

# News Briefs



## House reviews Clinton's secret fund raising memos

WASHINGTON (AP) - House impeachment investigators reviewed secret memos involving alleged fund-raising abuses in President Clinton's campaign under a judge's order Wednesday. Meanwhile, the president's lawyers demanded to see the sensitive materials to wage a "vigorous defense."

The White House accepted an invitation from the House Judiciary Committee to make a defense before the inquiry, and possibly even call witnesses, but demanded access to the fund-raising memos and additional investigative material related to Monica Lewinsky and presidential accuser Kathleen Willey.

The committee set a tentative schedule to conclude next week with final hearings and a vote on articles of impeachment. If any articles are approved, the matter could go to the House floor the week of Dec. 14. Lawmakers then could vote to send Clinton to trial in the Senate, censure him or do nothing.

## Israel suspends withdrawal, provides a list of demands

JERUSALEM (AP) - Stung by a vicious attack on an Israeli soldier, the government announced Wednesday it was suspending further troop withdrawals until Palestinians comply with a list of demands - including publicly abandoning plans to declare a state in May.

Palestinian officials rejected the demands outright and charged that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was looking for excuses to knock the peace process off track.

In Washington, the Clinton administration was sharply critical of the new Israeli conditions and said the accord "should be implemented as signed."

The Israeli government said its decision was prompted in part by the attack on the soldier and a civilian earlier in the day by a Palestinian mob in the West Bank city of

Ramallah.

The ambush followed the stabbing death earlier Wednesday of an Arab street-cleaner in Jerusalem, apparently by an Israeli extremist.

## North Koreans make moves for missile test-launch

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. spy satellites detected preliminary North Korean preparations for another missile test-launch, and the activity drew a warning from the United States on Wednesday that further missile tests would have serious consequences for U.S.-North Korean relations.

"The United States does view the North Korean missile program as a serious threat to the region," State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said Wednesday, "and we continue to press North Korea to cease all development, testing and export of missiles and missile technology."

The North Koreans have been moving parts of their new Taepo Dong missile from storage to a launch pad since about Nov. 20, seen by U.S. spy satellites.

## Former Agriculture secretary acquitted of all charges

WASHINGTON (AP) - Former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy was acquitted of all counts Wednesday in a corruption case involving sports tickets and travel that he accepted from companies that did business with his department.

The acquittal followed a seven-week trial that focused on Espy's attendance at parties and sporting events while he was President Clinton's first agriculture chief in 1993 and 1994.

The jury deliberated nine hours over two days before finding Espy innocent of all 30 counts.

The accusations included three charges - that Espy had violated a 90-year-old federal law banning gifts to meat inspectors - that would have carried a minimum sentence of one year each if he had been convicted.

# Two men caught in \$14,000 check scam

By JOSH FUNK  
Senior staff writer

Two men stole \$14,000 from Norwest Bank on Tuesday as part of an intricate payroll check scam.

Lincoln police arrested the men after a bank official became suspicious about some of their deposits, Investigator Paul Wandell said.

Now police are looking to connect the scam to a larger fraud operation.

When they were caught at 11:15 a.m., the men, who are from California, had with them \$14,000 cash and about 20 other fraudulent payroll checks yet to be deposited.

Both 29-year-old men came to

Lincoln in early November and opened accounts at Norwest using Nebraska state ID cards.

"They come early and became account holders at these banks, which makes it easier to cash and deposit these checks," Wandell said.

Last Friday the two men started depositing the checks in their accounts through ATMs around Lincoln.

Tuesday morning, the men started cashing personal checks from those accounts at several different Norwest bank branches.

But it was their deposits Friday night that made bank officials wary.

Each man made multiple deposits - some into his own account, some into the others'. Two of the deposits in each

man's account were made at ATMs across town from each other, at nearly the same times Friday.

When bank officials noticed those accounts being liquidated Tuesday, they called police.

The two men were stopped near 27th Street and Highway 2 and arrested on second-degree forgery charges after police searched their car.

Police expect to file additional charges. The men will be arraigned today.

Wandell said this scam is probably part of a national scheme.

"The problem is these guys were just hired to pass the checks," he said. They are not the ones producing the checks."

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# Law & Order

## Police discover small drug operation during traffic stop

A routine traffic stop led police to a small drug trafficking operation Tuesday evening.

Lincoln police stopped a 40-year-old man on 24th Street between Dudley and Orchard streets and arrested him for driving on a suspended license, Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

The man had a small plastic bag of marijuana in his pocket, and in his car police found some small rocks of cocaine.

Police then obtained a search warrant for a room at the Oak Park Motel, 926 Oak St., where the man had been staying.

At the motel police found cocaine, crack-cocaine, marijuana and \$5,520 cash.

A 21-year-old woman who was in the hotel room when police arrived was cited for possession of marijuana, and the man was cited for possession of a controlled substance with the intent to deliver in addition to the driving offense.

## Teen-agers robbed of coat, cash Tuesday in Woods Park

Two teen-agers were robbed as they walked through Woods Park early Tuesday morning.

The two 18-year-olds told police they were approached by two men with bandannas over their faces around 1 a.m., Heermann said.

The robbers took one teen's coat, a \$645 loss including \$303 cash, and made the other teen empty his pockets, a \$570 loss including \$350 cash and other items, such as a cell phone.

The victims ran to Village Inn, 29th and O streets, where they called police and gave descriptions of the suspects.

They were described as black men age 18 to 21 with black hair and brown eyes. One suspect is 6 feet tall and 200 pounds. The other suspect is 5 feet, 8 inches tall and 170 pounds.

## Construction company robbed of tools, truck

Thieves took \$16,275 worth of tools from a construction company Monday night and then stole a truck to transport their loot.

They entered by prying a door open on the south side of the R & C Construction offices, 3211 S. Seventh St., Heermann said.

Then thieves helped themselves to tools in the shop, grabbed the keys to one of the trucks and left. The 1986 Chevrolet truck was valued at \$5,000.

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