

Reno must find counsel for fund-raising drives

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saying their persistent demands for a special investigation had been vindicated, senior Republicans on Sunday insisted that Attorney General Janet Reno must now seek appointment of an independent counsel to look into White House fund-raising activities.

"I honestly think she has no other choice," said House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, R-Ill. "There is sufficient and credible evidence" for her to ask a panel of federal judges to appoint an independent counsel, added Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. "She could do that tomorrow."

On Saturday the Justice Department revealed it has opened a 30-day review of President Clinton's involvement in campaign money-raising irregularities during the 1996 presidential campaign. During that time, Reno must decide whether to launch a more extensive 90-day review that could lead to her petitioning the court for appointment of a special

prosecutor.

Notwithstanding, a number of questionable fund-raising practices being pursued by congressional investigators — and already under review by a Justice Department task force — a federal law enforcement source speaking on condition of anonymity said the specific 30-day review period disclosed over the weekend is limited to whether Clinton made fund-raising phone calls from the West Wing of the White House, and whether those solicitations violate a law.

"We suggested she should have done that seven months ago," Hatch said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "She ought to get the burden off her back."

Republicans have been pressing Reno to invoke the Independent Counsel Act, which comes into effect when senior members of an administration are suspected of legal violations.

Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that "the Attorney General should resign" to take responsibility for delays in the investigation.

Solidarity takes control with win

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Leaders of a reborn Solidarity claimed a surprise victory over the governing ex-communists in parliamentary elections Sunday, the first step toward controlling the government after four years in opposition.

In one of the most dramatic political recoveries in the former Soviet bloc, the group of parties tracing its roots to the trade union that ousted the communists in 1989 won at least 33 percent of the vote, according to exit polls for Polish television. A separate poll for the newspaper Rzeczpospolita gave Solidarity 34 percent.

The governing Democratic Leftist Alliance, the former communists, trailed with 27 percent in both the television and newspaper polls. The polls, which fluctuated marginally throughout the night, indicated a voter turnout of about 59 percent.

The voting edge would not give Solidarity an outright majority in the 460-seat Sejm, but should allow it first chance to form a coalition with allied parties. On the eve of the elections, most opinion polls and the parties themselves had predicted a neck-and-neck finish.

If Solidarity manages to forge a parliamentary coalition, it would share power with President Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former communist who defeated Solidarity founder Lech Walesa as president in a tight election two years ago.

The cohabitation is not likely to be as contentious as previous periods in Polish politics. Despite controver-

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MARIAN KRZAKLEWSKI
Solidarity leader

sy over issues like transfer of state-owned industry to private hands, both major blocs applaud NATO's decision to extend membership to Poland, and both want to see Poland join the European Union.

Final elections results were not expected until Wednesday.

But announcement of the exit polls, shortly after balloting ended in the late evening, sparked a celebration at Solidarity headquarters in Warsaw.

"I'd like to thank all those who voted for Solidarity. I'd like to thank all those who love Poland, who love truth, who love Solidarity," said Marian Krzaklewski, who succeeded Walesa as leader of the bloc.

"If this victory is officially confirmed, we will correct all the mistakes that have been made so far," Krzaklewski said, promising to transfer much of the central government's power to local authorities.

Krzaklewski shook the hand of Walesa, who received an ovation from several hundred Solidarity supporters in the domed portrait gallery where Solidarity set up its headquar-

ters. "This time, we'll treat the victory as an obligation to carry out the policies that the nation asked us to," Walesa said.

Some Solidarity supporters chanted "Down with the Communists."

But the mood of the leaders was subdued, and they decided not to uncork a bottle of sparkling wine that was on hand, apparently hoping to avoid jinxing the results.

Solidarity lost its parliamentary majority in 1993, largely because of voter dissatisfaction over quarreling among its leaders, and hardships stemming from its "shock therapy" economic reforms.

Solidarity's most likely coalition partner was the Freedom Union, led by former Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, author of the shock therapy. Balcerowicz's union won 15 percent of the vote Sunday according to the TV poll, and 14 percent according to the newspaper poll, carried out by the independent PBS agency. Both polls claimed a margin of error of one percentage point.

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