

Senate confirms Albright, Cohen

WASHINGTON (AP) — In one day the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Madeline Albright as the first woman secretary of state and William Cohen as the first Republican member of President Clinton's Cabinet.

After a one-sided debate Wednesday with no negative comments about Albright, senators voted 99-0. Albright's swearing-in is expected as early as today. She was the first of President Clinton's second-term Cabinet to pass Senate muster.

Immediately afterward, former Maine Sen. William Cohen passed the same muster by the same vote. He also faced a friendly group of senators.

The only member not voting on both nominations was Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.

Sen. Jesse Helms, a frequent critic of President Clinton's foreign policy, lavishly praised Clinton's choice for

secretary of state.

"She's a strong lady. She's a courageous lady," Helms said. But Helms repeated his blanket disagreement with Clinton's foreign policy, saying he hoped Albright would turn it around.

Helms said he expects Albright to work with the Republican-controlled Congress to limit sending U.S. troops abroad, to reform the U.N. and to modernize the State Department.

In his confirmation hearing Wednesday, moderate Republican Cohen said he will carry on many of Clinton's policies. But he departed sharply from present policy on Bosnia, promising U.S. troops will leave the area in 18 months.

Cohen also said the United States must modernize its weapons, consider cutting the armed forces' troop levels and turn its attention to Asia.

ABC fined \$5.5 million in hidden-camera case

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — A jury Wednesday ordered ABC to pay Food Lion more than \$5.5 million for sending two reporters undercover with cameras in their wigs for an expose accusing the supermarket chain of selling spoiled meat.

While Food Lion disputed the allegations in the 1992 "PrimeTime Live" report, it was ABC's newsgathering methods that were at issue in the federal trial. The jury earlier found the network committed fraud, trespassing and breach of loyalty.

But in the closely watched case that opened a new line of legal attack against the media — and put undercover reporting itself on trial — Food Lion got far less than the \$52.5 million to \$1.9 billion in punitive damages it sought.

Jury: Tony Kinton called the award a "slap on the wrist."

"We weren't in there trying to handcuff the media," explained Gregory Mack, foreman of the jury that deliberated the damages for six days. "We would not have gotten the story if the media had not gone in."

Bruce Sanford, a First Amendment lawyer in Washington, called the Food Lion verdict emotional, irrational and unconstitutional and said it will force journalists to think twice before do-

ing investigative pieces.

"It's punishing the messenger, plain and simple," Sanford said.

The jury, in the second multimillion-dollar verdict against ABC in as many months, ordered the network to pay \$5.5 million and its employees an additional \$45,750.

ABC said it will appeal.

ABC News president Rooney Arledge called the punitive damages troubling, noting they were about 4,000 times the amount of compensatory damages.

"If large corporations were allowed to stop hard-hitting investigative journalism, the American people would be the losers," Arledge said in a statement.

The "PrimeTime Live" report narrated by Diane Sawyer — accused Food Lion of selling rat-gnawed cheese, expired meat and old ham and fish that had been washed in bleach to kill its smell.

Food Lion denied the allegations and said it lost more than \$1 billion in sales and stock value because of the report. The judge ultimately barred the supermarket chain from seeking compensation for its sales and stock losses, and Food Lion was awarded only the cost of hiring and paying the ABC workers, \$1,402, in compensatory damages.

The 'Cosmo girl' steps down

Readers will still feel Helen Gurley Brown's influence.

NEW YORK (AP) — It's a classic piece of advice from Cosmopolitan, No. 4 on a list of 10 things to do when you wake up on a "bad beauty morning":

"Stick face into a bowl of ice cubes and water — breathe through a snorkel; try to stay under for 10 minutes, though you can pop up and down. (Helen Gurley Brown invented this trick.)"

The pointer — aimed at tightening pores — is vintage Helen Gurley Brown, the 74-year-old primped-and-preened, oh-so-thin figure who for 32 years has personified the "Cosmo girl" for whom her magazine is written.

Now she's stepping down, saying farewell with a special issue that hit newsstands Tuesday.

Brown, who has said only that her departure was by "mutual agreement with management" at the Hearst Corp., sounded reluctant to be leaving.

"Now I don't have something," she said. "I don't have the product, and I don't have the power. Don't kid yourself about that."

Brown, who will still oversee Cosmo's 29 international editions, is succeeded by Bonnie Fuller, a 40-year-old Canadian who successfully launched the American edition of the fashion and beauty magazine Marie Claire.

Keep the plunging bustlines?

The new editor's task will be to freshen a magazine whose relevance has waned in the two decades since the end of the Sexual Revolution. But, declaring deep respect for the franchise built by Brown, Fuller promises no radical changes.

"I think that the typical Cosmo reader is going to be opening that magazine and finding everything she's always been familiar with," she said.

She promises to maintain the magazine's emphasis on practical advice on relationships, work, fashion, health, beauty and sex.

The graphics are being freshened. More photos are being added. And the clearest break is Fuller's apparent determination to bring a new edge to Cosmo's articles.

Brown has been criticized for keeping issues like AIDS and sexual harassment off the pages of Cosmo, but the Fuller era opens



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with a March feature on four heterosexual couples living with HIV and new drugs developed to combat the virus. April will bring a story on sexual harassment.

One Brown tradition already is out the window: "No centerfolds," Fuller said firmly when asked the fate of Brown's male pinups. Brown's final issue features two, ("continuing our family tradition," the cover says) for a total of six since Burt Reynolds posed in 1972.

Asked whether the cover would continue to show a model with a plunging neckline and lots of cleavage, Fuller said only that the covers will continue to project an image of "confidence and empowered sexuality."

Under Brown, Cosmopolitan became the best-selling women's magazine in the world. Circulation reached 3 million in 1985 and remains about 2.5 million today, despite a flood of new women's magazines in the market.

Critics have argued that Cosmo's take on what its cover headlines call "the man-woman thing" is dated. "Stock the fridge with his favorite things. ... Don't touch anything on his desk. ... Try not to nag. ... Don't ever criticize him in public," a feature in the February issue advises.

Brown argues that today's feminists spend too much time blaming men for women's problems.

"I've said, 'You're the problem — get out there and do something.' They have accused me rightly of having women be sex objects. That's right — you're a sex object if somebody wants to go to bed with you," she said. "I think a true feminist is someone who wants equality for both genders."

Sex, sex and more sex

Thirty-five years ago, Brown

was in the vanguard of the women's movement with her 1962 best seller, "Sex and the Single Girl." The book, written when she was a copywriter for a Los Angeles ad agency, instructed the unattached woman on how to conduct her romantic affairs.

She was hired in 1965 to remake Cosmopolitan, then a 79-year-old general-interest magazine with languishing circulation.

Brown turned the magazine into a monthly instruction book for the modern, have-it-all Cosmo girl.


A primary ingredient from the start has been sex, sex and more sex, with titillating cover lines written by Brown's husband, former editor David Brown: "The startling truth about sex addicts"; "How to be very good in bed"; "The terrible danger of a perfect sex partner."

"I've never known for sure why sex always worked for me," Brown said. "I grew up in a very repressed era. But I, Helen Brown, feel, think, know that it's one of life's great pleasures, so you should be having it."

The formula was perfect for an era when large numbers of young women were entering the work force and when being single was no longer considered just a brief interlude between adolescence and marriage.


Brown is a self-described "mouseburger" from Arkansas who never went to college and held 17 secretarial jobs between the ages of 18 and 38.

"A mouseburger is somebody who's got it inside and needs to get it out. She's a tigress inside and a little unprepossessing outside," Brown said. "I still look at myself that way now — I never quit being that 19-year-old with her nose pressed up against the glass."



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