

## Banker asked by Clinton for Whitewater advice

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton asked one of the nation's top banking regulators last New Year's weekend to "provide advice and counsel" on Whitewater issues, according to a confidential memo written by the regulator.

Eugene A. Ludwig, comptroller of the currency, said he discussed the president's request with both White House and Treasury Department officials — and then decided not to have further conversations with Clinton on the subject.

"I told them that I was not certain whether to discuss the matter with the president or the first lady," Ludwig said in the memo, obtained by The Associated Press. "Accordingly, we did not discuss the matter."

The memo was in response to a subpoena from Whitewater special counsel Robert B. Fiske Jr. asking about any Treasury Department documents or communications involving Whitewater, an Arkansas land deal in which Clinton was a partner.

Both the House and Senate banking committees are scheduled to open hearings soon on contacts between federal banking regulators and administration officials about Whitewater.

Ludwig's memo, dated last March 11, makes clear that Clinton had one of those contacts, and that Ludwig was troubled by the president's request.

White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler said Monday that Clinton was not asking Ludwig to provide his own advice but to "recommend some people to me who understand real estate transactions and could write about them for the public in a way the public could understand."

Asked how Ludwig could conclude that the president was asking him directly for advice, Cutler said in an interview, "They may not have understood one another."

Cutler said Ludwig's calls to administration officials alerted Deputy White House Counsel Joel Klein, who asked the president about the conversation.

"Joel said that since Ludwig was comptroller, he thought it was inadvisable to get that sort of information from Ludwig and he (Clinton) should get it from someone else. The president said he will get it from someone else," Cutler said.

While Ludwig said he did not get back to Clinton — who had asked about advice during the annual Renaissance Weekend conference last Dec. 30-Jan. 2 at Hilton Head Island, S.C. — the official contacted Hillary Rodham Clinton's chief of staff, Margaret Williams, on Jan. 19.

Ludwig wrote he "offered my own unsolicited view that the White House should promptly provide full public disclosure of all materials associated with Whitewater, if that had not already been done."

He also suggested to Williams that the White House should "devote one fulltime lawyer and/or other fulltime staff to the matter because of the great public visibility it was getting. Otherwise, we did not exchange any information," the memo said.

Whitewater was the name of the Arkansas land venture formerly owned by Clinton and his wife, along with James McDougal and his wife. McDougal also owned Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, which later failed. Special counsel Fiske is investigating whether Whitewater caused losses at Madison.

## Ex-wife wants share in winnings

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — Marie Hynes rarely thought about the husband who walked out 48 years ago, leaving her with three young sons and a \$7-a-week housecleaning job.

Until two months ago, that is, when the 73-year-old woman got a newspaper clipping from a relative in the mail showing a smiling John Gonsalves Sr. holding up the first check from the \$5.1 million Massachusetts lottery jackpot he won in March.

Hynes thinks she deserves part of the winnings from her former husband who lives a few miles away in Dartmouth, Mass.

She filed a claim in Family Court seeking retroactive child support payments through her sons' 21st birthdays, as well as unspecified alimony. A Tuesday hearing was scheduled.

Gonsalves offered Hynes \$10,000, but her lawyer wasn't satisfied, noting the lottery winner will receive \$170,000 a year for 20 years.

"She wanted nothing to do with me my entire life," a surprised Gonsalves said.

Hynes said life was hard after her husband left in 1946. She moved in with her mother and went on welfare while holding two jobs.

In the final divorce decree, a judge said "the question of alimony and support for said minor children is hereby left open."

Gonsalves never showed up for the proceedings and Hynes said she and her sons did not hear from him again.

Gonsalves, 71, who worked as a longshoreman, garbage truck driver and janitor, remembers things differently.

"I picked up the kids at the grandmother's all the time," Gonsalves said in a telephone interview Monday. Gonsalves' second wife, from whom he is now separated, has not filed a claim for the money.

He said he bought a house with his winnings, and gave each of his five children \$5,000.

His lawyer doesn't think much of Hynes' claim.

"He's no deadbeat dad," said David Bazar.

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