

Energy department attacks profiling

Secretary Bill Richardson clarified the Wen-Ho Lee case is not an example of discrimination but said cases do exist.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Energy Secretary Bill Richardson wants an internal investigation into whether any government or contractor employees working for the Energy Department have been victims of racial profiling.

Richardson, who planned to announce the new actions Monday, said in an interview he remains convinced that the high-profile case of former weapons scientist Wen Ho Lee, a native of Taiwan, did not involve racial profiling.

But he said there are "enough instances throughout the complex" to raise suspicion that such discrimination has gone on within the department and its vast contractor system, and "I want to eliminate once and for all any future suspicions."

Richardson did not give any specific cases.

"I will not tolerate even hints of racial profiling," he said. "We have made progress addressing concerns of racial profiling, but more needs to be done."

The actions outlined by Richardson include:

- directing the Energy Department's inspector general to investigate whether there has been any racial profiling of DOE's federal or contractor work force, especially in activities involving security;

- revising contracts to stipulate that safeguards against racial profiling be included in all contractors' work force diversity plans; and

- ordering that failure by a contractor to deal with racial profiling be considered a factor when determining contract fees.

Richardson said he wants to make certain there are financial penalties against contractors if they are found to have taken punitive actions or singled out a worker based solely on race or ethnic background.

Earlier this year, an independent task

force concluded there is a widespread belief among Asian-American scientists at government weapons laboratories — especially the Los Alamos, N.M., facility where Lee worked — that they are being singled out by security officials because of their race.

Among other things, the task force found that some scientists at U.S. labs believe their supervisors didn't want Asian-Americans on certain projects, fearing unwanted counterintelligence attention.

This became particularly evident in the security crackdown following Lee's arrest in March 1999 and the turmoil over alleged theft of secrets by China, the scientists said.

The three nuclear weapons labs are under the Energy Department but managed by private contractors — Sandia by a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Co., and Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore by the University of California.

Lee, 60, who had worked at Los Alamos since the 1970s, was the target of an FBI

espionage investigation for three years before he was fired. He later was accused of mishandling nuclear secrets — but not espionage — and jailed for nine months before being released in September as part of a plea bargain. The government dropped all but one of its 59 charges against him.

Lee's lawyers had argued in court that Lee, an American citizen who was born in Taiwan, became the target of the FBI investigation because of his Chinese heritage. Both Richardson and Attorney General Janet Reno have denied Lee was singled out because of his race.

Shortly before the plea bargain was reached, the judge hearing the case directed the government to turn over numerous documents that Lee's lawyers had sought on racial profiling, including instances at the Energy Department.

Some civil rights lawyers have argued that these documents should be released despite Lee's plea bargain agreement. Efforts to gain their release are still being considered.

World/Nation

The Associated Press

■ Pennsylvania

Police: Jewish school fire may be a hate crime

HARRISBURG — An arson blaze gutted two stories of a building at a synagogue on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year.

The fire began around 4 a.m. Monday in the Beth El Temple's three-story school building. No one was injured.

Brian Denning, an agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, ruled out an accidental fire. The building, which was under construction, had no electrical system and no heat-producing sources.

Fire Chief Donald Konkle said there are no suspects, and the department is "considering the possibility that this was a hate crime."

The fire on Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, came amid new hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians. The violence has claimed 88 lives in the past two weeks.

■ Florida

Shuttle launch delayed because of high winds

CAPE CANAVERAL — With gusts exceeding 50 mph at the pad, NASA bumped the launch of space shuttle Discovery to today despite forecasts calling for more blustery weather.

It was the second delay in five days for NASA's 100th space shuttle flight, an ambitious space-station construction mission. Last week's postponement was caused by a sluggish valve and suspect bolts.

The space agency called off Monday night's launch attempt 11 hours in advance.

High wind prevented technicians from moving a vent hood into position over the external fuel tank, part of the preparation for filling the tank. The wind limit is 48 mph, and gusts reached more than 51 mph, said NASA spokesman Bruce Buckingham.

■ Washington, D.C.

North Korean official to meet with Clinton

The highest North Korean official to visit Washington in a half century of limited contacts plans a historic meeting with President Clinton today.

He visits amid signs the State Department soon may remove the communist country from its list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Clinton will hold a mid-morning meeting with the first vice chairman of the country's National Defense Commission, Cho Myong Nok. He is described as the right-hand man to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

The Clinton administration has been making a concerted effort to get North Korea on a peaceful path after long years in which Pyongyang was widely regarded as the greatest threat to peace in Asia.

■ China

Milosevic's son found, sent on plane to Russia

BEIJING — China refused to let Slobodan Milosevic's son into the country Monday. It's the latest sign that Beijing, a one-time Milosevic supporter, has turned away from the ousted Yugoslav leader.

Marko Milosevic, traveling on a diplomatic passport, arrived at Beijing's Capital Airport from Russia.

Officials there stopped him and quickly put him back on the Aeroflot flight to Moscow, Russian reporters said.

Aeroflot could not be reached for comment, but China's Foreign Ministry confirmed that Milosevic was not in the country. "This person absolutely has not entered the country through Beijing or other places in China," the ministry said.

The Aeroflot plane later arrived back at Moscow's international airport, but Milosevic did not appear in the arrivals area. The Russian Foreign Ministry and Yugoslav Embassy in Moscow had no word on his whereabouts.

Public supporters urge on Kostunica

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Remnants of Slobodan Milosevic's regime crumbled Monday after Yugoslavia's prime minister and the country's most powerful police chief resigned. Early elections were set for the Serbian parliament, a last bastion of the old order.

Riding the wave of public support that brought him to power, President Vojislav Kostunica moved swiftly to drive out remaining Milosevic stalwarts. The government in Serbia, the main Yugoslav republic, is expected to be dissolved today.

Just two days after formally taking office, Kostunica was putting his supporters in charge of the country's most important institutions, including the police, judiciary, banks and state-run companies.

A key Kostunica aide, Zoran Djindjic, signaled the new government's desire for closer ties to Washington after an election campaign in which the opposition sought to distance itself from the United States because of public anger over last year's NATO bombing campaign.

"Without a strategic partnership with America, there is no solution for the Serbian national interests," Djindjic said.

Milosevic, who has been holed up at one of the president's official residences in a Belgrade suburb, remained out of public view Monday.

But two of his key allies, federal Prime Minister Momir Bulatovic and Serbian Interior Minister Vojko Stojiljkovic — who controlled about 100,000 policemen — both stepped down.

All major Serbian parties agreed to early parliamentary elections in December — a move that could spell the end of Milosevic supporters' control of the republic's government and legislature. Given the current support for Kostunica, his allies are likely to win a strong majority in the new parliament.

Serbia is home to more than 90 percent of Yugoslavs and whoever rules it holds the balance of authority in the country, which includes one other republic, Montenegro. If the current Serbian government and the parliament remain in place, they could block many pro-democracy reforms pushed by Kostunica on the federal level.

Serbia's president and parliament are elected separately from federal posts and were not involved in the contentious federal vote Sept. 24. Serbian President Milan Milutinovic and other Serbian government leaders were elected in 1998 to four-year terms.

Still, Milosevic's hard-line allies in the Serbian parliament were trying to keep the current legislature in place until the new elections, despite calls for its immediate dissolution.

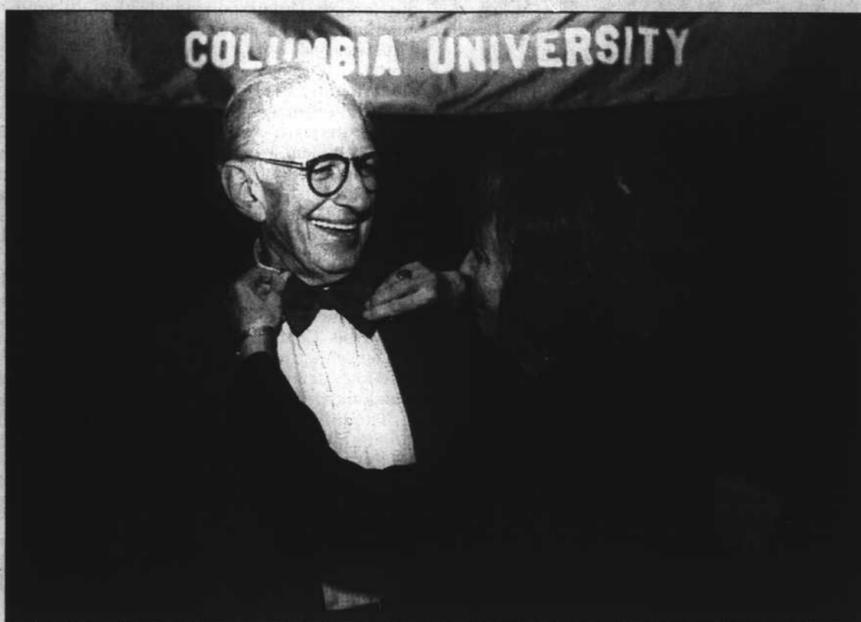
"This is a highway robbery," said Vojislav Seselj, Serbia's ultranationalist deputy prime minister who has been allied with Milosevic. "You will not get our blessing for a coup," referring to alleged, forceful removal of Milosevic's cronies from all major state institutions.

Serbian Health Minister Milovan Bojic, considered by many to be the most reviled of Milosevic's supporters, also resigned Monday, the Tanjug news agency reported.

As the vestiges of the old regime were being cleared away, the European Union lifted economic sanctions against Yugoslavia and offered it \$2 billion in aid to help rebuild the country, as well as lifting key anti-Milosevic sanctions.

The decision marked a turning point in Yugoslavia's relations with the rest of Europe and was seen as a first step toward integrating the country into the European mainstream.

Still, obstacles remained for the Kostunica camp. Yugoslavia's defense minister attempted Monday to rally opponents of the new government, issuing a last-ditch appeal to Milosevic's shaken supporters not to abandon the ousted leader.



Nobel Prize winner Dr. Eric Kandel, Columbia University Professor, smiles as his wife Denise adjusts his red bowtie during a press conference Monday in New York City after being awarded the 2000 Nobel Prize for Medicine, which he shares with two others.

Nobel recognizes brain work

■ The prize for medicine was given for advancements that may help scientists find treatments for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Two Americans and a Swede won the Nobel Prize in medicine Monday for discoveries about how brain cells communicate — research that laid the groundwork for Prozac and other drugs for depression and Parkinson's disease.

Arvid Carlsson, Paul Greengard and Eric Kandel will share the \$915,000 prize for pioneering work that could lead to new treatments for schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, addiction and other mental disorders.

"The payoffs are potentially enormous," said Dr. Stephen Hyman, director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

Carlsson, 77, is with the University of Goteborg in Sweden. Greengard, 74, is with Rockefeller University in New York, and Kandel, 70, is an Austrian-born U.S. citizen and a professor at Columbia University in New York.

The awards illuminated a key type of communication — called "slow synaptic transmission" — in which chemical messengers carry signals from one brain cell to another. The work has been crucial for understanding how the brain works and how diseases can arise when the system goes wrong.

The three winners worked largely independently. Carlsson was honored for work in the late 1950s that showed a substance called dopamine is a key messenger between brain cells. He realized the implication for Parkinson's disease, which was later shown to result from a dopamine deficiency in part of the brain.

The work helped lead to development of a drug, L-dopa, to compensate for the missing dopamine. The drug is now standard treatment.

Carlsson's research also shed light on how other

medications work, especially antipsychotic drugs used against schizophrenia.

The Nobel committee said Carlsson's work strongly contributed to the development of a class of antidepressants, including Prozac, that prolong the action of serotonin, another chemical messenger.

"The discoveries of Arvid Carlsson have had great importance for the treatment of depression, which is one of our most common diseases," the citation said.

Greengard was honored for showing how brain cells react to the arrival of dopamine and other chemical messengers.

"We worked on this for many years without competition," Greengard joked Monday, "because people thought we were insane."

Kandel's work focused on the biology of learning and memory. It demonstrated that changes at synapses — the places where chemical messengers pass between brain cells — are crucial in forming memories.

Tim Bliss, head of neuroscience at the National Institute for Medical Research in London, said Kandel's work — ongoing since the 1960s — could lead to new treatments for Alzheimer's and other conditions involving memory loss.

"It's a very major piece of work and he's been an outstanding leader in the field for many years," Bliss said. "He identified the physical embodiment of learning and memory in the brain."

Kandel himself cautioned that "there's an enormous distance between the kind of work I do and a clinical payoff."

Last year's winner of the Nobel prize for medicine was Dr. Guenter Blobel, 64, a German native and U.S. citizen who discovered how proteins find their rightful places in cells — a process that goes awry in diseases like cystic fibrosis and plays a key role in the manufacture of some medicines.

The winners of the prizes for physics and chemistry will be announced today, with the economics prize on Wednesday and the peace prize on Friday. No date has been set for the literature prize.

FBI targets child hackers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Thou shalt not vandalize Web pages.

Thou shalt not shut down Web sites.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's MP3s.

FBI agents are spreading a new gospel to parents and teachers, hoping they'll better educate youths that vandalism in cyberspace can be economically costly and just as criminal as mailbox bashing and graffiti spraying.

The Justice Department and the Information Technology Association of America, a trade group, has launched the Cybercitizen Partnership to encourage educators and parents to talk to children in ways that equate computer crimes with old-fashioned wrongdoing.

The nascent effort includes a series of seminars around the country for teachers,

classroom materials and guides and a Web site to help parents talk to children.

"In a democracy in general, we can't have the police everywhere," said Michael Vatis, director of the FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center. The center guards against computer attacks by terrorists, foreign agents and teen hackers.

"One of the most important ways of reducing crime is trying to teach ethics and morality to our kids. That same principle needs to apply to the cyber world," he said.

Vatis and other FBI agents attended a kickoff seminar, titled the National Conference on Cyber Ethics, last weekend at Marymount University in Arlington, Va.

Part of the challenge: Many teens still consider computer mischief harmless. A recent survey found that 48 percent of students in elementary and middle school don't consider hacking illegal.

Weather

TODAY	TOMORROW
Partly cloudy high 66, low 46	Partly sunny high 68, low 49

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