

# News Digest

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## Clinton says he may veto \$80 billion GOP spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton on Monday urged Congress to speed up work on long-stalled spending bills but warned he will veto a Republican bill for \$80 billion in tax cuts and measures that ignore his priorities on education and the environment.

Congress has sent the president two of 13 spending bills, and a stopgap funding measure expires Friday.

Clinton appeared at the White House with House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.C.

Earlier, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., questioned whether the Clinton administration can be trusted to reach a deal on the 1999 budget, quoting a White House official as saying the administration is prepared to shut down the government if that seems to its political advantage.

The White House said he was mischaracterizing remarks of Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles.

## Russia pledges prompt wage payment to prevent strikes

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's government pledged Monday it will no longer fall behind in paying wages, attempting to ease tensions before a nationwide workers' protest.

Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Russians weary of broken promises and the government's apparent inability to end an economic crisis could take part in demonstrations planned Wednesday for cities, towns and factories across the country.

"The government will do its utmost to pay wages regularly to public sector workers, starting in October," Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matviyenko said Monday, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

## Sarah Ferguson makes debut as British talk show hostess

LONDON (AP) — She's had problems, and so, too, have her guests. The Duchess of York shared it all in her debut as a chat show host on British television Monday.

Until now, the former Sarah Ferguson, ex-wife of Prince Andrew, had confined her paid TV appearances to the United States for fear of causing more upset in the royal family.

But "Sarah ... Surviving Life," 10 one-hour shows commissioned by Sky TV, was launched with promotional newspaper interviews in which she discussed her current boyfriend, her financial affairs and her refusal to move out of a wing of Andrew's house where she lives with their two daughters.

# House votes for impeachment inquiry

## Clinton under fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a historic step taken strictly along party lines, the House Judiciary Committee voted Monday night for an open-ended impeachment inquiry of President Clinton. The top Republican lawyer cited "substantial and credible evidence" of 15 possible grounds for impeachment.

The roll call for a formal inquiry under Watergate-style rules was 21-16, with all the panel's Republicans in favor and all Democrats opposed. The full House is expected to agree to the inquiry later this week, thus making Clinton only the third president in American history to be subjected to the threat of formal impeachment proceedings.

"Do we have a duty to look further, or to look away?" Chairman Henry Hyde, R-Ill., asked at mid-morning as he gavelled the committee to order in the same cavernous room where Richard Nixon's fate was debated a quarter-century ago.

"This is not about Watergate," retorted Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, the panel's senior Democrat. "It's an extramarital

affair."

Democrats tried twice to curtail the scope and duration of the inquiry. Both times they were turned away on party-line votes, including on one proposal to limit the inquiry to Clinton's relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and force the case to be wrapped up by Nov. 25.

Under the rules adopted at the Republicans' insistence, Congress would be empowered to investigate not only Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's evidence relating to Clinton's relationship with Lewinsky, but other matters as well. The committee would have power to subpoena witnesses and conduct hearings.

In an hourlong presentation to the panel, the Republicans' lead investigator, David Schippers, broadened the counts set out by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr to raise the possibility that Clinton took part in a broad conspiracy to cover up his actions.

Clinton did not mention the proceedings unfolding 16 blocks away when he appeared briefly before reporters on the White House grounds.

Said his spokesman, Joe

## Clinton advisers depart

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a swift change of command, three of President Clinton's top advisers are leaving within a three-week span even as the White House braces for impeachment hearings.

Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles announced he will depart soon after Congress completes work — perhaps as early as this week but more likely next week. In addition, Rahm Emanuel, the president's senior adviser, said he will leave Oct. 19.

Bowles and Emanuel join an exodus led by press secretary Mike McCurry, whose last day was Friday. Together, the three officials have been among a dozen or so White House aides waging a dam-

age-control battle ever since the Monica Lewinsky scandal erupted Jan. 21.

"They're not only experienced and talented, they're trusted and respected," said a senior adviser, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It's not a happy day."

Joe Lockhart, the president's new press secretary, dismissed the turnover's significance.

"The president doesn't feel deserted," Lockhart said. He said staff people "stay for a little while ... they come and they go. And the president will find people who are talented and energetic and can help him promote the agenda he's laid out."

Lockhart: "We don't believe there's anything here that reaches the level of an impeachable offense."

Nixon resigned before the full House could vote to impeach him in 1974. The only other president to face the threat of impeachment, Andrew Johnson, was impeached by the House but acquitted in the Senate by a single vote in 1868.

Inside the committee room, Schippers, the lifelong Democrat hired by Hyde to oversee the case for Republicans, methodically reviewed evidence submitted three weeks ago by Starr.

Dropping some of Starr's counts, adding others, and recasting still others, he came up with 15 counts, four more than Starr had.

# High court rejects tribe's casino appeal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected an appeal by a Nebraska Indian tribe ordered by the federal government to close its gambling casino.

The court, without comment, turned away the Santee Sioux Tribe's argument that it should be allowed to continue operating the casino even without an agreement with state officials.

In its appeal, the tribe had argued that a federal law requiring tribes to negotiate gambling agreements with states was no longer enforceable because of a 1996 Supreme Court ruling that said tribes cannot sue states in federal court to resolve gambling disputes.

The 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act requires tribes to negotiate agreements with their states before starting casino-style gambling. The law allows Indian tribes to operate casinos only in states whose laws generally permit such gambling.

U.S. Attorney Tom Monaghan in Nebraska said it could be two months or longer before the Supreme Court's action takes effect through the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and in that time his office will discuss with the tribe its closing down the casino.

Monaghan's office seized \$87,000 in casino gambling proceeds from the

tribe. Monaghan said his office will voluntarily return the money to the tribe when the casino is closed. "They have argued their points well but the courts have ruled against them," Monaghan said.

Tribal attorney Dan Evans said options for the tribe include setting up games that are allowed under Nebraska law, and continuing its efforts through the secretary of interior and Congress at solving impasses between tribes and states over the kinds of games allowed. "The underlying dispute is still there," Evans said.

The Santee tribe argued that Nebraska officials failed to negotiate a compact in good faith. It sued the state in 1996 and opened a casino when an agreement was not reached. The casino offered video slot machines, video poker and video blackjack.

Later that year, the Supreme Court threw part of the 1988 law that had let tribes sue states in federal court to resolve gambling disputes. The Santee tribe's lawsuit then was dismissed.

Soon after, the chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission ordered the tribe to close the casino because it lacked an agreement with the state. The tribe and the federal government sued each other, and a federal judge ruled that the government could not order the casino closed.

# U.S. concerned about Milosevic 'promises'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton expressed concern Monday that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is "playing the classic game of making false promises" to avoid NATO military strikes in retaliation for weeks of bloodshed in Kosovo.

Clinton raised his concern in a telephone call with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who argued that Milosevic is abiding by U.N. demands for a withdrawal and an end to repression. Clinton said Milosevic's compliance "must be verifiable, tangible and irreversible," press secretary Joe Lockhart said.

Yeltsin expressed reluctance about the use of force against the Serbs, as he has in the past. "But the president made it clear this isn't a time for half measures, it isn't a time for promises, it's a time for full compliance," Lockhart said. He said Clinton made the point he was "concerned that Milosevic was playing the classic game of making false promises designed to remove international pressure. ... He made the point that we don't wish to use force, but what happens next depends on President Milosevic."

Clinton's national security team met for two hours in the White House Situation Room for a briefing on military options in Kosovo and to review a United Nations report on Serb compliance in the region.

A White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the advisers noted the "real consensus" in NATO toward resolving the conflict with military action in the absence of a settlement, and are seeking to ensure that Milosevic is not trying to pull "a sham" to hold up a possible settlement.

A senior U.S. official, meanwhile, said the United States is offering Milosevic a deal that would defer for two or three years a decision on whether Kosovo would separate

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JOE LOCKHART  
White House press secretary

from Serbia.

Being held in suspension, meanwhile, is a political decision by the 16 NATO nations on whether to bomb the Serbs. But plans for an attack "are on a fast track," said the official, traveling with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the Mideast.

The threats have had at least a temporary effect on Milosevic, whose offensive is designed to repress sentiment among the majority ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province to break away from Yugoslavia.

Milosevic has ordered most of his Serb army units back to their barracks, withdrawn police units and apparently ordered a halt to the burning of villages. Some 250,000 people remain homeless, with winter approaching.

Carrying the deal to Milosevic was Richard Holbrooke, the American diplomat who helped engineer an end to ethnic warfare in Bosnia three years ago largely by persuading Milosevic to accept a compromise accord with Muslims and Croats.

## Daily Nebraskan

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