

Bush advises Clinton on future global problems



WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Clinton swept triumphantly into the capital Wednesday and held a "terrific meeting" with President Bush, soliciting advice on more than a dozen potential global problems the Democrat could inherit.

Nine weeks before his inauguration, Clinton also made a symbolic visit to a crime-plagued black business district. "I'll do my best not to get out of touch," he promised well-wishers. Thousands of people strained against police lines for a glimpse.

"I hope you'll never be disappointed," he said to one supporter.

Clinton said he and Bush discussed such global tinderboxes as Russia, Bosnia and Somalia. "He was very candid," the president-elect said. "He gave me a lot of insights. The American people should be pleased.

"It was a terrific meeting," Clinton said. The White House characterized the talks as "warm and informative." The meeting ran 45 minutes over schedule.

Bush was waiting in the White House driveway to extend a handshake as Clinton stepped from his armored black limousine — on time, notable for the often-tardy Arkansas governor.

The White House visit was the first stop on a two-day whirlwind of high-powered meetings and social engagements with the lions of the Washington establishment. Clinton's visit was intended to pave the way for a smooth transition and signal the new president's readiness to deal with Washington insiders.

Demonstrating his willingness to be a good neighbor to the community, Clinton went directly from the White House to northwest Washington for a walking tour of one of the city's black business districts.

Clinton said he was trying to demonstrate his recognition that Washington is "a city — not just government buildings" — made up of "people who don't want a handout, but a hand up."

Clinton ducked into the Hamilton Seafood Grocery, the Hamilton Laundromat and other stores near the Georgia Avenue intersection. The owner of a Chinese restaurant asked, "Do Chinese people have a friend in the White House?" Clinton replied, "Very much," and added, "I'll be good for small business."

There have been eight homicides in the last year within a mile of the neighborhood that Clinton visited.

Briefly discussing his White House meeting, Clinton said he talked with Bush about Russia, Bosnia and the Middle East.

'We've got some plans, and we're going to put them in. And I think Congress will go along.'

— Bill Clinton, president-elect

"It was helpful insight," Clinton said. "It was a great meeting."

To one shop owner, Clinton talked about the need for banks to make more credit available. "It's the quickest way to generate more jobs in America," he said.

"We've got some plans, and we're going to put them in," Clinton said. "And I think Congress will go along."

Clinton will go to Capitol Hill Thursday for meetings with Senate and House leaders, Republicans as well as Democrats. Congress holds the key to success for Clinton's ambitious agenda of economic proposals and other measures, and Clinton was eager to begin the relationship on the right foot.

Clinton in Washington; talks with common folk

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bill Clinton wanted to meet the common folk Wednesday on his trip to Washington, and he came face-to-face with Charles Wallace, who bummed a quarter from the President-elect.

"I told him I was unemployed; that I just came out of the penitentiary," said the 36-year-old Wallace, who waited for several hours to meet the Democrat.

Clinton, in his first trip to the nation's capital since winning the election two weeks ago, came to Wallace's neighborhood in northwest Washington to meet with business people whose mom-and-pop shops line Georgia Avenue near where the low-income Petworth and middle-class Brightwood neighborhoods meet.

Who's having a Capitol dinner with the Clintons?

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a city where society values nothing more than being in the know, getting an invitation to dinner with President-elect Clinton is like being publicly anointed. It marks you as part of a new inner circle.

So just who is dining with the Clintons on their first trip to Washington since the election?

Democratic congressional leaders, members of the media, city officials and friends.

In their two-day trip, the Clintons are attending two

small dinner parties — one Wednesday night at the home of transition chief Vernon Jordan and one Thursday at the Georgetown home of Democratic doyenne Pamela Harriman.

Among those on Thursday night's guest list were Tom Harkin, the Iowa senator who ran against Clinton in early Democratic primaries, and his wife, Ruth, a prominent Washington lawyer.

Arriving at Jordan's home in a fashionable area of upper northwest Washington, Clinton walked over to greet several of

Jordans' neighbors, who were waiting for him in a drizzle.

In the group was 5-year-old Max Schelligner, who handed Clinton two pennies, saying, "Here's some money. You can keep it."

Clinton handed the money back. "Save it for college," he told the boy.

"In every new administration, there's a different kind of social life, there's a different emphasis as to what's in vogue and what isn't," Ruth Harkin said.



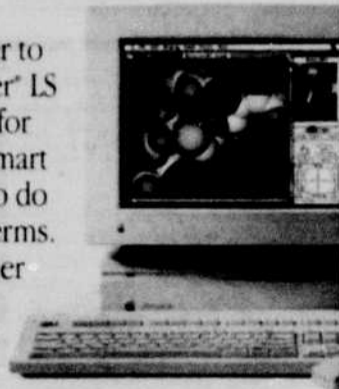
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