

# Clinton agrees to testify in Lewinsky case

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton agreed Wednesday to break six months' silence and provide videotaped testimony regarding his relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. The session with Whitewater prosecutors was set for Aug. 17 — with attorneys present.

Clinton's testimony seems likely to conflict with Lewinsky's. Legal sources say she has told prosecutors she had sexual relations with Clinton and they discussed ways of concealing it. Clinton denied this last winter.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said it appears independent counsel Kenneth Starr is examining Clinton for three possible crimes — perjury, causing someone else to commit perjury, and obstruction of justice.

"We're now in the closing throes of this," Hatch said. "... It's in everybody's interest to get this over with."

Clinton's arrangement with Starr averted an unprecedented presidential appearance under subpoena before a federal grand jury where witnesses appear without counsel. Starr agreed to withdraw the subpoena to accommodate Clinton, and the president will delay his Martha's Vineyard vacation to testify.

Among a drumbeat of developments, new details about Lewinsky's potential testimony emerged, including suggestions that she will provide a damaging account of the return of gifts she had given the president.

At the U.S. courthouse, Linda Tripp, the woman whose secret tape recordings of Lewinsky prompted the

investigation, spoke publicly for the first time, presenting herself as a common citizen and lashing out at her critics from the White House to Hollywood.

"I have been vilified for having taken the path of truth," Tripp, visibly shaking, said after wrapping up eight days of grand jury testimony.

"I have been maligned by people who have chosen not to tell the truth and who know they are not telling the truth," she said.

Tripp, who worked inside the Clinton White House and now works for the Pentagon, said that between 1993 and 1997 she learned of "actions by high government officials that may have been against the law" and became fearful.

"The things I witnessed concerning several different subjects made me increasingly fearful that this information was dangerous, very dangerous to possess," she said explaining why she approached prosecutors in January with 20 hours of telephone tapes she secretly made of her conversations with Lewinsky.

The announcement concerning Clinton's testimony came a day after Lewinsky reached a deal to cooperate with prosecutors. Legal sources say she will reverse course from a sworn affidavit in the Paula Jones case and testify that she had a sexual relationship with Clinton and discussed with the president ways they could conceal it.

Such an account would contradict Clinton's sworn testimony to Jones' attorneys. Clinton has said little pub-

licly since the controversy erupted in January, except that he did not have a sexual relationship with Lewinsky and did not ask her to lie.

Senior officials said Clinton is prepared to stick by his denial of any sexual relationship with Lewinsky.

Meanwhile, a potential conflict between Tripp and Lewinsky's account emerged. Sources familiar with Lewinsky's account say she is prepared to testify that she authored the so-called talking points she handed Tripp on Jan. 14 that suggested possible testimony in the Jones lawsuit.

Lewinsky has told prosecutors, the sources said, that no one from the White House assisted the effort and the document was mostly a compilation of things she had previously discussed with Tripp. But Tripp on Wednesday adamantly denied any role in the talking points.

"I have testified to the fact that I had nothing, let me repeat, nothing to do with preparing the so-called talking points. Allegations to the effect that I contributed to or assisted in any way with the creation of the talking points are as illogical and as they are patently false," Tripp said.

Legal sources told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Lewinsky has offered prosecutors testimony explaining why she returned gifts from Clinton to the White House. Lewinsky's testimony could be pertinent "to an issue of obstruction of justice," one source said, declining to be more specific.

The sources familiar with Lewinsky's account, who spoke only

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**ORRIN HATCH**  
Senate Judiciary Chairman

on condition of anonymity, said the former intern's account will explain why the gifts were returned to presidential secretary Betty Currie shortly after Lewinsky was subpoenaed last December to testify in the Jones' case.

The sources stopped short of saying if Lewinsky would directly implicate Clinton in some way. But the one source said Lewinsky's testimony would make clear that only Clinton, Lewinsky and Currie knew about the gifts and before they "somehow got back to the White House, somebody had to say something."

The announcement of the deal for Clinton's testimony unfolded in theatrical fashion as the president's private attorney, David Kendall, emerged from the White House to provide first word.

"In an effort to achieve a prompt resolution of this entire matter, the president will voluntarily provide his testimony on Aug. 17, 1998 to the Office of Independent Counsel, as he has on prior occasions," Kendall said.

On Capitol Hill, anticipation grew that a possible impeachment report may soon be sent by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr.

"This is not a discussion about sexual propensities or sexual peccadilloes," Hatch said. "Obstruction is a very serious thing."

Noting that Starr's investigation already has cost \$40 million, Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the senior Democrat on Hatch's committee, was more blunt: "Wrap this sucker up!"

While publicly insisting Clinton wanted to testify, presidential aides privately cheered an agreement that eliminated the political specter of Clinton becoming the first chief executive ever to be compelled to testify to a grand jury investigating his conduct.

Under the deal described by White House officials, prosecutors withdrew a grand jury subpoena they had issued to Clinton on July 17, agreed to let the president have his lawyers present during questioning and spared him from having to go to the courthouse like other grand jury witnesses.

In return, Clinton's legal team agreed to the August date instead of waiting until September — after the president's summer vacation and trip to Russia — as they had suggested previously, officials said.

## University fires Hibler, denies chance to retire

BY JENNIFER WALKER  
Co-editor

After six months of lawsuits, press conferences and hearings, English professor David Hibler has been removed from his position at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The NU Board of Regents met Saturday and fired Hibler, stating he was guilty of sexual harassment and unprofessional conduct.

The Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee began investigating sexual harassment claims made by two students, Valerie Giunca and Rania Schlien, earlier this year.

Giunca alleged Hibler came to her apartment and forced her to lie on the floor while he fondled her. Schlien alleged Hibler published her writing on the internet without her permission.

Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln stressed that it was these, and other incidents, that led to Hibler's termination, and not an e-mail message he sent over a UNL listserv in February.

"This act was taken because of a rather long list of inappropriate, unprofessional conduct by professor Hibler.

"I strongly emphasize that it has nothing to do with the email controversy."

Wilson noted that the investigation into Hibler's conduct began before the emailing.

"This process was underway before that event occurred," he said. "It is not a free speech issue. It is unprofessional conduct, repeated unprofessional conduct."

According to the Lincoln Journal-Star, on July 23, Hibler sent a letter to Regents Chairman Robert Allen of Hastings requesting an unpaid leave of absence until Nov. 22, in the hopes he could receive early retirement. Hibler turns 55 that day, the minimum age for retirement.

Wilson said that request was not taken into consideration at the Regents meeting.

"That request was denied. Hibler's tenure was revoked and his employment terminated," Wilson said.

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