

Payoffs or principles? Officials judge Clinton's moves



President Bill Clinton

Scott Maurer/DN

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's first weeks have been a boon for the interest groups that both plague and sustain his party, from feminists and gays to labor unions and environmentalists.

Is he making payoffs or pursuing principles?

Republicans claim the first, Democrats the second. Either way, the new president is building goodwill for future moves that his party's traditional constituencies may not like nearly as much.

"He wants to be able to point to things he's done for them," said John Sears, who managed both of Ronald Reagan's presidential cam-

paigns. "The common thread is none of these things cost money. When he gets into the budget ... we'll see if he can hold it together or whether it flies apart."

In a series of rapid-fire executive orders, Clinton has eradicated policies abhorred by unions, environmentalists and abortion-rights advocates. The jury is still out on his efforts to end the ban on gays in the military, but he can't be accused of not trying. The same goes for his goal of naming a woman attorney general.

The new Republican Party chairman, Haley Barbour, is already calling Clinton's moves on the gay ban "a political payoff to a power-

ful special interest group."

But a senior White House official said Clinton's executive orders, past and future, "are not aimed at individual groups. He's overturning 12 years of bad policy ... stripping away a lot of nonsense."

Clinton has been associated with moderates trying to break the stereotype of their party as a collection of special interests. His supporters say his recent actions don't change that.

"These are things that he campaigned on nationally. They are part of his national program. Bill Clinton didn't go off in back rooms and whisper to special interest groups," said Rob Shapiro, vice president of the centrist Progress-

sive Policy Institute.

Money is at the heart of many a group's agenda. Environmentalists would like more for hazardous waste cleanups. Labor groups are interested in worker retraining programs. Educators are eyeing wider aid programs for students. The elderly are vehemently resisting any tampering with Social Security. And no one wants new taxes.

Prospective partings of the way aren't confined to money. Major debates still loom over the military ban on gays, trade policy, auto fuel efficiency standards, the Endangered Species Act and countless other issues on which Clinton won't be able to satisfy all of his party's factions.

Treatment of hostages' kin will test Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Relatives of two British prisoners in Iraq are heading to Baghdad to plead for their release. How they are treated could show whether a new Iraqi strategy of avoiding confrontation with the West is genuine.

With a new man in the White House and fractures showing in the Persian Gulf War coalition, Baghdad apparently believes the time has come to change tack.

But what has been referred to as Saddam Hussein's "charm offensive" still aims, ultimately, to get Iraq's oil exports moving again and to reopen discussion on a range of Persian Gulf War cease-fire issues.

To achieve those goals requires ending the U.N. sanctions that are crippling Iraq's economy and splitting the U.S.-led coalition against Baghdad.

Its attitude toward the Britons' visit will be watched as a sign of a more compliant approach than its usual defiance of Western demands.

Iraq says that if Britain releases its frozen assets, the prisoners' cases would be reviewed with compassion.

Both hostages, Paul Ride and Michael Wainwright, were arrested after they strayed into Iraq last year.

NATO weighs use of force in Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS — With time running out for Bosnian Serbs and Muslims to agree on a U.N. peace plan, international mediators held a final series of meetings Sunday before the Security Council takes over the crisis.

Mediators held little hope of reaching a solution Sunday after talks bogged down Saturday over their plan to end the war. As negotiations continued to go nowhere, talk elsewhere increasingly turned to the possibility of outside military intervention.

Secretary of Defense Les Aspin

met in Munich, Germany, with Western military leaders to discuss Washington's proposals for ending the war in the former Yugoslav republic. Aspin refused to describe the proposals to reporters, saying only that Washington could act on them as early as this week.

NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner said at the Munich meeting that the alliance might have to use force to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has killed more than 18,000 people and made 1 million refugees.

U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance said Sunday as he arrived at U.N. Headquarters that he believed the Security Council would get involved Monday.

The talks were moved to New York from Geneva last week so the Security Council — especially the United States — could pressure the factions to compromise.

Many divisions remain between the two principal holdouts — the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serbs.

Under the peace plan put forward by Vance and Lord Owen, a negotiator from the European Community, each ethnic group would dominate three regions of Bosnia. The area around the capital, Sarajevo, would be under joint control.

The Muslims contend the plan would reward Serbian aggression by giving the Serbs control over Bosnian

territory they conquered. The Serbs took territory as they rebelled against Bosnia's declaration of independence a year ago from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. Muslims and Croats supported secession.

The Serbs, who accounted for a third of Bosnia's population before the war, control about 70 percent of Bosnian territory. Under the peace plan, the land under their control would be cut to about 40 percent.

If no compromise could be reached, Vance and Owen planned to present their proposal to the Security Council, which might try to pressure the parties closer to an agreement, said Fred Eckhard, a spokesman for the mediators.

Workplace warning: Killing sprees on the rise

Bosses beware. Killing sprees by disgruntled employees are on the rise in the workplace. Some say it's because of a growing sense of despair, frustration and alienation by workers losing their jobs.

"A lot of them are actually trying to kill the company because they think the whole stinking place is against them. They just want to get even, and the more people that die the sweeter the revenge," said James Alan Fox, dean of the college of criminal justice at Northeastern University in Boston.

"It's called murder by proxy. The reason why they kill co-workers is they're associated with the boss, an extension of the original target," Fox said. "The message is: 'Look who's

doing the firing now.'" So far this year:

—Paul Calden, 33, a claims manager fired by the Firemen's Fund Insurance Co., killed three bosses and wounded two others at an office cafeteria in Tampa, Fla., on Jan. 27. "This is what you get for firing me," Calden said as he pulled a gun from his suit. He later killed himself with a shot to the head.

—Michael Wayne Burns, 37, is accused of killing one co-worker and wounding seven others Wednesday at the Prescolite Inc. factory in El Dorado, Ark., where he worked. The shooting spree ended when one of the wounded hit Burns in the head with a pipe. Investigators said he was apparently upset over harassment from fellow

workers.

—Phone company lineman Paul Hannah, 46, is charged with killing a Chicago union steward on Thursday as Hannah was being suspended for refusing to take a drug test. He aimed the gun at a company manager, but it misfired six times. The union steward was killed as he tried to intervene.

—Fernando Ruiz, 30, shot his boss to death and wounded a female co-worker at Dahn's Fresh Herbs in Houston on Saturday because his boss planned to fire him for theft and for harassing the co-worker. Ruiz shot and killed himself in the building attic.

"It is a growing problem. We have to prepare for more of this for many years to come," Fox said.

Fox's profile shows the killers tend to be white middle-aged men, loners with a history of frustration or disappointment on the job, a diminished ability to cope with frustration and a tendency to blame others for their problems. A gun is the weapon of choice to maximize killing.

"The thing that is leading people to commit these crimes is a sense of hopelessness. They don't feel there are any alternatives," said Joseph Kinney of the Chicago-based National Safe Workplace Institute.

He attributed the escalating rate of violence on the job to vulnerability — few workers or managers have lifetime jobs in these days of pink slips, and stressed-out people with easy access to guns are more willing to resort to violence.

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Arthur Ashe's life, last moments remembered as brave, exemplary

NEW YORK — Arthur Ashe was lucid in his last hours and alert enough to make the OK sign shortly before his death from AIDS-related pneumonia.

Donald Dell, Ashe's agent and friend of 25 years, and Dr. Henry Murray, Ashe's physician, held an emotional news conference Sunday at New York Hospital, where Ashe, 49, died Saturday.

"He used to say, 'Don't feel sorry for me,'" said Dell, who frequently choked up. "He clearly felt he was not a victim. Whatever happened, he would rise to that particular occasion. It was just another challenge."

President Clinton called Ashe "a true American hero and a great example to us all," adding in a statement that "Arthur rose from the segregated courts of Richmond, Va., to the championship at Wimbledon displaying grace, strength and courage every step of the way."

"He was a friend of mine," Clinton said Sunday as he walked to church, "I'm really sad about it."

Murray said Ashe had been hospitalized with pneumonia for two weeks in January and was ill off and on for

several months. Ashe gave a speech as recently as last Tuesday, but quickly suffered from a fever and other complications that began late Wednesday, Murray said.

"He was fully alert, asking questions. He was concerned about who the next attorney general would be,"

— "He clearly felt he was not a victim. It (AIDS) was just another challenge."

Dell Ashe's agent

Murray said of Ashe's last hours. Murray made the OK sign with his thumb and forefinger, saying "his last gesture to me was this."

Murray said Ashe's swift decline was "unusual but happens."

More extraordinary, he said, was Ashe's excellent health in the 4 1/2 years since he was diagnosed. Murray said Ashe kept a very busy schedule.

Dell said he had discussed Ashe's strenuous schedule with Ashe's wife, Jeanne.

"He felt it was therapeutic," said Dell, president of ProServe Inc. "He said it was better than sitting home and thinking about dying."

Ashe, the only black man ever to win the Wimbledon championship and the U.S. Open, revealed April 8 that he had AIDS in a news conference prompted by his fear that a newspaper was about to publish the story. He said he was infected by a blood transfusion during heart bypass surgery, probably in 1983.

Though adamant that he should have the right to keep his illness private, he became active in the fight against AIDS, forming a fund-raising foundation and joining the boards of the Harvard AIDS Institute and the UCLA AIDS Institute.

Dell said that Ashe was angry at being forced to reveal his condition. But he said the anger passed quickly as Ashe became a crusader against AIDS.

"They didn't hold any bitterness," Dell said of Ashe and his family.

SPORTS WIRE

Tulane knocked off

North Carolina-Charlotte pulled off the second biggest upset Sunday, next to Nebraska's 68-64 dismantling of no. 3 Kansas.

No. 18 Tulane (16-4) fell victim to North Carolina-Charlotte in overtime, 68-64.

In Big 10 action, Chris Webber led no. 7 Michigan past no. 19 Purdue Sunday, 84-76.

And in the PAC-10, no. 8 Arizona (15-2) beat California 93-81. No. 18 Tulane (16-4) lost to N.C. Charlotte 68-64 in overtime.

Bowe's win draws boos

NEW YORK — The violent shortness of Riddick Bowe's victory over Michael Dokes Saturday night drew boos from many of the 16,332 fans at Madison Square Garden, but they got what they paid for.

His performance in his first heavyweight title defense was a thoroughly professional one. And Bowe knew it.

"He was no match for me," Bowe said. "I don't want to kill a man."