

NATIONAL NEWS



File photo
President Clinton, flanked by supporters, has continued to "carry on the business of the state," despite facing removal from office.

Stage set for Clinton impeachment drama

Starr's 'cheap mystery' may make it to Senate

By LARRY MARGASAK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's spokesman today dismissed the House Republicans' brief for the impeachment trial as an overblown account that "reads like a cheap mystery." The White House will offer its own next installment on Wednesday, he said.

The two sides filed briefs Monday that blended arguments over Clinton's guilt or innocence with predictions of how the case would influence future judgments of presidential misconduct.

Clinton spokesman Joe Lockhart focused today on what he called the House's "constantly shifting" version of the charges and its reliance on "hyperbole and overblown rhetoric."

"It reads like a cheap mystery," he said of the brief laying out the House case for the Senate trial. "The discussions about sinister plots is something you would expect to read in a novel rather than in a document by the House of Representatives."

At one point in the lengthy House brief, lawmaker-prosecutors argue that evidence and testimony must be viewed as a whole.

"Events and words that may seem innocent or even exculpatory in a vacuum may well take on a sinister, or even criminal connotation when observed in the context of the whole plot," the House said.

The brief used as an example Monica Lewinsky's statement that "No one ever told me to lie; nobody ever promised me a job."

"When considered alone this would seem exculpatory," the brief said. "However, in the context of other evidence, another picture emerges. Of course, no one said, 'Now, Monica, you go in there and lie.' They didn't have to. Ms. Lewinsky knew what was expected of her. Similarly, nobody promised her a job, but once she signed the false affidavit, she got one."

Lockhart said the White House's 13-page submission on Monday was a formal answer to the Senate summons and a more detailed brief would be submitted later this week.

In their brief, a road map for oral arguments that begin with the House presentation Thursday on the Senate floor, prosecutors said that if Clinton is not convicted of the perjury and obstruction-of-justice charges, "the bar will be so high that only a convicted felon or a traitor will need to be concerned."

Earlier in the day, Clinton's lawyers argued that his attempts to conceal an extramarital affair with the former White House intern "do not permit the conviction and removal ... of a duly elected president."

"The charges ... do not rise to the level of 'high crimes and misdemeanors' as contemplated by the founding fathers," the White House said.

Both sides tried to hone their presentations Monday, knowing that the openings will take on an even greater significance if the Senate does not allow witnesses later in the trial. Each side has 24 hours on the clock, with the White House to follow when the prosecutors are done.

Lead prosecutor Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., who plans to begin the prosecutors' opening presentation, said this was "not the time to get angry with the Senate" over its decision to delay his demand for witnesses. He said the House "managers" wouldn't "want to hang our hat just on the question of witnesses."

Former Vice President Dan Quayle, in an interview Tuesday after a foreign policy speech to the conservative Heritage Foundation, said Clinton should be removed from office by the Senate.

"My view is that perjury is a felony. A felony is a serious crime and that clearly meets the requirement in the Constitution for a high crime and misdemeanor," he said.

Vice President Al Gore predicted Monday that the Senate would not muster the two-thirds vote to convict Clinton.

"What the president did was wrong," Gore told The Associated Press in an interview. "He's acknowledged that, asked for forgiveness. But what he did falls far short" of misbehavior warranting removal from office.

The White House submission Monday was in answer to a Senate summons after the two articles of impeachment approved by the House. The House submission was a 105-page trial brief. The White House had until yesterday to counter with its own trial brief rebuttal.

The House called the trial "a defining moment for the presiden-

See Clinton on A13

Anger flares at funeral for slain woman

By ANTHONY BREZNICAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A young woman shot 12 times by police as she sat in her car with a gun was remembered Saturday as a church-goer and loving friend whose killers deserved criminal prosecution.

Nearly 500 people packed New Joy Baptist Church for the funeral of 19-year-old Tyisha Miller, who was killed early Dec. 28 by four police officers as she sat in her disabled car. The shooting has sparked protests by blacks and others in this city about 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

During the three-hour ceremony, clergymen delivered fiery eulogies demanding the prosecution of the four officers involved in Ms. Miller's death.

Standing in front of her casket piled high with pink flowers, the Rev. Paul Munford called on the congregation to demand justice.

"We don't want it to happen again," Munford said. "We are tired! We are tired!"

Some have claimed the shooting was racially motivated. Three of the officers are white and one is Hispanic; Ms. Miller was black.

"Her only crime was sleeping while black," added the Rev. DeWayne Butler, a cousin of Ms. Miller.

Butler also mocked the Riverside Police Department for changing its story about the shooting. Investigators initially said Ms. Miller fired at officers, but later said she grabbed a gun in her lap after an officer broke a window to help her.

"They have changed their story



Photo by The Associated Press

Pall bearers carry the casket of Tyisha Miller during a funeral service in Bloomington, Calif., Saturday. Nearly 500 people packed New Joy Baptist Church for the funeral of the 19-year-old Miller, who was killed early Dec. 28 by four police officers.

too many times in the past week," Butler said.

Family members have claimed Ms. Miller was unconscious when she was killed. The four officers and a white sergeant who were at the scene have been placed on paid leave during an internal department probe.

The FBI is conducting an inquiry into whether Ms. Miller's civil rights were violated, and her family has asked that an outside

agency oversee the police internal investigation. Ms. Miller's family has also retained former O.J. Simpson attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. for its lawsuit against the police department.

A Riverside County coroner's report concluded Ms. Miller was shot a dozen times at close range, including four times in the head.

Coroner's officials last Thursday said Ms. Miller had a blood alcohol level of 0.13 percent. In

California, the legal blood alcohol limit for driving is 0.08 percent. Traces of marijuana and cannabinoids, a marijuana byproduct, were also in her system when she died, the report said.

Relatives arranged for a second autopsy to be conducted Thursday by Dr. Michael Baden, New York City's former chief medical examiner. Results from that autopsy are not expected for several weeks.

NAACP, ACLU call for federal investigation

By MEKI COX
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PHILADELPHIA — Federal officials have opened a civil rights investigation into the death of an unarmed 19-year-old black motorist killed by a white police officer.

A day after a Philadelphia judge ruled that prosecutors lacked enough evidence to send charges against Christopher DiPasquale to trial, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held a press conference Thursday calling for the federal investigation and condemning the city's criminal justice system for affixing "its seal of approval to the execution of Mr. Donta Dawson."

"The ruling ... effectively cheapened the lives of every black man in Philadelphia," said NAACP president J. Wyatt Mondesire. "The attitude here is basically one of hostility."

DiPasquale, 32, fired a shot into Dawson's head in the early morning hours of Oct. 1 after the teenager, who was sitting alone in his car blocking traffic, made a sudden movement with his left arm. Several officers testified at a preliminary hearing this week they thought Dawson had a gun.

Dawson, whose blood showed signs of the drug PCP and marijuana, died at a hospital later that day. DiPasquale was fired after his arrest.

According to First Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Levy, the FBI has been involved in the case from the beginning, and an investigation is underway. But federal prosecution won't actually be considered until the Philadelphia District Attorney's office decides whether DiPasquale should be rearrested.

Assistant District Attorney Richard Sax said Thursday the case was "prosecuted to the fullest" and the district attorney's office will be reviewing a transcript of the preliminary hearing. The office will then decide whether to file a second set of charges if the office concludes that the judge's ruling was wrong. That decision, however, could take weeks.

In the meantime, the NAACP said it will be waiting for a reaction from the city's mayor, who has been silent on the issue. Mondesire said Rendell's continued silence would prolong a hostile and racist atmosphere in the city.

"Mayor Rendell has a lot to say about everything from new football stadiums to setting up Mickey Mouse in Disney East in Center City, but when it comes to the killing of a young black man, he keeps his mouth shut," Mondesire said.

Mayoral spokesman Kevin Feeley said Rendell does not consider it proper to comment on a case still under investigation.

The American Civil Liberties Union has denounced the district attorney's office from the start,

accusing it of not taking the case seriously. On Thursday, the ACLU criticized the office for presenting only three bystanders at the hearing as witnesses against DiPasquale.

"From the beginning the DA had no real alacrity for going after this kind of crime," said Stefan Presser, legal director of the ACLU, who also acknowledged the need for a federal investigation.

As DiPasquale seeks reinstatement to the police force, the NAACP and the ACLU will be seeking to testify at all of his arbitration hearings and called upon the police department to resist his reinstatement.

DiPasquale was the first city officer in six years to be criminally prosecuted in a fatal confrontation while on duty.

The last case occurred in 1992, when Charles Matthews was shot 22 times by police responding to a call of a disturbance at his house in Southwest Philadelphia. Charges against police Sgt. Anthony Brasten were dropped after a preliminary hearing, but he was later rearrested on manslaughter charges and acquitted by a judge after a trial.

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