

Lewinsky would help find truth, House says

1 WASHINGTON — At a critical juncture in President Clinton's impeachment trial, House prosecutors interviewed Monica Lewinsky for almost two hours on Sunday and asserted her testimony would help the Senate "determine the truth."

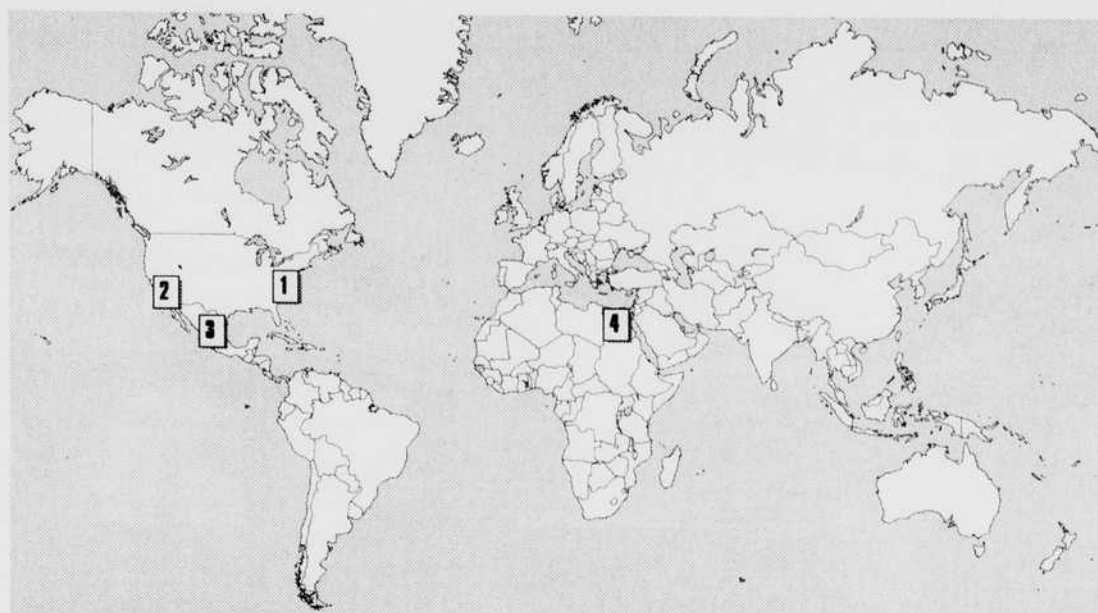
After a session that triggered partisan convulsions even before it was held, Lewinsky's lawyer, Plato Cacheris, said she "added nothing to the record that is already sitting before the Senate right now."

Yet all three House managers who participated in the interview called the session productive.

"I believe she would be a witness that would help them determine the truth, and that's what we are all endeavoring to do during this process," said Rep. Asa Hutchinson, R-Ark. Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., said Lewinsky "might be a very helpful witness to the Senate if called." Rep. Ed Bryant, R-Tenn., called the former White House intern "an impressive person."

Cacheris said his client "was candid, forthright and extremely truthful" but he insisted that anything she told the Senate would cover familiar ground. He urged the managers to tell their colleagues that it is unnecessary to call Lewinsky as a witness, so that her "long nightmare" could come to an end.

The House prosecutors were set to meet Monday, the deadline for submitting a witness list to the Senate.



'Varsity Blues' holds on to No. 1 slot

2 LOS ANGELES — "Varsity Blues," the high school tale of football, sex and beer in a Texas town, continued to draw young moviegoers to retain the No. 1 spot at the weekend box office, estimates showed Sunday.

The film, starring James Van Der Beek of TV's "Dawson's Creek," grossed an estimated \$10.6 million Friday through Saturday. That far outpaced the \$2.1 million in ticket sales for "Gloria" — the only new film in wide release.

"Gloria" stars Sharon Stone in the remake of John Cassavetes' 1980 story of a mob mistress who flees with a young boy after hit-

men kill his family. It took in a meager average of \$1,375 per location, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

"Patch Adams," which had dipped in recent weeks, jumped back to second place with \$8.1 million, followed by the legal drama "A Civil Action" with \$7.6 million.

The World War II epic "The Thin Red Line" dropped to No. 4 with \$5.8 million while "Stepmom" climbed to No. 5 with \$5.2 million.

"At First Sight" fell one spot to No. 6 in its second week with \$4.9 million and "You've Got Mail" held on to seventh place with \$4.2 million.

"The Prince of Egypt" shared its No. 8 slot with "Shakespeare in Love" at \$3.6 million each.

Pope celebrates Mass before 1 million

3 MEXICO CITY — A million faithful packed a dusty Mexico City racetrack Sunday to hear a call to arms from Pope John Paul II — a summons to take to the streets and confront the challenge of Protestant evangelism.

The papal Mass was a powerful display of the aging pontiff's spell over this predominantly Roman Catholic nation. "Mexico, always faithful!" chanted the crowd, intent on showing the pope that their affection hasn't diminished since his first trip here in 1979.

Organizers estimated the crowd at 1 million, and thousands more listened from outside the packed racetrack grounds. Parishioners

perched on sagging tree branches, stood on friends' shoulders or clambered onto loudspeaker stands to view the spectacle.

John Paul urged his audience to ignore the seductions of what he called "fallacious and novel ideologies" and to spread the word of the church — a central theme of his visit, in which he has called upon his followers to aggressively combat significant inroads made by Protestantism.

"Don't fail to respond to the Master who calls. Follow him to become, like the apostles, fishers of men," the pontiff declared. "Make Christ's word reach those who still do not know him."

Iraq walks out of Arab League debate

4 CAIRO, Egypt — Arab foreign ministers on Sunday refused Iraq's demands to strongly condemn U.N. sanctions and last month's U.S.-British airstrikes on the country, prompting Iraq to storm out of the session.

A statement agreed on by the Arab ministers pledged to work for the lifting of the sanctions, but only expressed "deep concern at the use of the military option against Iraq," instead of denouncing the attacks as "aggression," as Baghdad wanted.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf walked out in anger after the statement was agreed.

Al-Sahhaf, his face red with anger, told reporters that the league statement was "a cover for resuming the U.S.-British airstrikes" that Iraq had wanted the meeting to condemn.



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