

THE FIRST LADY

Mrs. Clinton in Harlem: A Portrait of Resilience

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

Hillary Rodham Clinton kept to her smiling round of tours in behalf of needy children today, offering the nation no revealing words but a steadfast bearing as her First Lady's defense of her scandal-embattled President.

Beaming as she entered a third-floor classroom here at the Harriet Tubman Learning Center on West 127th Street in Harlem, Mrs. Clinton asked a dozen youngsters what they were studying.

"The Four Values," the third and fourth graders responded in unison.

And what are they? The First Lady encouraged, fairly glowing in a yellow pants suit as she worked the class.

"Honesty," they began slowly, "Caring. Respect. And responsibility."

"Those are really important values," Mrs. Clinton said, adding, "Boy, that's a big word — responsibility — isn't it?"

This was a day more for generating self-confident tableaux than explicit discussion of the President's predicament, as the First Lady made clear in declining to field reporters' questions at the school.

Instead, she immersed herself, with camera crews in attendance, in picturesque visits with children, with the fleeting dialogue on the Four Values as close as anyone came to the sensitive subject of morality at the heart of the criminal investigation now under way into the President's personal behavior.

The First Lady's visit here was a respite from the legal and political cauldron that the White House has become. Mrs. Clinton once more presented a classic study in resilience under pressure — her virtuoso role in past campaigns of defending her husband when his career was on the line.

Her agenda was well tailored to

STANDING BY THEIR MAN

As Hillary Rodham Clinton visited Harlem, many residents defended her husband and praised her for remaining steadfast. Page A18.

the Clintons' current need to display themselves in positive, business-as-usual situations, with an evening Unicef dinner address following her afternoon visit to the Y.M.C.A. literacy program in Harlem. There, the official gathering of 50 people immediately stood, cheered and applauded the sight of her.

"She's holding up well," one woman in the room said discreetly to a colleague, eying the First Lady as if for signs of physical illness or personal grief.

Mrs. Clinton seemed resolved to offer the watching world not the faintest hint of personal discouragement. She projected a redoubtable presence in control of the moment as she asked individual students about their work and leaned to touch and talk with them encouragingly.

"Learning how to spell is a lot easier than stopping people from hating you," she sympathized with 9-year-old Danquan Love as she helped with his "I have a dream" essay assignment, correcting his spelling, but underlining his understanding of what makes for a better world.

She began the day at her husband's side, smiling confidently and listening as he offered, in a stronger delivery than previously, another brief denial of the accusations that he had a sexual affair with a 21-year-old White House intern and sought to have her lie under oath to keep it concealed.

"I pray to the Lord it's not true," said Edna O'Bryant, a gray-haired retiree who said she journeyed down from the Bronx just to stand in the

passing crowd and try to buck up the Clintons. "He's doing everything in his power to help this nation. We'll all be destroyed if this is true."

Nearby in the school corridor, Louis Jones, a retired postal worker agreed. "I don't think he'd have time for that sort of thing, you know," Mr. Jones said. "But it's been going on in the White House ever since there was a White House. And if he has to go and we get Al Gore, well I could get with the program."

Mrs. Clinton traveled in the city in a virtual bell jar of politeness. She praised the success of the "Virtual Y" program of special after-school tutoring in literacy, financed in 66 neighborhoods by the public and private sectors. For this day, the worthy program attracted an outsized throng of news workers and equipment, most of it kept away in the streets, waiting for any word or bit of body language on whether the First Lady would take cognizance of the investigation and the uproar she left behind.

She did not. But Mrs. Clinton, who has been reported to be helping engineer the White House's defense in the current struggle, kept a keen eye for detail through the day, touching her audience by telling of a student's "I have a dream" essay in which the girl dreamed that "I visited my Grandma in the grave and she told me to keep my eye on wanting to be a teacher and not live in the streets."

The First Lady departed from the Harlem school to another standing ovation that drowned out news questions from the rear about her husband and the furor and criminal investigation back at the White House.

The New York Times

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1998

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Reuters

Hillary Rodham Clinton showed her support for her husband yesterday at a White House event in which the President announced new education initiatives and denied accusations that he had an affair.

Clinton's Comments Denying an Affair

By The New York Times

Following are comments over the last few days by President Clinton denying accusations that he had had a sexual relationship with a White House intern, Monica S. Lewinsky, including comments in interviews with "The News Hour" on PBS, National Public Radio and Roll Call, a newspaper that covers Capitol Hill:

Yesterday

But I want to say one thing to the American people. I want you to listen to me. I'm going to say this again: I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie, not a single time. Never. These allegations are false. And I need to go back to work for the American people.

Thursday

Let me say, first of all, I want to reiterate what I said yesterday. The allegations are false, and I would never ask anybody to do anything other than tell the truth. Let's get to the big issues there — about the nature of the relationship and whether I suggested anybody not tell the truth. That is false.

Now there are a lot of other questions that are, I think, very legitimate. You have a right to ask them. You and the American people have a right to get answers. We are working very hard to comply, get all the requests for information up here. And we will give you as many answers as we can, as soon as we can, at the appropriate time, consistent with our obligation to also cooperate with the investigations.

And that's not a dodge; that's really what I've — what I've — I've talked with our people. I want to do that. I'd like for you have more rather than less, sooner rather than later. So we will work through it as

quickly as we can and get all those questions out there to you.

Wednesday

"The News Hour" with Jim Lehrer

MR. LEHRER The news of this day is that Kenneth Starr, independent counsel, is investigating allegations that you suborned perjury by encouraging a 24-year-old woman, former White House intern, to lie under oath in a civil deposition about her having had an affair with you. Mr. President, is that true?

MR. CLINTON That is not true. That is not true. I did not ask anyone to tell anything other than the truth. There is no improper relationship. And I intend to cooperate with this inquiry. But that is not true.

National Public Radio

MARA LIASSON Mr. President, where do you think this comes from? Did you have any kind of relationship with her that could have been misconstrued?

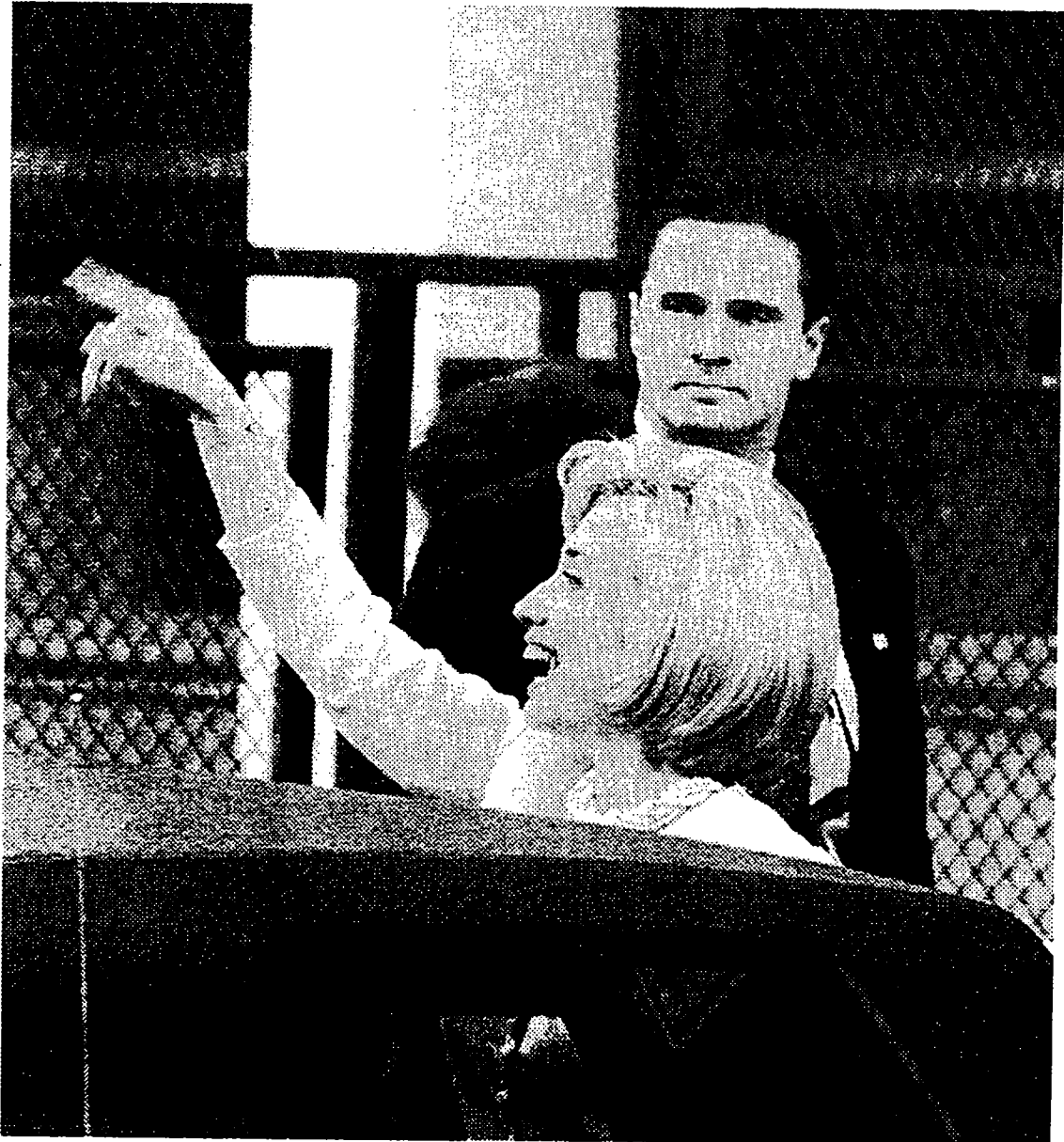
MR. CLINTON Mara, I'm going to do my best to cooperate with the investigation. I want to know what they want to know from me. I think it's more important for me to tell the American people that there wasn't improper relations, I didn't ask anybody to lie, and I intend to cooperate. And I think that's all I should say right now so I can get back to the work of the country.

Roll Call

It is not an improper relationship, and I know that the word means. . . . The relationship was not sexual, and I know what you mean, and the answer is no.

The New York Times

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Michelle V. Agins/The New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton leaving the Harriet Tubman School in Harlem yesterday after speaking with children about "The Four Values."

The New York Times

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A Veteran Fighter Returns to the Ring, and Finds His Corner With Ease

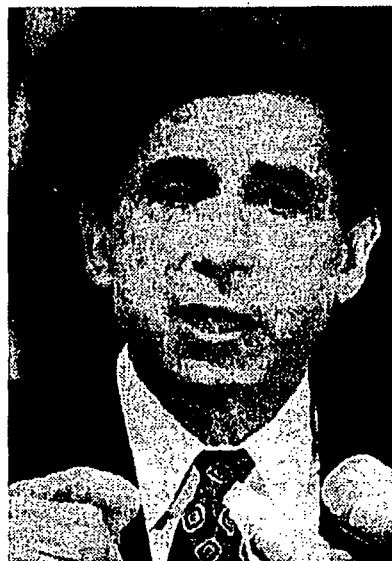
By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 — When Gennifer Flowers sent the Clinton Presidential campaign to the precipice in 1992 with her account of a long-running affair with the Arkansas Governor, the candidate dispatched a loyal, pugnacious lawyer with a highly attuned political ear to rescue his drive in New Hampshire: Mickey Kantor.

Now, with his Presidency threatened by accusations of an affair with a young White House intern, Bill Clinton has reached for the same hardened strategist to bring order to his defense and, if possible, find a way out of the toughest crisis of his crisis-filled life in politics.

A year after he left the Administration, declaring that long battles as the United States trade representative and then Commerce Secretary had taken their toll, the tightly coiled Mr. Kantor is suddenly helping direct what could be the biggest negotiation of his career, although it is still unclear which of several possible opponents will be sitting across the table.

His law firm, Mayer, Brown & Platt, confirmed in a terse statement today that it had been "retained by the President and First Lady to provide legal counsel to them," without ever mentioning Mr. Kantor's involvement.



Reuters

Mickey Kantor is back on board as a strategist for the President.

But long before the announcement was out, Mr. Kantor's return, and its significance, had resonated around Washington.

"You can tell we're in deep, deep trouble," one Administration official said, "when Mickey is called off the bench."

Normally loquacious about even the most sensitive negotiations with

Japan or the European Union, and always eager to talk political strategy, Mr. Kantor was uncharacteristically silent today. Through another lawyer in his firm, he offered apologies but said he could not discuss his role in Mr. Clinton's defense.

White House officials, however, made clear that although he would enjoy lawyer-client privilege, he would act chiefly as the legal team's political overseer, meaning that he will be the only political adviser who is not in peril of being forced to testify about his conversations with Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Kantor's associates say they suspect that his first job is to act as a bridge between Mr. Clinton's legal team, which White House officials say has been extraordinarily cautious about letting the President say anything that could be used against him later, and his political advisers, who have been urging him to offer, as quickly as possible, a full explanation of his relationship with the intern, Monica S. Lewinsky.

"Mickey's view of this kind of thing is that it is going to come out sooner or later," one longtime Administration colleague said today. "My guess is that he wants it out, but on our terms."

Mr. Kantor has never been a universally loved figure in the White House: his fiery temper and his ab-

sence of patience with those who cross him are legendary.

Those qualities and the enmity they created, especially among some younger colleagues, contributed to keeping him from becoming White House chief of staff in Mr. Clinton's first term. And while he was widely praised for his performance in the trade arena, he left the Administration last year after it had become clear that despite his closeness to the President and Hillary Rodham Clinton, he was not destined to become Attorney General or Secretary of State.

But Mr. Kantor has never wandered far from the Clintons' orbit. And no one in the Clinton camp is considered more fiercely loyal or more skilled at smelling where a deal lies and then working backward to figure out how to get there.

He did just that in winning Congressional approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement, one of the biggest legislative victories of Mr. Clinton's first term.

He did it again with Japan, in a confrontation in 1995 that took the United States to the brink of imposing enormous economic sanctions against one of its closest military allies.

That months-long dance with Tokyo was a classic Kantor concoction: long weeks of threatening public

statements, endless nights of negotiation, conciliatory back-channel messages to his opponents and, in the end, a deal laced with ambiguity that enabled all sides to claim a political victory.

And he used all available means: United States intelligence agencies intercepted the telephone conversations of Mr. Kantor's Japanese opponents, which helped very little in the negotiations but caused another uproar after the surveillance was disclosed months later.

"I can't stand to lose," Mr. Kantor once said, musing on his own reputation for combativeness. "I'm the worst loser you ever saw."

Mr. Kantor loved his role as trade representative, in part because he was running a small, lean organization whose staff became highly loyal to him. But he was also able to merge trade to further Mr. Clinton's political fortunes, often overseeing deals that quieted economic discontent in areas of the country where a little managed trade smoothed ruffled political feathers.

"To be successful at this, you need to be political without being partisan," Mr. Kantor said as Commerce Secretary in 1996, when he was steadily on the campaign trail for his old friend. "But are there incidental political benefits in opening markets and creating jobs? You bet there

are."

Mr. Kantor is also a man of deep loyalties. He helped Webster L. Hubbell, formerly the No. 3 official at the Justice Department, find consulting work when Mr. Hubbell was driven from the Government by scandal and needed a source of income. Mr. Kantor has said that whatever help he extended came out of friendship; he testified on the issue in front of a grand jury last month.

When he negotiated with foreign countries, it was usually clear who Mr. Kantor's interlocutors were, and what he needed to get from them. In this case, that is a much more difficult issue.

Will Mr. Kantor be dealing with Kenneth W. Starr, the independent counsel who has expanded his White-water investigation to embrace possible perjury charges concerning Mr. Clinton's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky? Or would he deal with Congress, if it threatens investigations of its own? And could he deal with a fellow Beverly Hills lawyer, William H. Ginsburg, who is representing Ms. Lewinsky in the negotiations over immunity from prosecution in return for her testimony?

"No one seems to know exactly what Mickey's role will be," one White House official said tonight. "But he has the busiest speed dialer in town."

The New York Times

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1998

At Harlem School, First Lady Shares Thoughts on Values

Reporters' Shouts Are Ignored During Choreographed Visit

By Blaine Harden
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Jan. 26—In her first overnight foray out of town since a sex scandal engulfed her husband's presidency, Hillary Rodham Clinton dropped in today on an after-school reading program in Harlem, where people in the mostly black neighborhood encouraged her to stand by her man.

The first lady, smiling and seemingly cheerful in a canary-yellow pantsuit, visited four classrooms in an elementary school, while making no comments about allegations that President Clinton had a sexual relationship with a former White House intern and later urged the intern to lie about it. The carefully choreographed, 40-minute appearance kept her well away from shouted questions from the press.

Hillary Clinton, who is scheduled to be interviewed Tuesday morning on NBC's "Today" show, arrived here hours after having stood beside her husband in the White House as he angrily denied allegations regarding Monica Lewinsky.

As Clinton scowled and enunciated these words, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman. . . . I never told anybody to lie, not a single time. Never," his wife stood at his side, nodding approvingly, her lips pressed tightly together.

Tonight she addressed a dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.

In her speech, she again emphasized the president's child welfare initiative. As with her earlier appearances, she did not mention the allegations and looked determined to appear as though nothing was out of the ordinary.

Even though she said nothing of events that have transfixed much of the country in the past week, the visit to New York today invited scrutiny of the first lady's every word and gesture, as she mingled with children and spoke to invited guests in the school.

When she entered one classroom this afternoon, she was told that the fourth-grade students were studying the "four values."

"What values?" the first lady asked, with a broad, beaming smile.

"Honesty, caring, respect and responsibility," the children replied in unison.

"Those are really important—values. Boy, that's a big word—responsibility—isn't it?" Hillary Clinton said.

Before delivering brief remarks endorsing a \$21 billion child-care program that the president will detail Tuesday night in his State of the Union speech, Hillary Clinton stopped off in another classroom where children were writing with crayons on orange construction paper to complete the phrase "I have a dream. . . ."

She bent over a table where Danquan Love, 9, was struggling with the spelling, syntax and penmanship of his dream. After she and the boy collaborated for a minute or two, Danquan's dream emerged as: "I have a dream that one day I will change the way people act."

With the composition complete, Hillary Clinton said to Danquan and to the other children in the room, "Learning how to spell is a lot easier than stopping people from hating you."

Behind the police barricades that surrounded P.S. 154 during the first lady's visit, Harlem neighborhood residents were remarkably uniform in their support of the president and his wife. Many said they did not believe the daily deluge of salacious news coming out of Washington. Several said they had heard that the president's wife had sprung into "full battle mode" in defense of her husband and they said they approved.

"She is doing the right thing. I think he was set up," said Pearlle Agnes Johnson, 49, a home care worker who lives in Harlem and who said that news of the sex scandal makes her furious. "My knees have been shaking and I can't think of nothing else. I am upset because of these strange women coming from somewhere."

Like several people interviewed today in Harlem, Johnson said she suspected a white Republican conspiracy was trying to force Clinton out of office and ruin his

marriage. She referred to the supporters of this conspiracy as "they."

"This woman [Lewinsky] was paid because they want the White House for themselves," said Johnson, whose comments were seconded by several people outside the elementary school.

A few people were less unconditional in their support of the president and his wife, saying that if they knew of more than one dalliance on the part of their spouse, then the issue would be considerably more cloudy.

"If it was me and my husband and I really truly believed that he was telling me the truth, then I would stand by him," said Nany Lee, 30, an AT&T sales representative from Brooklyn. "But if it was anything more than once, then we would have some problems."

Most others, however, said that Hillary Clinton, as the president's wife, has just one option.

"You got to stick with your husband," said Barbara Davis, 47, a cook who works in Harlem for the New York City school system. "If it was me, I would let the cameras see me with my husband and me kissing him. I would stand by him in front of all the world. But when we are alone, it might be different."

FINAL

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1998

Subpoenas Could Put Secret Service in Unprecedented Presidential Bind

By Roberto Suro
Washington Post Staff Writer

During Watergate, Secret Service officials testified before Congress about the Nixon White House's taping system. Just last year, four Secret Service agents who guarded President John F. Kennedy came forward with sensational tales about his sex life.

But never before have agents responsible for guarding the president been required to testify about "material facts" in a criminal probe about that president.

That barrier may soon be broken as Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr seeks evidence that President Clinton engaged in sexual relations with former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky in contradiction to his sworn testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case. Sources said Starr's office wants to interview agents to ask if they personally observed Clinton and Lewinsky engaging in any "intimate acts" in the White House in the spring of 1996.

Anticipating that Starr will seek testimony and documents from the agents who protect

Clinton, officials at the Secret Service and the Treasury Department, which oversees the service, were busy yesterday reviewing precedents to determine what position they would take in response to Starr's subpoenas.

Already, attorneys for Jones in the civil case against Clinton have subpoenaed the Secret Service and a federal judge is considering whether agents should be forced to testify, according to one source with knowledge of the case.

"There does not seem to be a clear precedent for the situation that appears to be developing now where agents may be called into a criminal proceeding to testify about the president's activities," said Ronald K. Noble, former assistant treasury secretary for enforcement.

Earlier in his Whitewater investigation, Starr called Secret Service agents to testify about records that showed who had access to a room in the White House where Hillary Rodham Clinton's billing records from her Arkansas law firm were discovered, according to sources familiar with the proceedings.

But legal experts said the current case

would be markedly different because the agents could be asked to assist a prosecution aimed at showing that the president committed a crime while in office.

Since the agents are sworn law enforcement officers, it seems unlikely that the White House would be able to successfully assert legal privilege to block the subpoenas in this case, according to Noble and other experts.

Although the Secret Service has built a tradition of guarding the privacy of the people it protects almost as zealously as it guards their lives, "the relationship between the protector and the protected is not covered by a legal privilege like the ones that protect attorney-client or doctor-patient relationships," said Noble, now a law professor at Columbia University.

But such testimony is bound to prove controversial, even if it helps exonerate Clinton.

"This could harm, even destroy, the relationship of trust and confidentiality that is necessary for the Secret Service to carry out its mission," said Arnold Sagalyn, who was a senior Treasury Department official in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

"Politicians naturally chafe at the restrictions and intrusions that the Secret Service impose on them, and if a president or a presidential candidate is going to be thinking that anything these people see is going to appear in a book or in court testimony someday, the agents will be handicapped and the security risks will increase enormously," said Sagalyn.

The Secret Service officially echoed these sentiments after four former agents provided accounts of philandering by President Kennedy to author Seymour M. Hersh. Following the publication of Hersh's book, "The Dark Side of Camelot," last December, Secret Service Director Lewis C. Merletti sent a letter to 3,200 current and 500 former agents complaining that the revelations were "counterproductive to the mission of the Secret Service."

Merletti admonished the agents "to refrain from discussing any information or activity associated with our protectees regardless of its content or significance," and said that being a Secret Service agent involves "a confidence that should continue forever."

The delicate question of how to avoid reveal-

ing details about presidential security was raised most recently in 1992, when a House task force investigated allegations that the Reagan-Bush campaign cut a deal with Iran to delay the release of American hostages in order to influence the 1980 election. A key issue was whether George Bush, then candidate for vice president, made a secret trip to Paris to negotiate the supposed deal.

The Secret Service negotiated arrangements with the congressional task force to allow only the top-counsel for Republicans and Democrats to see material that related to methods of protection. It was not even shared with all the congressmen on the investigative panel, according to an official involved in the probe.

However, the task force was able to interview Secret Service agents and gain access to uncensored travel logs to determine what Bush was doing during the days in question. When he was alleged to have been in Paris meeting with an Iranian representative, the Secret Service logs and testimony showed him playing tennis at the Chevy Chase Club.

Final

The Washington Post
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1998

NYC, first lady embraced by crowd

Support given
to president, too

By Mariha T. Moore
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — Perhaps Washington is racked with doubt over whether President Clinton is being truthful over allegations of an affair with a White House intern. Perhaps there people wonder why Hillary Rodham Clinton has chosen to weather another storm about her husband's fidelity.

But here on a Harlem sidewalk, in front of the St. Nicholas public housing complex and across from elementary school P.S. 154, there are few doubts.

"Keep your head up!" Patricia James shouted as the first lady, in a yellow pantsuit, stepped out of her motorcade Monday afternoon to applause, cheers and waves from the crowd. "Keep your head up!"

Many of the people who gathered to greet Clinton as she visited an after-school reading program admitted they had been glued to news reports of the unfolding scandal in Washington. But in interviews with more than a dozen people in a crowd of 150, there was near unanimity: The president is telling the truth about the alleged affair with intern Monica Lewinsky; he's doing a good job; and his private life should remain private.

"Leave him alone," said Jashawn Cole, 22, a secretary at a record label who credits the president with starting workfare and the first lady for working with children. "I'm more



By Kathy Willens, AP

It takes a tutor: Hillary Rodham Clinton helps Dan Quan, 9, spell his 'I Have A Dream' assignment during her visit to an after-school program in Harlem on Monday. Kyaseem Andrews, 9, looks on.

interested in his job performance and not whether he performs in bed, or who he performs with."

Hillary Clinton was in New York for the school visit, a \$1,000-a-plate gala Monday night marking the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, and an interview this morning on NBC's Today show.

Inside the school, Clinton displayed not the slightest concern over the controversy. She chatted with children, who told her they were studying values including honesty, caring, respect and responsibility.

"Boy, that's a big word, re-

sponsibility," she told the children. Clinton did not take questions from news reporters.

Many in the crowd outside said they couldn't believe that after attaining the highest office in the land, the president would put his job at risk by having an affair with a 21-year-old staffer.

"This girl is being manipulated ... to bring the president down," said Anthony Burns, a printer.

To this crowd, Clinton's history of scandal was a history of attempts to sabotage his political career.

"He hasn't blown his nose that they haven't picked up the

tissue to examine it," said James, 40, a visiting nurse.

Only Angela Quezada, 25, a home health aide, was not so sure about Clinton's denials.

"I just have a gut feeling he did it," she said. And she disapproved. "That's inappropriate conduct for a president. Can people listen to him without thinking about what he's doing? ... I respected him very much before, but now I'm a little shaky." The president, she said, "should set an example."

That's what Hillary Clinton is doing, Quezada said. "She's very supportive. ... She's very strong. She could be the president."

Secret Service may be forced to break silence

By Gary Fields
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Secret Service agents are required by law to report any crimes they witness, but former agents say that requiring them to reveal what they know about the private lives of the presidents they protect could undermine trust and compromise security.

After serving in silence for nearly a century, the Secret Service suddenly finds its members among the people independent counsel Kenneth Starr may call to testify in his investigation of whether President Clinton had a sexual affair with a former White House intern and then urged her to lie about it under oath.

Ron Noble, a former Treasury Department undersecretary who was in charge of the Secret Service, finds that prospect alarming. "The confidentiality and trust that the protectee has to have in the agency is immeasurable," says Noble, who is now a New York University law professor.

Robert Pugsley, law professor at Southwestern University in Los Angeles, says Secret Service agents are legally compelled to honor subpoenas.

However, "I don't think forcing them to do so would be a wise and prudent thing to do," he says. "If they were forced to become spies it would compromise the integrity of their position and encourage presidents to try to shed the protection they offer."

The Secret Service has protected presidents since 1901. In that time, no agent has been subpoenaed to testify about the private lives of the people he or she protected.

P. Hamilton Brown, executive secretary of the Associa-

tion of Former Agents of the U.S. Secret Service, says there is concern that if agents are called forward in the Clinton case, "once it begins, when would it stop?"

Brown says the issue of confidentiality is one of the foundations of the service.

"I don't know of a Secret Service agent that would willingly talk about the president they protected," Brown says. "It's understood that what we saw and heard is privileged information."

The issue of confidentiality is so ingrained in agents that four former members of President John F. Kennedy's protective unit caused a mini-crisis last month when their comments about his extramarital affairs appeared in Seymour Hersh's book *The Dark Side of Camelot*.

Secret Service Director Lewis Merletti sent a letter to all current and former agents reminding them that they are expected to keep quiet about what they have seen and heard — even after the president they served is dead.

But there are no laws that protect Secret Service agents from being called as witnesses. And there is no written policy within the Secret Service. Unlike their colleagues at the FBI and CIA, Secret Service agents are not required to sign confidentiality agreements.

"Over the years, Secret Service agents have seen a lot of behavior and misbehavior involving presidents and others they protect," says former Secret Service director Martin Poller. "If Starr pushes this and it involves an agent, it would involve an issue that perhaps has never been litigated before."

Contributing: Kevin Johnson

Clinton Plan Adds Funds For District

\$120 Million Aimed At Economy, Schools

By David A. Vise
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Clinton administration yesterday proposed spending an additional \$120 million on the District next year to buoy the local economy and give the city's ailing schools extra funds to improve student achievement and teacher training.

In a White House ceremony, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said the fresh funding reflects the administration's continuing commitment to the District and builds on a broad-based rescue package approved by Congress last year. Although Mayor Marion Barry (D) attacked the proposal as woefully inadequate and "awful," Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and other local officials described it as a logical and important step forward in the city's efforts to boost tourism, improve education and emerge from a prolonged financial crisis.

The proposal includes a \$50 million federal investment in a new local economic development corporation, \$25 million for Metro station improvements at the city's new convention center site and \$25 million for the D.C. financial control board to spend on management reforms. The city's schools, engaged in a campaign to improve student performance, would receive \$20 million to expand summer school, put reading specialists in every school and beef up principal and teacher training.

"The president's historic rescue package last year has made it possible for the District government to survive," Norton said. "With today's initiative, the president has moved

See DISTRICT, B8, Col. 1

DISTRICT, From B1

beyond keeping the District alive to helping the city to thrive."

Barry accused Norton of mistakenly embracing the federal rescue package that stripped him of power over the summer and said she was prematurely praising the Clinton administration's latest proposal. The mayor said the District's needs are far greater than the financial package that the first lady, flanked by four Cabinet secretaries in the Roosevelt Room, announced yesterday.

"I am extremely disappointed," Barry said. "We need more resources and less rhetoric. I am hopeful Congress will see the light and do more."

That doesn't seem likely. Rep. Thomas M. Davis III (R-Va.), chairman of the House Government Oversight subcommittee on the District, said he will support the Clinton plan once the president transmits the budget to Capitol Hill. Although he may propose certain modifications, Davis said he favors the scope and emphasis of the White House plan and scoffed at the notion that the city government needs much more money.

"I like the president's proposal," Davis said. "The thrust of this is very positive, and we are going to do everything we can up here to support him."

Although other legislators declined to comment, congressional sources said Rep. Charles H. Taylor (R-N.C.), chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on the District, would oppose the president's request for an additional \$120 million for the city. Last year, Republican leaders overruled Taylor when he objected to providing the District with a substantial boost in federal aid.

This is the Clinton administration's second attempt to fund an economic development corporation for the city that would have vast powers to spur job creation and neighborhood revitalization. Last year, Congress rejected the notion of a federally chartered economic development entity and instead approved tax breaks to benefit first-time home buyers and investors willing to put money into District-based businesses in some parts of the city.

Federal budget chief Franklin D. Raines said the difference this time is that the economic development corporation would be created by city officials, rather than by Congress, and that the federal government would be an investor in the new enterprise.

D.C. Council member Charlene Drew Jarvis (D-Ward 4), who is working on legislation to set up the new corporation, said it would include three presidential appointees but have a majority of locally appointed officials on its board. Jarvis said she plans to hold a hearing on the economic development corporation next week.

"The timing of the president's announcement couldn't have been better," Jarvis said. "I am delighted with the support for economic development, and I think that this stimulus for investment will expand our revenue base."

Control board Chairman Andrew F. Brimmer said he was pleased with the White House focus on economic development. And D.C. Council member Harold Brazil (D-At Large)

said he was glad to see the expanded White House commitment to the city.

"We are in desperate need of more revenue," Brazil said. "I'm pleased."

The budget proposed by the Clinton administration would be the first in many years not to include a direct federal payment to the city government, which is not allowed to tax commuters who work in the city. The city received a \$190 million "federal contribution" this year and had received \$660 million in prior years. Clinton administration officials said the District was better off with the transfer of expensive programs to the federal government than with the stagnant federal payment.

Hillary Clinton said she will attend a March 5 summit on the importance of the arts in the District and hailed the city's continuing progress, especially in revitalizing downtown, which she described as its "nerve center."

"Too often, stories about the District of Columbia only focus on what is wrong," she said. "This city has a great story to tell."

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1998

Clinton Backs More Contact With Iranians

President Clinton took the end of Islam's holiest month as an occasion yesterday to reach out to the Iranian people and endorse their president's call for cultural exchanges between the estranged countries.

White House press secretary Michael McCurry cautioned, however, that there remains no formal agreement on the exchanges of scholars, artists, writers and tourists that Iranian President Mohammed Khatemi suggested three weeks ago.

"The United States regrets the estrangement of our two nations," Clinton said in videotaped greetings on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, a three-day feast marking the end of the Muslim month of Ramadan. Clinton called Iran "an important country with a rich and ancient cultural heritage of which Iranians are justifiably proud."

"We have real differences with some Iranian policies, but I believe these are not insurmountable," the president said. "I hope that we have more exchanges between our people and that the day will soon come when we can enjoy once again good relations with Iran."

The United States, which Iran's theocratic leaders regularly describe as the "Great Satan," severed ties with Tehran after Muslim militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November 1979 and took American hostages.

Clinton's remarks, part of an annual statement acknowledging Ramadan, were meant as an appreciation for "the new tone that President Khatemi has set with some of his public comments," McCurry said.

Khatemi said in a CNN interview on Jan. 7 that expanded cultural exchanges could help open "a crack in the wall of mistrust" between Iran and the United States.

Administration Seeks Big Boost In Cancer Research

Saying scientists are "right on the verge" of a breakthrough in cancer research, Vice President Gore said yesterday the administration wants to increase federal funding by 65 percent over the next five years.

The budget plan, which must be approved by Congress, would also allow Medicare patients access to clinical trials for the first time.

"We want to be the first generation that finally wins the war against cancer," Gore said. "For the first time, the enemy is out-matched."

In his budget, President Clinton is proposing considerably more money for all federal research at the National Institutes of Health, but cancer research would get the biggest boost.

Clinton is counting on revenue from a national tobacco settlement to fund the plan, despite the settlement's shaky prospects on Capitol Hill. Still, his call for more biomedical research funding should be welcomed in Congress, where members usually propose spending more than the president requests.

Last year, Clinton proposed only a 2.6 percent increase in funding for NIH. But for next year, he is asking Congress for \$1.15 billion more for NIH, an 8 percent jump, including 10 percent more for cancer research. Over five years, Clinton wants a 50 percent increase overall, including a 65 percent jump for cancer research to \$4.8 billion.

The administration is also proposing \$750 million to allow Medicare patients to participate in clinical cancer trials for the first time. Like many other health insurance plans, Medicare will not pay for treatments unless they are established treatments.

—Associated Press

Layoffs at Shuttle Firm

The private contractor that runs the U.S. space shuttle program, United Space Alliance (USA), announced Wednesday that there

would be 400 job cuts in Florida and 80 in Texas.

The layoffs are to begin Feb. 2, the contractor said. USA is an alliance of Boeing and Lockheed Martin, the largest shuttle contractors.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said the cuts should not compromise shuttle safety.

The number of reductions in Florida—home of the Kennedy Space Center, which launches the shuttle fleet—were smaller than the 600 originally proposed by USA, but company spokesman Jack King said the difference was made up by voluntary layoffs that brought the number to nearly 600.

The other 80 job cuts will be at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

—Reuters

USDA Land Program

The Agriculture Department will add 5.9 million acres to the nation's largest private land conservation program and pay farmers more to set aside environmentally fragile land.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said yesterday the added average per-acre cost of this round of Conservation Reserve Program sign-ups—just under \$6 more than last year's sign-up—was justified to add more wetlands, wildlife habitat and other high-priority land.

"It was worth paying a little more to get higher-rent land that yields great environmental benefits," Glickman said.

Although the amount paid was slightly higher, averaging \$45.17, it is still below the historic average of more than \$49 an acre and will save taxpayers \$261 million over the 10-year life of the CRP contracts, Glickman said.

The formula used to pick which acreage gets into CRP was adjusted to favor certain regions—Washington state, west Texas, the Corn Belt—that had high percentages of acres rejected during the earlier sign-up.

—Associated Press

Hillary Clinton Plays Down Publicity Over Paula Jones

By JAMES BENNET

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19 — Hillary Rodham Clinton said today that she and President Clinton had "not really" been affected by publicity surrounding Paula Corbin Jones's sexual misconduct accusations, and she suggested that the case was driven by politics.

Responding to an interviewer's question that recalled Mr. Clinton's comment last week that he put the case "in a little box," Mrs. Clinton said, "We do box it off."

"You have to box it off because there's no way that you can let people with their own agendas, whatever they might be, interfere with your life, your private life, or your duties," she said. "And that's what my husband does every day."

President Clinton would not respond to reporters' questions about the case today, citing an order issued by Judge Susan Webber Wright of Federal District Court to limit discussion of the case.

"You know, the judge asked us not to talk about it, and I think at least

'You have to box it off,' the First Lady says, or people's agendas interfere.

somebody involved in it ought to follow her instructions," Mr. Clinton said.

Asked if she thought that the people supporting Ms. Jones's legal efforts had "an agenda," Mrs. Clinton said that she would not comment on the case.

But she added, "I think that, certainly, when you see the kind of political maneuvering that goes on against my husband on a daily basis, there certainly are a lot of agendas out there."

Mrs. Clinton made those comments, in a relaxed but serious tone, during an 18-minute radio interview at the White House today with Mutual-NBC Radio, which provided a partial transcript.

On Saturday, with Ms. Jones in the room, Mr. Clinton was deposed for six hours by her lawyers. In another radio interview today, with CBS News Radio, Mrs. Clinton said that Saturday "wasn't difficult."

"It was a busy day for me," she said. "I had a lot of work that had piled up, and I had been fighting a cold for about a week, so I just kind of hunkered down and went through a lot of my household tasks."

When Mr. Clinton returned home, she said, they "watched a movie and then had a good time" that evening.

On Sunday, a visit by the Clintons to church "built us up again," Mrs. Clinton told Mutual-NBC.

They returned home and cleaned closets, she said, calling it "a way in which we try to keep our lives as normal as possible despite what's going on around us."

Mrs. Clinton said that she and the President were resilient because of their upbringings, religious faith and "love and support for each other."

It was not clear why Mrs. Clinton, who seldom gives interviews, decided to do so today. A public show of family comity would surely help Mr. Clinton contain the political damage from the frenzied media attention given his deposition.

The First Lady joked about another matter, the surreptitious photographs taken of the Clintons on their New Year's vacation in the Virgin Islands.

Told that some cynics believed that the Clintons had staged the pictures, some of which showed them dancing on the beach, she said, "Well, I have one question for anyone who would say that: Name me any 50-year-old woman who would knowingly pose in her bathing suit, especially with her back pointed toward the camera."

Mrs. Clinton warned that "having cameras around all the time and slinking through bushes" to capture private moments chilled public life.

"The public person becomes more and more on guard, less real, more hollowed out," she said. "And you don't see the person that you originally saw because there's a bigger barrier."

Mrs. Clinton also expressed her support for the President's position on banning a controversial procedure for abortions late in pregnancy.

Such a ban would be acceptable, she said in echoing Mr. Clinton, if it made exceptions for cases in which women's lives or health were threatened.

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The New York Times

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1998

By RICHARD L. BERKE

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif., Jan. 19 — Former President Gerald R. Ford condemned today what he viewed as Republicans' preoccupation with abortion and warned that an "ultra-conservative" faction could threaten the party's drive to regain the White House in 2000.

"If we get way over on the hard right of the political spectrum," said Mr. Ford, who was elevated to the Presidency when Richard M. Nixon resigned nearly 24 years ago, "we will not elect a Republican President. I worry about the party going down this ultra-conservative line. We ought to learn from the Democrats: when they were running ultra-liberal candidates, they didn't win."

In an interview this afternoon in his secluded home and office compound in the desert near Palm Springs, Mr. Ford was unusually vehement in commenting on his own party. He expressed pride that he and his wife, Betty, have been "strongly pro-choice" but said he was distressed that that view does not seem particularly welcome among Republicans.

"It's an issue that creates significant turmoil in the party and ought not to be a partisan political issue," said Mr. Ford, who is 84. "But how do you extract it from the arena? I can't tell you. You've got zealots who are determined."

Surrounded in his office by photographs marking his tenure as the 38th President, as Vice President, as House minority leader and as Congressman from Grand Rapids, Mich., Mr. Ford was tan and vigorous. He still makes political appearances — the latest was in nearby Indian Wells with members of the Republican National Committee who gathered here last week.

He said he was pleased that the party soundly rejected a resolution to deny money to candidates who do not oppose late-term abortion.

"If they had gone down that road, that's a dead-end street," he said. "The litmus test would have been devastating."

Of the resolution that did pass, which denounces late-term abortions, he said, "I don't agree with that either."

The former President said the reelection of two moderates last year, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York, whom he called a liberal, and Gov. Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey, demonstrated the need for "an all-inclusive" party. "We never could have elected an ultra-conservative governor of New Jersey," he said. "We never could have elected a conservative mayor of New York."

Mr. Ford said that should be a

Pardon me, a former President interjects, but the White House in 2000 is at stake.

lesson if Republicans expect to take back the White House. "The American people are basically middle-of-the-road moderates," he said, "and Clinton was smart enough in 1996 to talk like a moderate Democrat."

But Mr. Ford said the outcome of a special election last week for a House seat on the central California coast was dispiriting because Assemblyman Tom J. Bordonaro, a conservative, placed ahead of a centrist Republican, Assemblyman Brooks Firestone. Mr. Ford, who has known the Firestone family for years, dismissed Mr. Bordonaro as "one of those extreme right wing" candidates. And, he said, "people tell me that district won't elect a hard right-wing candidate." Mr. Bordonaro will face Lois Capps, a Democrat, in a runoff on March 10.

Mr. Ford seemed particularly wistful about his 25-year career in the House, saying he was troubled by a lack of civility there in both parties. "It's a great institution, and it startles me to see it so filled with bitterness and acrimony," he said.

Mr. Ford, whose decision to pardon Mr. Nixon in the aftermath of the Watergate conspiracy contributed to his defeat by Jimmy Carter in 1976, said he was distressed by the content of newly released tapes of Mr. Nixon's salty and often conspiratorial conversations as President.

"All the times I spent with Dick Nixon — and I knew him going back to 1948 — I never heard him use the kind of language that is on those tapes," Mr. Ford said. "I don't use that kind of language. It was disturbing. Very disturbing because he's a different person than the one I knew." He said the disclosures do not alter his view that the pardon was crucial for the country to recover after the scandal.

Mr. Ford said he was especially close to former President George Bush. While declining to take sides, he said Mr. Bush's son, Gov. George W. Bush of Texas, would make a formidable Presidential contender.

"Texas is what, the third-largest

state, delegate-wise?" he said. "You can't ignore a Governor from a state with that much political power. He's a good speaker. Makes a good impression."

When he was in Los Angeles four months ago, Mr. Ford said, he stopped in on former President Ronald Reagan. "He was in good health, well-dressed and looked great," he said. "But he didn't recognize me. He plays golf, I'm told, once a week, but when he plays with his friends he never talks on the golf course. It just makes you sick and sad."

On the wall behind his desk, Mr. Ford prominently displayed an autographed photograph of himself and Mr. Reagan from the recent visit. "Dear Jerry," Mr. Reagan wrote in his familiar scrawl. "What a wonderful surprise your visit was! I enjoyed seeing you again. Ron."

Mr. Ford said he has played golf two or three times with President Clinton. "We're roughly the same," Mr. Ford said when asked to compare his golfing prowess with Mr. Clinton's. "He's got a good swing. When he has more time to play and concentrate, he could reduce his handicap quite a bit. Well, that's not very far away."

The New York Times

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1998

First Lady Finds Church, Chores a Welcome Relief

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer

Hillary Rodham Clinton said yesterday she dealt with the stress of her husband's weekend deposition in the Paula Jones case by enjoying a church sermon and cleaning out closets at the White House.

In an interview two days after President Clinton's sworn testimony, the first lady said she tries to avoid letting the sexual harassment lawsuit intrude on her daily life and suggested the case was generated by people with an ax to grind against the president.

"We do box it off," she told Mutual-NBC Radio, employing the same term her husband used in a separate interview last week. "You have to box it off because there's no way that you can let people with their own agendas, whatever they may be, interfere with your life, your private life or your duties."

Asked if she believed Jones and her supporters are advancing their own agenda, Hillary Clinton echoed the approach taken by White House aides and other presidential advisers, who have branded the lawsuit a political smear tactic. "Certainly when you see the kind of political maneuvering that goes on against my husband on a daily basis, there certainly are a lot of agendas out there," she said.

The first lady sounded relaxed during the interview, her first since the president spent six hours Saturday at the office of his lawyer, answering questions under oath about whether he propositioned Jones in a Little Rock hotel suite seven years ago and about reported sexual encounters with other women. Never before has a sitting president given testimony in his

own defense in a court case and, despite his stated desire not to let it affect him, the first couple abruptly canceled plans to go out for dinner after the deposition and stayed out of sight in the White House instead.

The next morning they attended church, and the first lady said a "wonderful sermon" helped take her mind off the case.

"That just built us up again," she said. "And we ... came home and actually cleaned closets and did things that we'd been meaning to do and had been putting off. Just a way in which we try to keep our lives as normal as possible, despite what's going on around us."

On another matter that recently provoked some controversy in Washington, the first lady scoffed at the idea that she knew photographers were surreptitiously taking pictures of her and the president on a beach in the Virgin Islands earlier this month. Pictures of the first couple in their swimsuits drew a rebuke from White House officials who charged that the media invaded the first couple's privacy, despite suspicions that they were aware of the nearby cameras.

"Name me any 50-year-old woman who would knowingly pose in her bathing suit!" Hillary Rodham Clinton said laughing. "Especially with her back pointed toward the camera!"

Turning more serious, she said photographers "slinking through bushes" often make it impossible for the couple to truly be themselves. "It does make it much more difficult for people who are the subjects of that to feel that they can relax, that they can let down their guard, that they can be the kind of people they always were before they were in public life," she said.

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1998

GOP Victor Had the Right Stuff

Antiabortion PAC Provided Muscle for California Primary Knockout

By Thomas B. Edsall
Washington Post Staff Writer

In 1954, when Gary Bauer was 7, his father took him to a carnival in their hometown of Newport, Ky.

The band began to play "The National Anthem," but a man nearby kept talking. Bauer's father, an ex-Marine known as "Spike," told the talker to be quiet. "It's a free country," the man shot back.

"My dad just decked him," Bauer said. "It made a strong impression on me."

This year, House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) provoked Bauer and other Christian Right leaders by promoting the candidacy of Brooks Firestone, an establishment Republican who supports abortion rights, in a special House election in California.

Last Tuesday, Bauer, who, as a shorter version of his father, was nicknamed "Nails," decked Gingrich.

Bauer's \$100,000 buy of TV ads bashing Firestone's stand on a controversial late-term abortion procedure its critics call a "partial-birth" abortion knocked Gingrich's candidate out of the ring, according to many assessments. Instead, voters gave the GOP nod to Bauer's candidate, Tom Bordonaro, an antiabortion conservative who faces Democrat Lois Capps on March 10.

With the Bordonaro victory over Firestone, Bauer has moved up in the ranks of Washington players. Once an outsider who was a constant irritant, Bauer now is an outsider who must be taken seriously.

He and his aides are looking at other Republican primaries pitting social conservatives against establishment moderates to see if there are more opportunities to push the party to the right, including the March 17 Illinois Senate primary. The contest pits Loleta Didrickson, an abortion rights supporter, against Peter Fitzgerald, an abortion opponent.

Bauer's political action committee raised \$2 million last year and has \$800,000 in the bank. The PAC is preparing to put money behind Bauer's calls for the GOP to focus more on Reagan Democrats and Christian conservatives, and less on the country club elite.

And Bauer is considering his own run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2000. Republican strategists have gone from dismissing him with a derisive laugh to a kind of querulous skepticism.

"He certainly has some appeal to the religious right and fills a spot that a few others, Dan Quayle, Steve Forbes and [Sen.] John Ashcroft, are fighting over," said Republican pollster Neil Newhouse. "His problem is that there are some pretty strong guys, not exactly lightweights, looking for those voters."

William Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard and a friend of Bauer's, said the special election results are "a big victory for Gary. Gingrich taps Firestone, Bauer put in \$100,000 for Bordonaro, and Bordonaro wins. That's pretty big."

"The key question," Kristol said, "is will Bordonaro win in March? Gary's claim is that Bordonaro and people like him are the future of the Republican Party. If Bordonaro wins and partial birth abortion becomes a big issue in congressional campaigns, then Gary's intervention will be seen as a defining moment."

The odds are against Bordonaro: In the "open" primary, Capps won 44.9 percent of the vote, and Bordonaro won a runoff spot with 29.1 percent.

A Bordonaro defeat, however, is not likely to damage Bauer's credentials in the Christian Right, where standing up to the GOP old guard is valued almost as much as winning general elections.

Bauer's own roots are firmly in the working class, if not the working poor. His father, an alcoholic and high school dropout, did "anything—maintenance man, part-time truck driver." Bauer described Newport, Ky., as a city controlled by organized crime, with casinos and prostitutes everywhere. "I saw a lot of men get off work on Friday and never make it home with the paycheck." His own father was a "binge drinker" who "for weeks and weeks would be fine, and then he would not show up for a day."

Bauer's father did push him to go to college. "I can remember, my father would come home after a bad day at work covered with grime. He would say, 'Look at me. Study, so you don't have to do this.'" Bauer worked his way through Georgetown College, a Baptist school in Kentucky, and then went to Georgetown University Law



FILE PHOTO
Gary Bauer's Campaign for Working Families bought \$100,000 worth of TV ads in the California primary.

School here while working for the Republican National Committee.

During the Reagan years, Bauer served in the Department of Education, becoming undersecretary in 1985. In 1987-88, he was the president's chief domestic policy adviser, where he firmed up his reputation as a social conservative.

During this period, Bauer became friends with James Dobson, head of the Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family. In 1989, Dobson asked Bauer to run a dormant subsidiary, the Family Research Council. The Washington-based advocacy group had "four employees and a budget of a couple hundred thousand dollars," Bauer said.

Bauer has since built up the organization to a \$14 million operation with 93 employees and a donor list of 400,000. Major contributors include the DeVos family of Amway fame and the late Edmund Prince, who built a \$550 million auto parts firm.

The base of smaller donors was developed, Bauer contends, without using rented lists to "prospect" for givers. Instead, Bauer said he depended on word of mouth, speeches and almost daily appearance on Christian radio.

Throughout much of the 1990s, there was a low-key tension between Bauer and Ralph Reed, who, as head of the Christian Coalition, was more prominent than Bauer. Since Reed has shifted to political consulting, Bauer has emerged as a—if not the—dominant figure on the Christian right.

Bauer became much more active politically during the 1996 campaign. Before the GOP primaries began, he and Dobson met with Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.) to press Gramm to stop taking the right for granted and to stress abortion and other social issues. "I ain't no preacher," Gramm said in a brusque rebuff the senator soon came to regret as his conservative support evaporated.

At the GOP convention, Bauer led the charge to block Robert J. Dole's attempt to moderate the antiabortion plank, forcing Dole to back off from his call for a more "tolerant" stand.

With the formation last year of the Campaign for Working Families PAC, Bauer has positioned himself to be an even more direct force in politics. He is using the PAC to become a power broker in Republican primaries where conservative voters are strongest.

With the GOP split between its country club and country-and-western wings, Bauer demonstrated with Bordonaro that a substantial independent expenditure can tilt the primary electorate to the right, even in a moderate district.

And, if Bauer does enter presidential politics, Kristol contends he should not be underestimated. The Kristols and Bauers vacation together at Bethany Beach, Del., and Kristol, a network TV regular, said it came as a shock to discover that he was recognized by fewer Eastern Shore working people than Bauer. "He's got this whole network that no one in Washington knows," Kristol said. "He authentically has a grass-roots base, people he sends a letter to every month" who recognize him from the family card he sends out at Christmas.

Staff researcher Ben White contributed to this report.

The Washington Post
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1998



Associated Press

As she visited Goucher College in Baltimore yesterday, Hillary Rodham Clinton defended her husband against allegations of having an improper relation, saying, "Certainly I believe they are false — absolutely."

Mr. Ginsburg depicted Ms. Lewinsky as a victim poised between two powerful forces, a young, vulnerable neophyte in the Washington political culture.

"If the allegations are true that there was a sexual relationship with the president," said Mr. Ginsburg, "Then he's a misogynist and I have to question his ability to lead. If they are not true, then why is the independent investigator ravaging the life of a 23-year-old girl?"

Whatever the eventual disposition of the charges, they raced across the nation this morning and sent the White House scrambling before the fresh sensation. By evening, a New York literary agent, Lucianne S. Goldberg, claimed that she already had two of Ms. Tripp's tape recordings in hand. "They are shocking beyond belief, describing the whole relationship with a 21-year-old kid," she said.

"I smell a rat in this," commented Robert S. Bennett, the President's attorney who was at Mr. Clinton's side last Saturday when the President was deposed under oath by attorneys for Ms. Jones. It was not immediately clear whether the President was specifically asked about Ms. Lewinsky and whether he repeated under the oath the denial he made today in two broadcast interviews.

According to lawyers familiar with the investigation, officials at the Justice Department were consulted last Wednesday by Mr. Starr's staff once Ms. Tripp's tapes were examined. At a Justice Department briefing Thursday night, the evidence in hand was strong enough to convince Attorney General Janet Reno to proceed immediately on Friday morning to the special three-judge panel that oversees the independent counsel law and agree to the enlargement of Mr. Starr's 3-year-old mandate so he could pursue the allegations contained on the tapes.

Justice Department prosecutors said they were flabbergasted when the charges and taped evidence was brought to them by Mr. Starr's staff, two days before the President's private deposition in the Paula Jones case.

In denying a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky and the alleged attempt to cover it up, Mr. Clinton told Jim Lehrer of the Public Broadcasting Service. "I did not urge anyone to say anything that was untrue."

When asked whether he had Mr. Jordan, his close confidante and golfing partner, advise Ms. Lewinsky to deny the alleged affair, the President added, "I absolutely did not do that."

Ms. Tripp, the former White House worker who reportedly taped Ms.

Lewinsky, had been a holdover from the Bush Administration who worked in the Clinton Administration's office of the White House counsel. She began taping Ms. Lewinsky for at least the past four months, lawyers said, before she went to Mr. Starr this month with the story she had learned.

Ms. Tripp's friends said that she had been involved in an earlier, less controversial instance of sex allegations at the White House — the case of Kathleen Willey, who was alleged to have been groped by the President. Ms. Tripp had defended the President while confirming that Ms. Willey told her of the passing incident without complaint.

Subsequently denounced as "not to be believed" by Mr. Bennett, the President's attorney, Ms. Tripp grew wary. Friends say she began secretly taping Ms. Lewinsky when the young woman began confiding in her. The two women had renewed their friendship after moving on to subsequent jobs at the Pentagon.

Ms. Tripp was expected to be granted immunity in Mr. Starr's inquiry as he pursues it more deeply into the White House. There was no immediate indication of how fast he would proceed or whether he might become involved with lawyers for Paula Jones, who are scheduled to depose Ms. Lewinsky on Friday in their civil suit against the President.

Hillary Rodham Clinton defended her husband against the charges. "Certainly I believe they are false — absolutely," she declared during a visit to Goucher College in Maryland. "It's difficult and painful anytime someone you care about, you love, you admire is attacked and subjected to such relentless accusations as my husband has been."

In taping Ms. Lewinsky, Ms. Tripp turned to the Whitewater counsel's office, lawyers said, because she had previously dealt with its investigators in earlier inquiries into Whitewater offshoots that involved her time at the White House.

Ms. Goldberg, the literary agent, said she met Ms. Tripp several years ago in the course of an author's interest about a possible book on Mr. Foster's death. The two remained friends, according to Ms. Goldberg.

"When this happened, she called, she was scared, afraid she was going to be subpoenaed, totally flummoxed by it," Ms. Goldberg said. "She asked if I would stick with her and I said yes," the literary agent added, claiming she had no interest in turning the tapes into a literary project. She found the taped details repellant, she said, "shocking beyond description."

azine said today that they had considered running a report by their correspondent Michael Isikoff in this week's issue about the alleged affair but were asked by Mr. Starr's deputies to hold off on contacting principals because, in Mr. Isikoff's words, "they wanted Lewinsky to do a sting, to get Lewinsky to place a call to Jordan." In the end, Newsweek editors said, they did not think they had enough information about Ms. Lewinsky to use her name.

In a report published on line late Wednesday, Newsweek said its re-

An inquiry involving sexual tapes about the President stuns the capital.

porters had listened to some of the recordings. On one, the magazine said, Ms. Lewinsky intimates that she had a sexual relationship with the President, referring to him not by name, but as "the big he" and "the creep." She said she intends to lie about the relationship if questioned by Paula Jones's lawyers. But she also can be heard saying, "I have lied my entire life," which the magazine said raises some questions about her credibility.

Mr. Starr had been investigating the activities of Mr. Jordan in suspicion that he helped quiet former associate Attorney General Webster Hubbell in the Whitewater inquiry by obtaining a business contract for him amid his legal problems.

In quick order, as Mr. Starr avoided all substantive comment on his inquiry into the sex allegations, the possibility of eventual impeachment was raised in the Republican-controlled Congress, should the charges be born out.

Representative Henry J. Hyde, chairman of the House Judiciary committee, said of Mr. Starr's new inquiry: "It would seem to me if he verifies the authenticity of these charges, impeachment might very well be an option because subornation of perjury and tampering with witnesses, obstruction of justice are very, very serious charges. But it's important to note they're just charges as we speak."

Mr. Starr cited confidentiality requirements in declining to comment on the sudden, new direction in his inquiry beyond expressing confidence that "we are completely within our jurisdiction." In earlier clash-

es over Whitewater, Clinton defenders have accused Mr. Starr of roaming far beyond his mandate in a politically driven agenda. But his supporters emphasized that he proceeded into the new obstruction of justice inquiry with the assent of Attorney General Reno.

The White House firmly proclaimed the President's innocence and denied that the charges put Mr. Clinton in any remote risk of impeachment. Officials bridled at questions about the precise language used by Mr. Clinton in his denials, including his choice of the present tense when he was asked, "You had no sexual relationship with this young woman?"

The President replied, on the Public Broadcasting Service, "There is not a sexual relationship." In a later interview, he said there had been no improper relationship.

Asked whether he had conversations with Ms. Lewinsky about her legal predicament, Mr. Clinton offered no specific answer. "Given the state of this investigation, it would be inappropriate for me to say more," he told National Public Radio.

Individuals close to the investigation said the former intern had talked in detail of the affair and the alleged cover-up attempt last Tuesday in an emotional conversation with a friend and former White House co-worker, Ms. Tripp, equipped with a hidden recorder, was secretly taping the dialogue for Mr. Starr, according to lawyers familiar with the case.

Ms. Lewinsky told on the tapes of having become deeply involved with the President, according to the lawyers. She said she sought his advice in the legal predicament she eventually faced in having to be deposed under oath about her sex life in the separate civil sexual harassment suit brought against the President by Paula Jones, legal sources said. They reported that Ms. Lewinsky said that Mr. Clinton expressed sympathy and directed her to Mr. Jordan for advice. Mr. Jordan allegedly counseled that she deny the affair, according to individuals familiar with the investigation and some of the tearful passages of Ms. Lewinsky on tape.

Her attorney, William H. Ginsburg of Los Angeles, confirmed in television interviews that he has been in touch with Mr. Starr's office. He did not comment on the possibility of seeking immunity for cooperation by the woman, who is under pressure because she already has signed an affidavit in the Jones lawsuit flatly denying the affair. Mr. Starr presumably could threaten perjury charges against Ms. Lewinsky as a prod for her cooperation in pursuing the President and Mr. Jordan.

The New York Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1998

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