

Christopher, Perry add names to list of retiring Clinton Cabinet

■ Six members of President Clinton's Cabinet have announced their planned retirements as he begins his second term.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The anchors of President Clinton's national security team — Warren Christopher and William Perry — led a snowballing exodus of at least six Cabinet officials Wednesday in a sweeping second-term staff shakeup.

Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor told Clinton he intended to resign to return to California. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, out of favor, also was quitting, officials said.

Transportation Secretary Federico Pena and Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros were expected to leave as well, administration officials said. White House officials were waging a behind-the-scenes campaign for Attorney General Janet Reno to go; she wants to stay.

As the president returned triumphantly to the White House from victory celebrations in Arkansas, Washington buzzed with leaks about resignations and speculation about successors. No formal announcements were expected before a Cabinet meeting on Friday. Clinton brushed aside questions about his staff, telling reporters on Air Force One "we just want to savor what happened yesterday."

There were varying reasons for the staff reshuffling. Some, like presidential senior adviser George Stephanopoulos, made no secret of the fact they were worn out. Outgoing chief of staff Leon Panetta is considering running for governor of California. Some officials — O'Leary, Reno — were nudged toward the door. In general, Clinton wants to reinvigorate his presidency.

Christopher, 71, and Perry, 69, are highly regarded but, after countless trips to world trouble spots, have tired of the job.

Kantor, a political warrior who helped engineer Clinton's 1992 victory, is bored at Commerce. He was believed to be interested in becoming White House chief of staff or attorney general, but now is said to have dropped those ideas.

Reno upset the White House overseeing Waco and Whitewater. Popular in Washington, she is not considered a team player. Recognizing she would be tough to shove aside, White House officials are waging campaign of leaks against her, noting her battle with Parkinson's disease. Her doctors say she has a mild case which is not a problem.

Labor Secretary Robert Reich is welcome to stay, officials said, but appears inclined to leave. Reich told associates he'll talk about his future over the weekend with his family, which has moved back to Boston. Pena wounded himself by mishandling the ValuJet crash. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's brother, Bill, is a possible successor.

Cisneros, while popular with Clinton, is under investigation for allegedly concealing information about payments to a former mistress.

Republicans, strengthening their grip on the Senate, will have veto power over all Cabinet replacements. That raises the possibility that Clinton, in a bipartisan gesture, would install some Republicans in high administration positions.



IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

CIA denies accusations tying agency to drug deals

WASHINGTON — The CIA has gone to court to dispute claims by three alleged drug dealers that they were working for the spy agency.

In a document made public Wednesday, a CIA official told the U.S. District Court in San Diego that the agency searched its records and found no evidence of "any kind of operational, contractual or employment relationship" with the men.

It identified them as Nicaraguan cocaine dealer Danilo Blandon, former California police officer Ronald Lister and David Scott Weekly, whom Lister has named as his CIA contact.

A fourth individual named in the document was identified as Los Angeles crack-cocaine dealer "Freeway" Rick Ross.

In the declaration, the CIA said it knew as early as 1984 that Norwin Meneses was a major cocaine trafficker. But it said a 1986 search of the agency's records at the FBI's request failed to produce any evidence of a CIA relationship with Meneses.

Yeltsin recovering after surgery, reclaims power

MOSCOW — A day after his quip-tuple heart bypass, Boris Yeltsin reasserted his tenacious grip on power and demanded a report Wednesday on what went on while he was unconscious.

He nagged doctors to move him out of the Moscow Cardiological Clinic to cozier surroundings.

CAMPUS CONNECTION

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nized for Voter Education which strongly campaigned against Helms, worked actively on campuses to register and encourage voters.

Nix said voter turnout was high at ECU. "There was an hour and a half wait at one of the poll sites where many ECU students are registered."

She credited a voter registration drive and various politicians such as Gantt who spoke on campus prior to the elections for the high turnout.

At UNC-Asheville, student government officers designed programs to inform student voters about their options and held an Election Day party at a university cafe to heighten student interest.

Jennifer Brown, UNC-A student government senate secretary, said she had noticed a large turnout of student voters.

In South Carolina, however, a high-profile Senate race between longtime Sen.

Strom Thurmond, R-S.C. and Democrat Elliott Clouse did not send college students running for the polls.

Students at the University of South Carolina-Columbia were given the day off from classes to allow them to vote. Still, Adam Stafford, an editor at USC's student newspaper, said many students were still apathetic. "A telephone poll we did after the polls closed showed that many students didn't even take the time to go and vote," he said.

UNC-Chapel Hill Political Science Professor Thad Beyle said although students can have potentially large impacts at the polls, voting once every four years could not replace other forms of activism. "Eventually, students can make a difference in the elections process, but they must vote consistently and not only in presidential elections," Beyle said.

"If they continue to turn out only during presidential elections, then they only become part of a larger political mosaic of voters who only turn out every four years."



POPEYE'S BROTHER, MOPEYE THE TAILOR MAN

PHOTO BY UNIVERSAL PICTURES/SHOOTING STAR

"I think he's out of the woods," American heart surgeon Michael DeBakey said after seeing Yeltsin.

"He couldn't have carried on much longer" without the surgery and certainly couldn't have served out the second four-year term he fought for so fiercely this summer, DeBakey said in an interview with The Associated Press.

When DeBakey first examined Yeltsin in September, "he was incapacitated, considerably incapacitated," and his heart was working at only 20 percent. After Tuesday's seven-hour operation, "I'd expect for him to carry out his term perfectly normally," Yeltsin's wife told Russia's Public Television that her husband was experiencing some post-surgical pain but was in much better shape when she visited him Wednesday.

Mad cow disease concern closes Paris Hard Rock

PARIS — French authorities shut down the Hard Rock Cafe in Paris on Wednesday after accusing the popular tourist spot of serving British beef, which has been banned because of mad cow disease.

In a written statement, the Hard Rock confirmed the closure but said it had proved to authorities that the 660 pounds of beef were from Ireland and therefore unaffected by the prohibition. It said the beef merely passed through Britain.

The Paris police department acknowledged the beef was of Irish origin, but said the Agriculture Ministry nonetheless judged the meat to be "illicit" and closed the restaurant for 15 days. Police did not elaborate.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ARSON

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from the previous 17 fires because they were not set in the downtown Carrboro area. This information has led police to suspect a copycat. "We have to consider that it could be someone else," said Carrboro Police Department Captain Carolyn Hutchinson.

The Carrboro police are working with arson experts to solve the case, Hutchinson said.

An arsonist's abnormal interest with fire usually starts at a young age and stems from repressed anger, said Dr. Bob Conder, a Raleigh forensic neuropsychologist. "As kids, arsonists tend to be fascinated with fire," Conder said. "They have a lot of anger at people that's never been exposed directly, and the fires are indirect means of expressing that anger."

Besides the anger and the fascination, arsonists have a range of other motives behind their destruction. "They are fascinated by flames, heat and watching things, like forests, be consumed by fire," he said. "Some people even say arsonists get sexual gratification from fire, but that's rare."

Unlike other violent criminals, arsonists usually don't target humans, Conder said. "Fire starters are not like the Unabomber or the mob who have one person in mind," he said. "But sometimes they really do want to do damage."

For some arsonists, the fire starting is a game. "They may be fire watchers who stick around in the crowd to watch the firemen battle their work," Conder said.

Conder said the arsonist plaguing the area seemed to fit this description. "If someone's setting three fires at a time, it's a calculated act and probably a signature if investigators can find it," he said.

Conder said copycats, like arsonists, were expressing underlying feelings. "They sort of have the same tendencies, but without the same motivations as the real person," he said. "Copycats probably aren't getting the same gratification."

AUDITOR

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so close. His showing, he said, proved that he was the GOP's most viable statewide candidate besides Jesse Helms.

This race mirrored Daly's 1994 N.C. House primary bid, which he lost by only six votes. "I now have the distinction of not only losing the closest (General Assembly) race in history, against a corrupt incumbent, but I have the distinction of losing the closest North Carolina state council race ever, as well," he said.

He did not comment on his political future, but he hinted in a statement that bids for state Republican Party chairman and governor had not been ruled out.

PROTECTION

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and medical staffs in the area make this center unique, he said.

"My goal is to put ourselves out of business," Runyan said. "If we can learn to prevent child abuse, we won't need the center. It's a nice long-term goal."

The center will deal with children suffering from community or family trauma in addition to abuse and neglect, said Lisa Amaya-Jackson, assistant professor of psychiatry at Duke, who will direct the center's mental health program.

Children who have been abused or experienced some type of trauma can suffer from post-traumatic stress disorders like war veterans, she said.

Plans for the center began four years ago at a community retreat organized to discuss solutions to child abuse and neglect, said Matthew Epstein, executive director of the center.

The biggest problem was fragmentation of services, he said. Epstein said the center would provide "one-stop shopping" for children suffering from neglect, abuse or family or community trauma.

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