Is a double standard in play for Jefferson?

By Hazel Trice Edney
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON – Former U.S. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.) served in Congress 36 years until 1995 when he lost re-election. Charged with keeping ghost employees on his payroll, using Congressional money to buy gifts and trading in officially purchased stamps for cash, he pled guilty to the lesser charge of mail fraud, served 15 of a 17-month sentence in prison and was later pardoned by President Bill Clinton.

Jefferson

Similarly, former U. S. Rep. Joe McDade (R-Pa.) was indicted on bribery and racketeering charges in 1992 after the Federal Bureau of Investigation spent eight years probing his political activities. Ultimately, a jury acquitted him in 1996.

Despite the severity of the charges and lengths of the investigations in the cases of Rostenkowski, McDade, and many other congressional lawmakers since the founding of the United States, the FBI had never raided a Congressional office. Not until May 20 when 15 agents searched and seized documents from the Capitol Hill office of U. S. Rep. William Jefferson (D-La.), who has been accused of accepting bribes in exchange for using his influence in private dealings with high-tech businesses in Nigeria, Cameroon and Ghana.

While Jefferson, a Harvard-trained lawyer and constitutional scholars around the nation debate whether the federal agency violated the separation of powers provision of the U. S. Constitution, there are enough troubling questions for everyone. Of course, Jefferson needs to explain the $90,000 found in his home freezer – and he pledges to do that at the appropriate time. But the FBI also needs to explain what was so unique in the Jefferson case that caused it to raid his office – other than the fact that he is Black.

"You look at every motive there could possibly be. Of course, when you're an African-American in elective office, you look to see whether that might be a motive. I don't have any evidence of that. But, I can tell you that you have to look at everything," Jefferson says in an exclusive interview with the NNPA News Service. "We're trying to see what the reasons are and we're investigating very carefully why it happened to me. But we can't put our finger on it, at least not without factual evidence until we can say to you with reasonable certainty this is why this was done."

Jefferson has been advised by attorneys to remain silent on the facts of the case, including the cash found in his home freezer in Washington during an FBI raid on Aug. 3. FBI documents allege the money came from a briefcase with $100,000 in marked $100 bills that he had received as a bribe from a cooperating witness. The FBI says it videotaped the transaction.

The clash between executive and legislative powers has prompted Republicans to speak out against the FBI Capitol Hill raid, not because of any affinity for Jefferson, but on constitutional principles.

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AccuWeather.com 7-DAY FORECAST FOR CHARLOTTE, NC

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
A thundershower possible	Mostly cloudy	A p.m. t-storm possible	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Sunny intervals	A p.m. thunderstorm
86°	60°	86° 62°	89° 64°	89° 66°	86° 66	87° 65°	84° 60°
RealFeel [illegible]	RealFeel [illegible]	RealFeel [illegible]	RealFeel 89° [illegible]	RealFeel [illegible]	RealFeel [illegible]	RealFeel [illegible]	RealFeel [illegible] 67°

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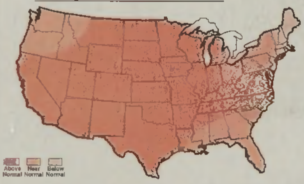
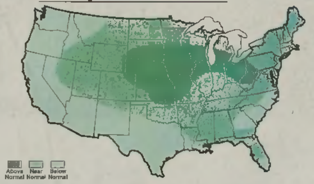
WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK

Temperatures



Precipitation



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IN THE SKY

Sun

	Rise	Set
Thursday	6:09 a.m.	8:37 p.m.
Friday	6:09 a.m.	8:37 p.m.
Saturday	6:09 a.m.	8:38 p.m.
Sunday	6:09 a.m.	8:38 p.m.
Monday	6:09 a.m.	8:39 p.m.
Tuesday	6:09 a.m.	8:39 p.m.
Wednesday	6:09 a.m.	8:39 p.m.

Moon

	Rise	Set
Thursday	5:51 p.m.	3:40 a.m.
Friday	6:57 p.m.	4:11 a.m.
Saturday	8:04 p.m.	4:49 a.m.
Sunday	9:10 p.m.	5:36 a.m.
Monday	10:10 p.m.	6:32 a.m.
Tuesday	11:02 p.m.	7:38 a.m.
Wednesday	11:46 p.m.	8:49 a.m.

Moon Phases

Full	Last	New	First
6/11	6/18	6/25	7/3

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thu Hi	Thu Lo	Thu W	Fri Hi	Fri Lo	Fri W	Sat Hi	Sat Lo	Sat W	Sun Hi	Sun Lo	Sun W
Aiken, SC	88	62	t	89	64	t	91	65	s	92	66	pc
Augusta, GA	88	63	t	90	64	t	90	64	s	92	66	pc
Charleston, SC	89	67	t	86	68	t	89	68	pc	91	71	pc
Columbia, SC	88	66	pc	86	66	t	90	68	pc	92	70	pc
Durham, NC	83	63	pc	84	63	t	86	63	pc	88	67	pc
Greensboro, NC	80	64	pc	81	63	t	86	64	pc	86	69	pc
Greenville, SC	83	62	t	83	64	pc	88	65	pc	89	68	pc
Knoxville, TN	81	62	pc	85	62	pc	88	67	s	88	67	pc
Lynchburg, VA	76	58	t	79	59	pc	83	59	pc	83	64	s
Memphis, TN	91	67	pc	90	73	s	90	74	s	91	72	pc
Myrtle Beach, SC	81	67	pc	84	65	t	84	70	pc	87	71	pc
Norfolk, VA	78	64	c	77	66	c	83	67	pc	84	70	s
Raleigh, NC	86	64	pc	86	62	t	88	62	pc	88	68	pc
Richmond, VA	83	60	t	80	63	pc	83	64	pc	84	68	s
Roanoke, VA	77	60	t	79	62	pc	84	62	pc	84	68	s
Savannah, GA	90	66	t	88	66	t	90	68	s	92	70	pc
Wilmington, NC	86	65	pc	83	68	t	86	68	t	89	71	pc
Winston-Salem, NC	82	64	pc	84	64	t	86	65	pc	87	68	pc

U.S. CITIES

City	Thu Hi	Thu Lo	Thu W	Fri Hi	Fri Lo	Fri W	Sat Hi	Sat Lo	Sat W	Sun Hi	Sun Lo	Sun W
Atlanta	85	64	s	87	66	pc	89	69	s	88	68	pc
Boston	61	51	r	68	53	pc	70	55	pc	74	60	s
Chicago	78	58	pc	76	57	pc	74	58	pc	80	62	t
Cleveland	74	58	t	72	56	pc	74	58	s	80	64	s
Dallas	98	70	s	98	74	s	98	75	s	100	74	pc
Denver	88	58	t	89	56	t	86	56	pc	82	54	s
Detroit	76	58	pc	76	54	pc	74	56	pc	79	63	sh
Houston	96	74	s	96	72	s	96	74	pc	96	74	pc
Kansas City	85	64	pc	87	68	s	87	69	s	84	66	c
Los Angeles	78	64	pc	78	62	pc	76	62	pc	76	62	pc
Miami	88	77	pc	88	76	t	88	76	pc	89	77	pc
Minneapolis	80	58	pc	77	60	pc	75	61	pc	76	62	r
New Orleans	93	73	s	91	76	t	91	76	t	91	75	pc
New York City	73	60	c	77	60	pc	79	60	pc	77	66	s
Orlando	94	70	s	94	71	t	93	71	pc	93	70	pc
Pittsburgh	77	57	t	75	54	pc	77	55	pc	82	60	s
Phoenix	105	82	t	105	80	s	105	82	s	107	82	s
San Francisco	70	54	pc	71	54	pc	71	54	pc	71	55	pc
Seattle	66	50	c	68	50	pc	72	52	pc	74	54	pc
Washington, DC	76	62	t	76	62	c	80	64	pc	85	68	s

WORLD CITIES

City	Thu Hi	Thu Lo	Thu W	Fri Hi	Fri Lo	Fri W	Sat Hi	Sat Lo	Sat W	Sun Hi	Sun Lo	Sun W
Amsterdam	68	48	pc	70	52	pc	72	54	pc	72	54	pc
Berlin	64	46	pc	72	50	pc	73	50	pc	77	52	pc
Buenos Aires	70	48	r	63	43	pc	59	44	pc	58	48	pc
Cairo	95	68	s	95	71	s	96	72	s	94	70	s
Jerusalem	79	53	s	78	55	s	80	56	s	79	53	s
Johannesburg	65	40	s	62	39	pc	62	39	pc	62	42	pc
London	75	55	pc	75	55	pc	77	59	pc	79	59	pc
Mexico City	76	47	pc	75	52	pc	66	54	pc	70	56	pc
Moscow	59	39	pc	64	47	c	67	52	pc	56	42	pc
Paris	75	52	pc	77	54	pc	79	55	pc	79	55	pc
Rio de Janeiro	77	67	pc	77	70	pc	81	70	pc	82	70	pc
Rome	75	57	pc	75	57	pc	77	57	pc	75	55	pc
San Juan	88	77	t	88	77	pc	90	77	r	89	77	pc
Seoul	73	59	c	81	61	pc	78	62	pc	77	60	pc
Sydney	61	48	pc	61	54	pc	63	54	sh	57	48	pc
Tokyo	75	62	c	71	63	r	70	62	r	68	58	pc
Toronto	74	55	t	72	53	pc	70	55	s	72	58	s
Zurich	68	48	pc	73	48	pc	77	48	pc	80	51	s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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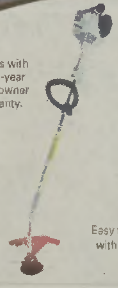

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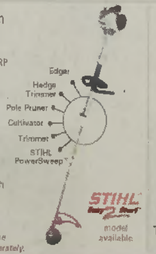

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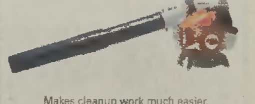

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