

Open impeachment inquiry started

■ A 258-176 House vote makes Clinton the third president in history to face serious charges of this kind.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House triggered an open-ended impeachment inquiry against President Clinton on Thursday in a momentous vote cast in the shadow of midterm elections.

Thirty-one Democrats joined majority Republicans in increasing the peril for the embattled chief executive.

The 258-176 vote opened the way for nationally televised impeachment hearings later this year, with possible witnesses including Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, Monica Lewinsky, Linda Tripp and other cen-

Clinton under fire

tral characters in the sex-and-cover-up drama that has commanded the nation's attention for nine months.

Clinton, the nation's 42nd president, becomes the third occupant of his office to face serious impeachment prospects. Andrew Johnson was impeached by the House in 1868 but remained in office after the Senate fell one vote shy of forcing his removal. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 rather than face impeachment over Watergate.

"I do not think that we want to settle for less than the whole truth," said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., the man at the controls of the inquiry. To the nation watching on television — as well as to openly skeptical Democrats

sitting across the aisle in the House chamber — he pledged fairness in the months ahead.

"Too much hangs in the balance for us not to rise above partisan politics," said the Judiciary Committee chairman.

House Democrats argued in vain for an inquiry limited to Starr's evidence, to be wrapped up by Dec. 31.

"We're all profoundly hurt by what the president has done," said Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri. "But this investigation must be ended fairly and quickly. It has hurt our nation, and it's hurt our children. We must not compound the hurt."

Rep. Paul McHale, a Pennsylvania Democrat who has called for Clinton to resign, declared that in testimony in the Paula Jones lawsuit the president "attempted to

cover up a sordid and irresponsible relationship by repeated deceit under oath."

Thursday's outcome was a foregone conclusion, with only the level of Democratic support in doubt. The White House had mounted a vigorous effort to hold down the number of defections as it pursued a strategy of attacking the GOP for conducting a partisan campaign against Clinton.

White House aides circulated polls among the rank-and-file in recent days that indicated the nation was tired of the Clinton-Lewinsky melodrama and wanted it to end swiftly. The correct political vote, they argued, was to make it a partisan issue heading into the election, thereby casting Republicans as defying public sentiment.

"It's a tough vote," said Rep. Charles Stenholm, a veteran

Democrat targeted by Republicans for defeat this fall. He cast his vote for the GOP plan.

In political terms, Republicans said their polling showed that the voters most likely to go to the polls were eager for an impeachment inquiry.

Beyond that, they stressed repeatedly that they would conduct their investigation under the rules that majority Democrats used during Watergate.

Hyde, in his final arguments on the floor, alluded to former Rep. Peter Rodino, D-N.J., who chaired the committee during the Watergate era. Rodino had dismissed calls for a deadline as unwise.

Now, a quarter-century later, said Hyde, "We're not flying by the seat of our pants. We're riding on the shoulders of Pete Rodino."

"That's why we can see so far."

UNL alcohol policies to stiffen

■ New bill allows colleges to call parents of underage students after violations.

By JESSICA FARGEN
Staff writer

A bill signed by President Clinton on Wednesday gives colleges the option to notify parents of students under 21 years old who violate a state, local, federal or campus alcohol or drug policy, a congressional spokesman said.

Although UNL residence hall students under 21 years old already consent to this in their housing contracts, parents of students in greek houses and off-campus housing could also be notified under the new law, said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen.

"We do believe in treating students as adults. There are times, however, that we feel the best interests of the student are serviced if we do bring the parents into the equation," Griesen said.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has an alcohol and drug policy agreement with greek houses, but not with individual members, Griesen said. The disparity occurs because greek members pay rent to their chapters, not the university, as residence hall students do.

Because of the legislation, greek members and off-campus residents won't be exempt from notification for long.

"We probably will move in that direction," Griesen said.

Linda Schwartzkopf, director of UNL Greek Affairs, said some greek houses already have adopted a parental notification clause to their housing contracts.

In the residence halls, students must sign a statement that says they

recognize that the university reserves the right to notify their parents if they violate an alcohol and drug policy, said Doug Zatechka, UNL director of Office of University Housing.

About 120 parents were called last year and told of their children's alcohol violations under a housing policy enacted in 1997, he said.

"It made a real difference in the environment," Zatechka said. "It got calmer. After that there was less vandalism and less behavioral problems."

Housing's policy may get tougher under the new law.

"Last year we did not call parents on a simple violation," Zatechka said. "But this law would say we could call on a very simple violation."

A simple violation would cover students in their room with alcohol, whereas a serious one would probably involve an intoxicated student causing disruptions such as noise violations, fights, vandalism or vomiting, Zatechka said.

The provision, which is part of the 1998 Higher Education Act, also makes it possible to extend the parental notification policy to off-campus students, Griesen said.

But the bill doesn't address how to handle off-campus violations or parents calling the university to ask for their children's records, said Geoff Schwartzman, deputy press secretary in U.S. Sen. John Warner's Washington, D.C., office.

The provision is sponsored by Warner (R-Va.) partially in response to five alcohol-related deaths at Virginia colleges in 1997, Schwartzman said.

Under the bill, schools can no longer use the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act — known as the Buckley amendment — as an excuse for keeping students' records private.

"The Buckley amendment has provided a large constraint on universities being able to freely discuss the perfor-

mance of students with parents," Griesen said. "We wouldn't routinely open up files for parents — if we did, it was our initiative."

Student loan rates reduced by Congress

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up to their limit.

There are also provisions in the bill dealing with the evaluation of need and work-study programs.

"The issue is how well Congress appropriates (for these programs)," said James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Other parts of the bill deal with setting standards for teachers' colleges to ensure teacher quality, but James O'Hanlon, dean of the teachers college, said Nebraska already has high standards for its teachers.

But many UNL administrators contacted Thursday had not had the opportunity to examine the bill, so they could not say exactly how it might affect the university.

Then administrators will have to discuss the bill and any potential changes.

All changes will have to be coordinated with the university general counsel to make sure they are in accordance with where UNL wants to be and with state law, Director of Student Judicial Affairs Charles Greene said.

"We've got to figure out exactly what the Washington double-talk means," Greene said. "That usually takes more than one mind."

Pair shoots to claim M-60 championship

M-60 from page 1

One of the M-60's more common combat roles is spraying down an area with rather large particles of high-velocity lead.

Weighing in at 23 pounds for the gun alone, the M-60 becomes even bulkier when the necessary tripod and belts of ammunition are factored in.

"This is nothing you can stand up and shoot," Case said.

Despite that weight, or maybe because of it, the first event of the five-day competition is a two-mile run.

That's right, run. Competitors are loaded down with the M-60, spare barrel, tripod and four belts of ammunition on top of the standard equipment soldiers must carry.

"Forty to 60 percent of the competitors don't finish the run," Case said.

And that's only the first of nine M-60 events in tactical, physical and skill situations.

Case and Schmid agree that teamwork is the key to victory in this competition.

"You have to depend on each other to call the shots because you can't see when you're shooting the gun," Schmid said.

The pair of Air Guard shooters teamed up about six weeks ago after Schmid's other partner blew out his knee.

Schmid and Case dominated a five-state regional competition, winning by a large margin, and took second at the state competition. Then they were chosen to represent Nebraska at nationals.

Case said that Nebraska's competition is one of the toughest, so at

“Forty to 60 percent of the competitors don't finish the run.”

MIKE CASE
UNL student

nationals everybody will be watching them closely.

One of the most skill-demanding events is a timed competition in which competitors must completely disassemble and reassemble the M-60 — blindfolded.

Case can do it in four to five minutes, but the record is two minutes, 30 seconds.

Schmid, a weapons instructor for 28 years and an eight-time competitor at nationals, knows what to expect from the competition. Composure and mental preparedness are vital, he said.

And Case credits his work in the martial arts for improving his composure and endurance.

Case's karate teacher for the last four years, Richard Schmidt, associate professor of health and human performance, said Case is dedicated to learning as much as he can.

"He has an unusual amount of perseverance for someone at his level," Schmid said.

Case and Schmid say they are ready for the competition. Their performance in practice Sunday would have set records in competition, and as Case and Schmid say:

"You're only as good as your best practice."

Wesleyan student, 25, dies in fire started by cigarette

By JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

A Nebraska Wesleyan student was killed in an early morning fire Wednesday that started in his apartment from careless smoking.

The fire started around 3:30 a.m. in the first-floor apartment of 25-year-old Carlos Camacho, Lincoln Police Capt. Doug Srb said.

Camacho's apartment occupied the first floor of a house on the 5000 block of Huntington Avenue that had been divided into four separate apartments.

Fire Inspector Jack Bruns said Camacho had fallen asleep on an overstuffed couch in the living room

while smoking a cigarette, which ignited the couch.

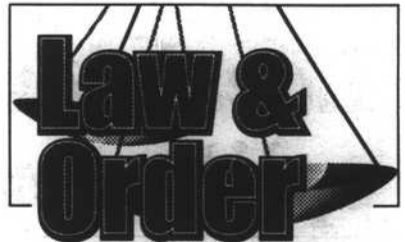
Five other people were in the building at the time of the fire, and they escaped unharmed.

When fire engines arrived on the scene, the building was engulfed in flames, Srb said. It took firefighters 45 minutes to extinguish the fire.

The blaze caused \$50,000 damage to both the structure and the contents, Bruns said.

Most of the damage was to the two apartments on the northwest corner of the building, where the fire started.

Nebraska Wesleyan University spokesman Mike Tobias said counseling will be available for students and faculty distressed by the death.



4-year-old hits mailbox with car
A boy, 4, left unattended in a car went for a short joy ride Wednesday evening and took out a mailbox.

Around 6:20 p.m. a woman parked her car on 73rd Street between Red Oak and Edenton roads, leaving her 4-year-old son in the car, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

The woman left her keys in her purse in the car with her son.

The boy unbuckled himself from his seat, got the keys, started the car and shifted into neutral.

The car rolled for 150 feet before it hit a mailbox and came to a stop. The boy sustained a bump on the head, and the mother was cited for child neglect.

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