

Clinton to testify in Cisneros trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a move that could have subjected him to questions about his own fidelity and credibility, President Clinton had agreed to testify as a defense witness at the sex-and-lies trial of former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, lawyers said.



CLINTON

The president was prepared to tell jurors he knew — before naming Cisneros to the housing post in 1993 — that the prospective Cabinet member had made payments to an ex-mistress, lawyers familiar with the situation said. Clinton did not think the past affair should disqualify Cisneros, the lawyers told the Associated Press.

Sept. 22 had been cleared on the president's schedule for his testimony, which likely would have occurred at a location away from the trial such as the White House, the lawyers said.

Cisneros struck a last-minute plea bargain, and there was no trial.

The lawyers, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said they understood the risks of letting Clinton inject himself into a sex case so soon after his own impeachment trial, but they said he made clear he wanted to do it.

Cisneros, who resigned in 1996, was charged with misleading the FBI during his background investigation about the size of payments he made to ex-mistress Linda Jones.

Clinton was prepared to tell jurors that Cisneros had disclosed the affair and the payments to him in 1993 and that the presi-

dent weighed those issues and did not think Cisneros should be disqualified, one lawyer said.

Clinton's testimony, however, would not have addressed the core allegation of whether Cisneros was truthful about the exact size of the payments to Jones.

The president had no recollection of precisely how much the payments that Cisneros mentioned might have been, another lawyer familiar with the situation said.

Although there were earlier overtures, Cisneros' lawyers formally asked the president to testify a few months ago.

Stephen Gillers, a New York University law professor, said Clinton's appearance at the trial would have been a "double-edged sword" for both the defendant and star witness.

"Every defendant looks to call people that have credibility,

charisma and fame in order to impress the jury, so that would have been terrific," Gillers said.

But Clinton probably would have faced a grueling cross-examination about his affair with Monica Lewinsky and the fact that he was the first sitting president ever to be fined for lying in a court case, Gillers said.

A judge fined Clinton more than \$80,000 for false testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit.

"Prosecutors would have been able to introduce evidence of Clinton's own falsity under oath and his misleading statements to the American people," Gillers said.

"Frankly, if I were a lawyer for a client prepared to do that, I would tell him his conduct is reckless," Gillers said. "It may be the pinnacle of friendship, but it is entirely self-destructive."

Wefald: Sorry,

Kansas State president apologizes for

AUSTIN (AP) — Kansas State University President Jon Wefald yesterday apologized for a letter he wrote to an online publication that said the University of Texas represents "incredible wealth and arrogance."

"The letter certainly was not meant to offend anyone in Texas or the University of Texas," Wefald said in his apology, which Kansas State released.

"I have great admiration for the people of Texas and the University of Texas, which is certainly one of the greatest academic institutions in the nation and world. Again, I apologize."

Wefald wrote this week to a reporter at the online edition of *The Sporting News* in response to a column that called Kansas State "pompous" and said the

Wildcats are the team body wanted to lose.

The column said it would cheer for No. 15 the teams play Saturday.

Wefald's letter said Texas, very few people the Longhorns because the University of Texas represents people's minds increased and arrogance.

"Many Texans believe world begins and ends in Texas."

Although Wefald said it was a personal correspondence, it was posted on the Kansas State Website Wednesday.

Negative reaction within the university removed the letter about five hours, Kansas Sports Information Director Brown said.

Doctor to stand trial for murders, fraud

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Texas doctor charged with five murders will also stand trial on 22 federal charges of prescription fraud.

Dr. Robert Allen Weitzel, 43, appeared in U.S. District Court on Wednesday before Magistrate Judge Samuel Alba for arraignment on the 22 counts handed up two weeks ago by a federal grand jury.

Weitzel pleaded not guilty to all counts.

Alba scheduled a trial for Nov. 22. Weitzel has posted \$100,000 bail after being arrested last week in Bay City, Texas, so the judge allowed him to remain free until the trial.

According to the indictment, Weitzel prescribed morphine and Demerol for six different patients in 1995, but instead of administering the drug, he kept it for himself on 22 separate occasions.

Weitzel is accused of pocketing 800 milligrams of Demerol and 360 milligrams of morphine.

Also on Wednesday, Weitzel

also made his initial appearance in a Davis County courtroom on five murder charges.

Davis County prosecutors said Weitzel overmedicated five elderly patients who died within a two-week period at Davis Hospital and Medical Center in late 1995 and early 1996. He has a preliminary hearing on those charges Jan. 27.

Weitzel, a psychiatrist, saw about 35 patients a month at the Red Butte Clinic near the University of Utah. He most recently worked in senior care at Matagorda General Hospital in Bay City.

The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing suspended Weitzel's license last month after he ignored a Physicians Licensing Board order to register for a psychiatric examination at clinic in Topeka, Kan.

The Texas hospital suspended his privileges last week pending resolution of the criminal charges filed against him.

Bush disagrees with GOPs

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — In a rare dispute with Congress, Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush criticized a GOP plan to squeeze money from a program for the working poor to meet budget targets.

He also signaled his displeasure with trends that suggest Congress may exceed spending limits in place since the 1997 balanced-budget deal.

"I don't think they ought to balance their budget on the backs of the poor," said the two-term Texas governor and Republican presidential front-runner.

The GOP-led Congress is mulling several book-keeping gimmicks to break a deadlock over spending priorities in time for Friday's start of the fiscal year.

One proposal accepted by Republican House leaders would produce \$8 million in savings by spreading the earned income tax credit over 12 monthly payments rather than the lump sum now paid with tax refunds.

Democrats say the tactic would be unfair, because it would siphon money from working families who earn less than \$30,000 a year. Bush agreed.

"I'm concerned about the earned income tax credit," Bush said, who is trying to build an election coalition by blending traditional conservative values with moderate rhetoric.

"I'm concerned for someone who is moving from near-poverty to middle class."



BUSH

The self-professed "compassionate conservative" signaled in August that his long-awaited tax proposal would expand the earned income tax program. Bush has delayed revealing his tax plan, in part to ensure that tax cuts to wealthy Americans are offset by relief for voters in the middle class and near-poverty.

His remarks at a news conference during a swing through Silicon Valley marked the first time he has spoken against the spending plan. Bush has close ties to Congress and the GOP establishment, a point that his Democratic and Republican opponents could use against him if Republican lawmakers mishandle the politics of the budget debate.

Indeed, the Congressional Budget Office says current Republican spending proposals would exceed two-year-old spending caps set for fiscal 2000 and eat into the Social Security surplus.

Asked about the report, Bush said, "The administration and Congress should hold to the spending caps."

He did not elaborate.

Bush also:

- Accused the Clinton administration of refusing to help the high-technology industry deal with a laundry list of issues before Congress until he began courting the industry on the campaign trail.

- Promised to debate his rivals, but only "when the people start paying attention." Fellow GOP presidential candidates, trailing him badly in polls and money-raising, want to test his handle on issues.

Program to foster children

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Clinton administration yesterday approved a Texas pilot program to speed the foster children with adoption services to those children.

The goal of the project, approved by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is to increase the number of prospective adoptive families.

The project will provide needs services for the children in protective custody. This will find ways to decrease adoptive relationships that are not successful.

HHS assistant secretary for children and families, Olivia was in San Antonio to announce pilot program, which will last five years.

"It is especially gratifying to announce approval of this demonstration for Texas to present this important opportunity to vulnerable children through greater flexibility and creativity in services and management."

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OCTOBER 1ST-10TH

CIRCULATION DESK RELOCATION INFORMATION

OCTOBER 1 -10 The Evans Lobby Area will be closed for construction. Entrance to Evans Library will be rerouted through the Library Annex. The Circulation Desk will be relocated by the entrance of the 4TH floor skywalk.

4TH Floor Circulation location will have limited services, but reserves desk will have full circulation services.

Services are as follows:

CIRCULATION SERVICES (4TH floor Skywalk Entrance)

- Check out books (expedited check out service only)
- Book returns

RESERVES DESK SERVICES (1ST Floor Annex)

- Check out books
- Book returns
- Recall books pick up
- Paged books pick up
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- Rush books pick up

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