

News Digest

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Hillary's brother paid in pardon

Hugh Rodham received money that has since been returned for work in two cases.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Bill Clinton's brother-in-law received about \$200,000 for successfully lobbying for a pardon and a prison commutation that the former president granted on his last day in office, The Associated Press has learned.

The money has been returned. Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, said Wednesday they were unaware of the arrangements with Hugh Rodham. They said they had asked him to return the money

and were "deeply disturbed" by what had happened.

Rodham, brother of Mrs. Clinton, returned the money in the past 24 hours, sources familiar with the arrangement said Wednesday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Rodham was paid for months of work on the prison commutation request of Carlos Vignali and received a "success fee" for helping win the pardon of Almon Glenn Braswell.

"Yesterday, I became aware of press inquires that Hugh Rodham received a contingency fee in connection with a pardon application for Glenn Braswell and a fee for work on Carlos Vignali's commutation application," the for-

mer president said in a statement.

"Neither Hillary nor I had any knowledge of such payments. We are deeply disturbed by these reports and have insisted that Hugh return any moneys received," he said.

A source close to Clinton, speaking on condition of anonymity, said then-White House adviser Bruce Lindsey had been contacted and was aware of Rodham's involvement with the Vignali request, but no White House officials were aware of the presidential relative's involvement in the Braswell matter.

The decisions on both men were made on the merits of their situations, the source said.

The Braswell pardon has generated controversy because after

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Bill Clinton
former president

it was granted on Jan. 20, it was disclosed that the businessman was under investigation on new allegations.

Justice Department spokeswoman Chris Watney declined comment Wednesday.

Braswell did not apply for his pardon through the Justice Department, while Vignali applied for his commutation

through the department in August 1998. Watney refused to say whether the Justice Department recommended that Vignali be pardoned.

In the Vignali matter, numerous political figures lobbied to commute his drug sentence, including a Roman Catholic cardinal, a sheriff and community leaders.

Outbreak hits British livestock

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON - An outbreak of highly infectious foot-and-mouth disease in British pigs prompted a government ban Wednesday on exports of meat, milk and livestock and threatened serious damage to the country's beleaguered farming industry.

The European Union quickly announced its own ban on British exports to other member countries until March 1.

The disease, which is not regarded as a threat to humans, affects cloven-footed animals, including sheep, goats and cows. It is not usually fatal to the animal but can cause weight loss and reduced dairy production in cattle. It is airborne and can spread quickly.

"This outbreak has potentially catastrophic implications for the whole of the British livestock industry," said Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union. Last summer's outbreaks of swine fever and the long-running mad cow crisis have badly hurt farmers in Britain.

The government Food Standards Agency said Wednesday that transmission of foot-and-mouth disease to humans is extremely rare but may be possible if they are in close contact with an infected animal. It said the disease cannot be caught by humans eating meat or drinking pasteurized milk.

Agriculture Minister Nick Brown said the outbreak was "potentially a very serious situation."

"These measures are not an issue of human health but are designed to prevent the spread of the virus in livestock," he said. "The government will not allow anything which is dangerous to be fed to people."

The EU said it would review its ban at a meeting of the Standing Veterinary Committee on Feb. 27.

The last foot-and-mouth outbreak in Britain occurred in 1981. An outbreak in 1967 led to the slaughter of more than 400,000 animals.

The disease was discovered Monday in 27 pigs at a slaughterhouse in Essex county, northeast of London.

"This outbreak has potentially catastrophic implications for the whole of the British livestock industry."

Ben Gill
president of the
National Farmers'
Union



Paula Bronstein/Newsweek

TAKEN DOWN: Striking Daewoo Motors Co. workers, their supporters and the police clash near the Daewoo plant as police arrest a man who tried to attack them Wednesday. Intense protests continue against the Daewoo layoff of 600 employees in Bupyeong, a few miles west of Seoul, South Korea.

Census dispute stirs debate

The Commerce Department may have the final say on how more than \$185 billion in funds are redistributed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The city of Los Angeles asked a federal court Wednesday to issue a temporary restraining order to keep the U.S. Commerce Department from having the final say over 2000 census numbers.

The lawsuit alleges that Commerce Secretary Don Evans violated federal regulations by not seeking public comment before transferring final authority over adjustments to the raw population count from career scientists at the Census Bureau back to his office.

Evans' decision is a politically sensitive one that could determine whether millions of Americans across the country go uncounted.

San Antonio; Inglewood, Calif.; Stamford, Conn.; and Santa Clara County, Calif., joined Los Angeles in filing the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said Wednesday he was considering joining the lawsuit.

Evans' spokesman, Jim Dyke, defended the decision, saying lawyers with the Commerce and Justice departments advised that no public comment period was needed.

Commerce supervises the Census Bureau.

Adjusted data, if approved, could affect the way political districts are redrawn and how more than \$185 billion in federal funds are redistributed across the country.

Republicans, in general, believe adjusting the data could inject more errors into the count, and that the Constitution specifically calls for an

"actual enumeration" without sampling.

Democrats and civil rights groups contend that without adjustments, about three million Americans could be left out of the count - mostly minorities, the poor and children.

The issue has long been controversial in Congress, where Democrats maintain they could potentially overturn the GOP's narrow majority in the House if adjusted data were used for redistricting.

Evans decided late Friday to reverse a Clinton administration plan, which put the decision of whether to adjust the data in the hands of the Census Bureau's director.

Evans' plan calls for the Census Bureau's acting director - career civil servant William Barron - and a committee of agency statisticians to give their recommendation on adjustments to Evans by March 1, but Evans would have the final say.

Music industry shuns Napster proposal

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Music executives on Wednesday shook off Napster's offer to settle a copyright infringement lawsuit, saying it didn't offer a viable

business model and failed to address concerns over the security of online music.

The timing of Napster's proposal late Tuesday also struck many music industry watchers as odd, coming the night before the Grammy Awards, the biggest annual event on the music calendar.

Music executives also expressed displeasure at Napster's decision to reveal its offer at a news conference rather than in direct talks with them.

Sony Music Entertainment, one of the four record labels still at war with the online music-swapping service, said in a statement Wednesday that Napster's offer to pay \$150 million a year in royalties "does not make sense" for an industry with annual revenues of \$40 billion.

"Delivering their proposal to the entire industry through the media is not a valid way to address our many concerns," Sony said. "They have still not answered questions we have about a secure system which prevents unauthorized trading or about how they intend to create a business model that respects the rights of record companies, artists and publishers."

Warner Music Group, a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc., EMI and Universal all issued statements calling the Napster proposal inadequate.

"If there's a compelling and convincing business model, we would be interested in participating," EMI said.

Alone among the major music labels, only BMG Entertainment is supportive of Napster's proposal.

World/Nation

The Associated Press

New Hampshire

Teen charged in murders of two college professors

LEBANON - One of the two teen-age suspects in the stabbing deaths of two Dartmouth College professors was arraigned Wednesday on first-degree murder charges and ordered held without bail. The other remained in Indiana, where he may fight extradition.

Robert Tulloch, 17, said "yes" when a judge asked if he understood the charges against him. He shook his head "no" when the judge asked if he had any questions.

Under New Hampshire law, there is no plea at the arraignment. First-degree murder charges "carry the presumption of no bail," a prosecutor said.

Tulloch and James Parker, 16, are accused of killing Half and Susanne Zantop in their Hanover home last month.

A hearing for Parker was set for Tuesday in New Castle, Ind., after his lawyer said he is considering fighting extradition.

Washington, D.C.

Oregon lawmakers urge Bush not to overturn suicide law

As Oregon reported that 27 terminally ill people used the state's assisted suicide law to end their lives last year, one of the state's senators urged the Bush administration Wednesday not to do anything that would thwart the unique statute.

"There is no evidence of a crisis that would compel the federal government to pursue extraordinary means to overturn Oregon's law," Democrat Ron Wyden wrote to Attorney General John Ashcroft, amid indications that some Republicans may try again to undo the law.

"There has been no substantiated claim of abuse of Oregon's law, nor has there been a rush to use the Oregon law," Wyden wrote.

Oregon is the only state that allows terminally ill patients to die with a doctor's help. The state Health Division announced that 27 people used the law in 2000, the same number as the previous year.

At least 70 people have ended their lives under the care of doctors since the Death With Dignity Act took effect in October 1997, according to a report published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Maryland

U.S. seafood company fined for illegal smuggling scheme

BALTIMORE - A seafood company has been fined \$10 million and three executives sentenced to prison for a caviar smuggling scheme that bilked specialty food chains and an airline catering to big spenders.

U.S. Caviar & Caviar was fined \$10.4 million Tuesday for smuggling black market caviar into the United States using forged labels and health certificates, federal prosecutors said. In other cases, domestic caviar from protected species was passed off as Russian.

Prosecutors say the mislabeled caviar was sold to American Airlines for its first-class passengers and to Fresh Fields and Sutton Place Gourmet stores.

U.S. District Judge Alexander Williams Jr. said he had never seen "such sheer lawlessness and total disregard for the laws designed to protect our precious natural resources."

Caviar is the lightly salted roe of sturgeon, a protected species. A 1998 treaty requires accurate species identification and permits from the country of origin or re-export.

U.S. Caviar president Hossein Lolavar, 46, was sentenced to three years and five months in prison and ordered to pay \$8,500 in fines and \$81,000 in restitution. The company's sales manager Faye Briggs, 54, was sentenced to 21 months in prison.

Correction

Because of an editing error, a story about a legislative bill that would make tattooing minors illegal without parental permission stated the bill would also make piercing minors' ears illegal. The bill would not make piercing minors' ears illegal.

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Weather

TODAY
Partly cloudy
high 42, low 20
TOMORROW
Snow
high 39, low 32