

Whitewater prosecutor subpoenas White House



WASHINGTON (AP) — Whitewater special prosecutor Robert Fiske subpoenaed the White House Thursday in his investigation into the conduct of President Clinton's aides after the apparent suicide of Vincent Foster.

The sweeping subpoena appeared aimed at determining whether any documents were taken from the deputy counsel's White House office or concealed from investigators after his body was found July 20 in a Virginia park outside Washington.

White House Special Counsel Lloyd Cutler pledged to cooperate "fully and promptly." Deputy counsel Joel Klein was directed to oversee collection of the

material and said some was expected to be turned over by next Tuesday.

Fiske's investigation already has reaffirmed the original finding that Foster's death was a suicide, said a source familiar with the case.

However, questions have been raised about whether White House aides tried to hide documents that had been handled by Foster.

As deputy counsel and a former law partner of Hillary Rodham Clinton's, Foster worked on some personal legal matters for the president and his wife, including the Whitewater land development project that is the principal target of Fiske's investigation.

Whitewater documents were found in Foster's office after his death, but then-White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum

initially refused to let investigators see them. Eventually, material was turned over to investigators.

A torn-up handwritten note by Foster was found in his briefcase several days after Nussbaum searched it. Some 30 hours passed before it was turned over to investigators. The FBI concluded that the time was spent checking with Foster's widow and with Clinton to resolve privacy and executive privilege questions.

Fiske's subpoena demanded all documents and communications written by Foster, sent to him or referring to him.

Specifically, it asked for information about documents removed from Foster's office, information on documents maintained in Foster's office, documents in the counsel's office and safe related to Foster and records on Foster's computer.

It also demanded information about any beeper or paging device used by Foster.

An administration official said Clinton's files would be reviewed for any Foster documents. The official said Hillary Clinton's files probably also would be checked.

Klein said that while the subpoena was extremely broad in scope, Fiske made it clear his priority was to examine files that were in Foster's office when he died and determine "where they went to and what happened to them."

Klein said Fiske doesn't want "every single document" that could fall within the scope of the subpoena but wants to give himself broad leeway to obtain any materials that could be relevant to his investigation.

Lawyer for woman charging harassment does not file lawsuit

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A lawyer representing a former state worker who has accused President Clinton of sexual harassment did not file a lawsuit Thursday as he had threatened.

Attorney Daniel Traylor had threatened to file the suit on behalf of Paula Corbin Jones, claiming Clinton violated her civil rights. He said Jones would seek an apology and damages.

But Traylor failed to appear at a 2 p.m. press conference he had scheduled, and several hours later a clerk from another law firm announced that the lawsuit would not be filed "for reasons we are not at liberty to disclose."

It was the third delay in the lawsuit by Jones, who conducted a Washington news conference to publicize her allegations Feb. 11 at a meeting of the Conservative Political Action Committee.

The White House denies an encounter with Jones took place but took the threat of litigation seriously enough to hire Washington lawyer Robert Bennett to defend the president.

Jones has said she went public with the charges because a conservative magazine, *The American Spectator*, had mischaracterized the encounter.

At her news conference, the former Arkansas Industrial Development Commission employee said that while she was working at a convention at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock, Clinton sent word through a state trooper that he wished to see her alone. She said she went to a room where she fended off an improper advance and left within 15 minutes.

Clinton releases new U.N. guidelines

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton issued guidelines Thursday designed to limit U.N. peacekeeping operations and ensure that American combat forces will never be under foreign command.

Anthony Lake, the president's national security adviser, said because "the needs for peacekeeping have out-run the resources for peacekeeping, it's important that we ask the tough questions" about when and where to support U.N. operations.

"The reality is we cannot often solve other people's problems; we can never build their nations for them," he said.

An effort has been under way since the early days of the Clinton administration to define circumstances under which the United States would participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations and to figure out a way to keep the cost down.

The United States currently pays about 30 percent of the cost of U.N. peacekeeping, and Clinton has said he wants that figure reduced to 25 percent.

The effort gained greater urgency after 18 U.S. soldiers were killed Oct. 3 in Somalia.

After that incident, Clinton conceded that the United States had been in allowing a U.N.-directed humanitarian mission to become "a waging of conflict and a highly personalized battle."

Even before the deaths in Somalia, the administration ran into sharp criticism when it was disclosed that its peacekeeping plan would allow U.S. combat troops to serve under foreign commanders.

The plan was quickly shelved after members of Congress denounced it as "a nutty idea" and unworkable.

Lake emphasized that U.S. combat troops would never serve "under foreign commanders" although they might be part of a U.N. force that was under "foreign operational control."

The guidelines issued by the White House stated that "the president retains and will never relinquish command authority over U.S. forces." It said that he would consider "placing appropriate U.S. forces under the operational control of a competent U.N. commander."

Lake declined to speculate how the new guidelines might affect any of the 18 U.N. peacekeeping operations now under way around the world.

Recording industry rejects ratings for rap lyrics

WASHINGTON (AP) — The recording industry rejected a rating system for rap lyrics, saying Thursday that a voluntary advisory label already alerts parents to lyrics that emphasize sex, violence or drugs.

"While a voluntary ratings system may be appropriate for motion pictures, its application to sound recordings would be both inappropriate and impractical," Hilary Rosen, president of the Recording Industry Association of America, told a House panel.

Rosen said the industry has taken

seriously its parental advisory program, under which record companies voluntarily put the warning label on new recordings with explicit violence, sex or drug abuse in the lyrics.

"Virtually every recording that has been the target of public controversy ... has a voluntary parental advisory on its cover," she said, adding that the program "balances the rights of free expression with the desires for social responsibility."

There has been increased debate recently about the significance of

rap's often vulgar and violent lyrics. Community activists, academics, police officers and recording industry executives speak of youthful alienation and whether music or society in general is responsible.

Like violence on television and in video games, "gangsta" rap is blamed for influencing young people to be violent.

In addition, she said, female rappers "are fighting back with messages defying their one-dimensional, subservient role" and some male rappers are expressing their concern.

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