

NEWS DIGEST

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Senate votes for Lewinsky to testify

Balloting continues to follow party lines; GOP lacks two-thirds control

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-led Senate voted Wednesday to summon Monica Lewinsky and two other witnesses for testimony in the impeachment trial after refusing to dismiss the perjury and obstruction of justice charges against President Clinton.

Both decisions were along party lines with a single exception, Wisconsin Democrat Russell Feingold who voted with the Republicans. Though the Democrats lost, the ballots showed the Republicans were still well short of the two-thirds majority, 67 votes, that would be needed to convict Clinton.

"The president will not be removed from office," Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle said moments after the votes. "It is time to move on."

The identical 56-44 votes authorized subpoenas to summon the three witnesses for videotaped depositions and rejected a motion by Democratic Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia that would have dismissed the case brought by the House against the nation's 42nd president.

Senators immediately recessed the trial to discuss among themselves how to proceed next. Republicans had offered a plan that could end the proceeding within 10 days if the White House does not seek witness-

Clinton under fire



es. Democrats, who are pressing for a censure alternative, offered their own plan and Daschle predicted "we can achieve some compromise procedurally."

At day's end, Majority Leader Trent Lott said the two sides were narrowing their differences and that the final plan would likely end the trial by the Presidents Day holiday in mid-February. They expected to have a final plan today when the trial reconvenes.

"Both of the proposals bring us to a final vote in an expeditious manner," Lott said.

The White House pleaded for a quick end.

"Today's events make clear that the votes are not there to convict and remove the president from office," special counsel Gregory Craig said. "Any proceedings from this day forward only serve to delay the final resolution of this matter and run counter to the best interests of the Congress, the presidency and the American people."

The votes authorized House prosecutors to question Lewinsky, White House adviser Sidney

Blumenthal and Clinton's friend Vernon Jordan about the president's efforts to conceal his affair with the former White House intern. After the depositions, House prosecutors conceded they didn't have the votes to convict but hoped the witnesses' testimony might change minds.

Feingold said he joined Republicans on the votes Wednesday because he believed dismissing the case would "improperly short-circuit the case" before House prosecutors could examine witnesses. But he also said his votes should not be construed as a sign he had decided to convict Clinton.

"I have not reached a decision on that question," the Wisconsin Democrat said.

Under the GOP plan, the depositions of the three witnesses would begin as early as today and would be videotaped. Each deposition would last six hours, equally divided between the White House and House prosecutors with two senators sitting in as mediators.

The videotaped sessions and transcripts would be distributed Monday to senators, who would then vote Tuesday on whether to permit live testimony. The timetable would allow for that testimony and then closing statements from the House managers and White House lawyers.

World and Nation DATELINES

Yugoslavia Envoys urge Kosovo rebels to accept plan

DRAGOBILJE (AP) — Government troops backed by tanks pounded ethnic Albanian strongholds along a strategic highway Wednesday, while U.S. and European envoys urged Kosovo rebels to accept talks on a plan for self-rule that falls short of the full independence they seek.

At least 150 villagers fled their homes as fighting flared along the Pristina-Belgrade highway, peace monitors reported. Dozens piled into tractor-pulled trailers to escape.

Missouri Pontiff speaks against capital punishment

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Pope John Paul II brought his campaign against capital punishment to a death-penalty state in America's heartland Wednesday, urging 100,000 worshippers to spare even those who commit "great evil."

The message may have had particular relevance in Missouri, where the state Supreme Court, without explanation, postponed an execution that was to have taken place while the pope was in town. Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls called the delay "a mockery."

Saudi Arabia Albright seeks support to overthrow Saddam

RIYADH (AP) — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright sought Saudi Arabia's support Wednesday for U.S. efforts to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein by assisting opposition groups.

Albright's spokesman, James P. Rubin, candidly acknowledged the secretary's intention to try to enlist the backing of this conservative monarchy in a growing U.S. campaign to oust Saddam.

Colombia Earthquake survivors rush for supplies

ARMENIA (AP) — Driven by hunger, survivors of a deadly earthquake dashed into supermarkets to strip their shelves clean Wednesday as shortages of food, water and antibiotics worsened the misery wrought by one of Colombia's worst disasters.

The toll from Monday's magnitude-6 earthquake in western Colombia reached 878 dead and more than 3,410 injured Wednesday, Red Cross spokeswoman Maria Perrelet said.

Northern Ireland Former IRA intelligence officer, author found dead

BELFAST (AP) — The author of an unflinching expose of life inside the Irish Republican Army was found dead by a roadside Wednesday, the victim of a savage beating that inevitably suggested revenge.

The battered body of Eamon Collins, a former intelligence officer for the IRA, was found at dawn near the town of Newry, 40 miles south of Belfast. He had returned to the border town four years ago despite making lasting enemies in the outlawed group.

Law firm's ads charge college admission bias

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservatives who say top U.S. colleges are illegally using racial preferences in admissions are taking their case to the nation's college newspapers.

The newspaper ads by the Center for Individual Rights, a conservative law firm representing students suing universities, are headlined "Guilty by Admission" and charge that nearly every elite college in the United States violates the law.

But many educators say the law firm has misrepresented 20 years of court rulings and overstated efforts to bring diversity to college campuses.

The center issued two 30-page handbooks it says are intended to help students identify discrimination and to help institutions keep from getting sued, but critics say the handbooks are designed to incite lawsuits.

"Colleges very clearly understand they may not use quotas," said Norma Cantu, the assistant secretary for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, referring to programs that don't consider a student's merit. "There's no need for a handbook."

The ads and handbooks are part of a campaign to highlight the use of racial preferences in admissions, say

conservatives, including former Education Secretary William Bennett, who called college diversity programs "an antithesis of the civil rights movement."

According to the government, minority enrollment was 25.3 percent in 1995, up from 16.5 percent in 1980.

Another group supporting the campaign, The Center for Equal Opportunity, released a study Wednesday concluding that the odds of a white candidate being admitted to the University of Virginia instead of an equally qualified black one are 45 to 1.

The data, based on 1996 applications for 10 public Virginia universities, include the race, sex, SAT scores, class rank and high school grade point averages of 72,000 applicants who were admitted or rejected.

"We've found use of racial ethnic preference in all of the states. The more selective schools tend to use preferences the most," said Roger Clegg, general counsel for the group.

But Rene Redwood, executive director of Americans for a Fair Chance, a group that advises colleges and community groups on affirmative action, says many preference programs are still needed.

Nebraska senators split over Clinton

OMAHA (AP) — Democratic Sen. Bob Kerrey voted Wednesday to end President Clinton's impeachment trial, saying the case against Clinton has not been proved.

Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel voted with the majority to continue with the trial and question witnesses. Hagel said he wants some questions answered.

After the Senate recessed to discuss how to continue with the trial, Hagel said he voted against dismissal because he believes the Senate has a constitutional duty to see the trial to its end.

"I voted against the motion to dismiss because I believe it goes against the serious responsibility given to the Senate to try this case and reach the truth," Hagel said. "I said from the onset of this trial that I would not support any effort that would short-circuit the Constitution."

Kerrey said he voted to end the trial because it has gone on long enough, and the House managers had not proved their case beyond a reasonable doubt.

"Had I reach the conclusion beyond a reasonable doubt that the president was guilty of perjury and obstruction of justice in a civil rights case, I would have voted to continue

the trial and to convict and remove him from office," Kerrey said.

"The evidence dictates that I will vote for a resolution of censure of the president, which I pray we will take up if conviction does not occur."

Hagel said he would not support censure because that route is not one provided in the Constitution.

"I don't think censure makes much difference anyway," Hagel said. "The president already has been censured; he has been impeached."

When talk of witness testimony surfaced not long after the impeachment trial began, Hagel said he would support the idea. He cast his ballot Tuesday in favor of the motion because he said it will help the Senate find the truth.

"The House Managers and White House counsel have provided very different views of this case," he said. "The only way to evaluate these contradictions is through witnesses."

Kerrey, who voted against witness testimony, said senators have heard enough.

"It's time," he said, "for us to thank all parties for their courteous and professional presentations and return to the serious and life-changing work of writing, defending and upholding the laws of our great nation."

U.S. Labor Department cites, fines restaurant for child labor violations

OMAHA (AP) — The U.S. Labor Department has cited a Kimball restaurant for violations of child labor law and levied a \$19,975 fine.

Beef and Brunch Family Restaurant can appeal the findings or pay the fine. A spokesman for the restaurant did not immediately return a telephone call Wednesday seeking comment.

The U.S. Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division said the restaurant was cited for violations of hours, times and occupational standards and reported violations of hazardous conditions.

According to Wage and Hour District Director Donald Chleborad, the company employed eight minors involved in the reported violations. Those claims included one minor seriously injured while working in violation

of the hours and times standards. Another of the eight, under 16 years old, worked in a prohibited occupation — as a cook — and five of the minors operated, disassembled and assembled or cleaned a power-driven meat slicer.

Child labor regulations for 14- and 15-year-olds prohibit employment before 7 a.m. and after 7 p.m., or after 9 p.m. from June 1 through Labor Day.

Minors may not be employed for more than three hours a day on school days or more than 18 hours a week during school weeks. During nonschool days and weeks, 14- and 15-year-olds can't work more than eight hours a day and not more than 40 hours per week.

The law restricts employment in specific hazardous occupations for anyone under age 18.

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