waco debate divides lawmakers

Assigning blame for raid splits politicians along party lines

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers split yesterday over who should take the blame for foul-ups in the Waco investigation, with Republicans demanding Attorney General Janet Reno resign while Democrats asked why Reno should be held responsible for FBI mistakes.

Two Republican presidential candidates, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and businessman Steve Forbes, said that if they were in the White House they would fire Reno for her handling of Waco and other Justice Department matters.

But Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said he saw a double standard in Republican attacks on Reno, long a target of GOP criticism, while no one is demanding the resignation of FBI director Louis Freeh, whose organization is at the center of the latest controversy.

News Sunday" that he had new evidence federal operatives were firing "long streams of automatic weapons fire" at the back of the compound, preventing those inside from escaping the fire.

Former FBI agent Richard Schwein, who was at Waco, said that was "absolutely false," that "not one round was fired by an FBI agent during that tragic day." Schwein, on Fox, also denied that military officers on the scene as observers had any role in operations against David Koresh and the Davidians.

day if he had confidence in Reno and Freeh, pointedly supported Reno but not Freeh. On Freeh, he said there was not "any purpose to assign blame until the investigation is concluded."

The leading Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, also noted on NBC's "Meet the Press" that "we have an incident here in which Janet Reno is now being blamed for what the FBI didn't do."

Reno, Schumer said on ABC's "This Week," "has been an independent, down-the-middle person who gets Democrats mad sometimes, Republicans mad sometimes."

But Republicans say the Waco case is only the latest in which Reno has stiff-armed congressional inquiries or claimed she was not getting all the right facts. They have clashed over her decision not to name an independent counsel to investigate Democratic campaign fund raising, and her handling of alleged Chinese espionage at nuclear weapons labs.

There is "a long series of cases where the attorney general seems to be always the last person to know," Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said on ABC.

Hatch, on NBC and CNN's "Late Edition," said that while the Justice Department, which has authority over the FBI, is "in a shambles" because of poor management, Freeh is the "single best" FBI director he has seen.

"We have an incident here in which Janet Reno is being blamed for what the FBI didn't do."

— U.S. REP. JOHN CONYERS
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE



The New York Times reported yesterday that the Pentagon's Special Operations Command was monitoring the situation virtually from the start of the 51-day siege, and was briefing the Defense secretary and other senior Defense officials.

President Clinton, asked by reporters Satur-

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Potatoes lead teens' vegetables

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Kids are not fat just because they are couch potatoes, but because they stuff themselves with mountains of potatoes cooked the least healthy way, a researcher says.

Potato chips and French fries make up more than one-quarter of the vegetable servings eaten by children, and nearly one-third of the veggies eaten by teen-agers, according to a survey compiled by Catherine Champagne of LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Institute.

It is not surprising, considering the number of people who jam mall food courts and burger joints, Champagne, who calculated the information from USDA annual surveys for 1994-96, said.

"It just sort of confirmed what I suspected — that for some people the only way they get vegetables might be in this form," she said. "And that's really sad."

Champagne, an associate research professor at Pennington and a registered dietitian, used the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals.

That survey's database translates each kind of food into food pyramid servings. For instance, French fries are both vegetable and fat. A superdeluxe pizza includes bread, fat, cheese, meat, and vegetables.

The USDA defines a serving of vegetables as 1 cup of raw leafy vegetables, a 1/2 cup of other vegetables or 3/4 cup of vegetable juice.

1 killed in E. coli outbreak

Bacteria that sickened 26 traced to New York fair

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — An outbreak of E. coli bacteria at a county fair is believed to have killed a 3-year-old girl and sickened at least 23 other children and three adults in northern New York.

State Health Department officials were still trying to pinpoint the source of the bacteria yesterday. All the victims had visited the Washington County Fair on its last weekend, Aug. 28-29, department spokesperson Kristine Smith said.

Twenty-seven fairgoers were hospitalized with E. coli contamination, hospital officials said. Three-year-old Rachel Aldrich of Clifton Park died Saturday at Albany Medical Center Hospital, spokesperson Richard Puff said.

State Health Department officials were talking to patients and their families during the weekend to find

a possible common source of the contamination, such as a food or activity at the fairgrounds, but had few leads, Smith said.

State inspectors also were checking three wells in Greenwich, where the fair was held, about 35 miles north of Albany.

E. coli bacteria can be transmitted through contaminated meat, but Smith said not all of the victims ate meat at the fair.

It also can be passed through exposure to an infected person or by ingesting tainted liquids.

Most strains of E. coli bacteria are harmless, but some — like the one linked to the Washington County Fair — can be deadly.

Symptoms include abdominal cramps, diarrhea and fever.

Job market less than steady despite low unemployment

WASHINGTON (AP) — With unemployment at a 29-year low, work is relatively easy to find this Labor Day, but the U.S. job market is hardly a placid place.

For workers, times are tumultuous, with a significant transition under way in the mix of jobs available, skills required and benefits offered. For some, it has meant opportunity; for others frustration.

The manufacturing industry is a dark spot in today's bright economy, losing 946,000 jobs in the past decade. In contrast, the booming construction industry, which has added more than a million jobs since 1989, is rolling out the red carpet for inexperienced job seekers.

Overall, the U.S. economy generated more than 21 million non-farm jobs between July 1989 and July 1999, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The biggest job gains have

been in the service sector, with more than 12 million employees added. There are also more than 4 million more Americans working in retail and wholesale jobs. Jobs in finance, insurance and real estate have grown by nearly 1 million.

Job losses during the 10-year period have been confined mainly to manufacturing and mining.

The Labor Department estimates that about three-quarters of the jobs created since President Clinton took office in 1993 pay more than \$11 an hour.

U.S. leads world in worker productivity

GENEVA (AP) — Americans work the longest hours in the industrialized world, overtaking the Japanese, according to a United Nations study released yesterday.

But the U.S. lead in productivity is being whittled away by their European and Japanese rivals, who are working less while Americans stay on the job more, said the report by the International Labor Organization.

Hard-working Americans run a risk of burning out, said the ILO's

Lawrence Jeff Johnson, co-author of the 600-page "Key Indicators of the Labor Market" report. The report was based on figures covering the years 1980-1997.

On average, U.S. workers clocked up 1,966 hours at work in the most recent year, the ILO study said. In 1980, the average was 1,883 hours.

The Japanese were their nearest rivals. They worked an average 1,889 hours in the most recent year measured there, 1995.

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JITTERBUG I*	SUN	6-7:30	MSC 226
COUNTRY & WESTERN I	WED	6:15-7:45	GRW 266
JITTERBUG I	WED	8:15-9:45	GRW 266
JITTERBUG I	SUN	8-9:30	GRW 266
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