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Clinton denied financial support

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton said Thursday that some of his friends declined to help him buy his \$1.7 million home in suburban New York because they didn't want to get "dragged around" and subjected to unwarranted allegations.

Lamenting the attitudes in Washington, Clinton said, "There's the rest of the world and the way it works and the way people view things. And then there's the way a lot of things around here work."

The president and his wife Hillary are to close on their five-bedroom home in Chappaqua, N.Y., in early November. Originally, the Clintons said they would accept a loan guarantee from Terry McAuliffe, a friend and major fund raiser for the president. But the Clintons dropped that idea amid criticism of the deal and began pursuing a conventional mortgage, sources said.

The president refused to discuss the financing arrangements but said he would make them

public if there is a change.

Clinton was asked specifically about reports that two wealthy friends, former chief of staff Erskine Bowles and former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, declined to help with the mortgage financing.

"I don't have anything to say about that," the president began. He said McAuliffe called and he said, "If you can get somebody else to do it, fine." Clinton said everyone thought it was a legitimate business arrangement and "no one thought there was anything wrong with it..."

The president added, however, "I think some people didn't want to do it because they know they live ... in the Larry Klayman political press world, in which what's true is not as important as whether you can be dragged around and you have to spend a lot of money you don't have — or you'd rather not spend — for reasons that have nothing to do with anything that's real."

Washington works differently from the rest of the country, he said, and then told reporters,

"You're all smiling because you think, 'I wonder if the president made a mistake by committing the truth in that last remark.'"

Klayman is chairman of the conservative legal-rights group Judicial Watch, which has sued the Clinton administration on numerous subjects.

The president was asked about the mortgage deal during an appearance in the White House press briefing room to discuss a new poverty report and the budget battle with Congress.

Clinton said he had to move fast to get the contract for the home because "we had just a day or two to get that house. A lot of people wanted it for the same reason we liked it. We know that a lot of people liked the house. It's a nice place. We liked it. And so we did what was necessary to secure it."

Under the original financing plan, the Clintons agreed to use their own money for the \$350,000 down payment. McAuliffe put up \$1.35 million as collateral to guarantee the mortgage.

Government lawyer in Microsoft trial resigns

By Ted Bridis
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One of the lead lawyers for the government in the antitrust trial against the Microsoft Corp. has quit the case and resigned from the New York attorney general's office just weeks before the judge's initial verdict is expected.

Stephen Houck, who resigned Wednesday, led the courtroom fight for the 19 states suing Microsoft along with the Justice Department. He also delivered part of the government's closing arguments to the judge last week.

His decision was not expected to affect the trial's outcome because New York and the other states still are pursuing their claims. Iowa's attorney general, Tom Miller, is coordinating the states' role in the trial.

"It's hard to see how this is going to affect the case," said Robert Litan, a former senior Justice official. "Turnover is normal. I don't think you can really read too

much into this."

Houck did not return messages left at his office Thursday.

Houck questioned only one of the 26 trial witnesses, IBM executive John Soyring, who also was from New York. Much of the attention during 77 days of testimony has been on Justice Department lawyer David Boies, who questioned Microsoft trial executives.

When Houck sought an expanded role early in the trial — asking a question during testimony from the first witness — the judge snapped at him harshly and reminded him that only one government lawyer was allowed to question each witness.

Houck was perhaps best known for his strong views that Microsoft should face the severest penalties for its alleged antitrust violations. On the final day of testimony, he told reporters the company was a "malignant despot" and that its behavior "will justify a very significant remedy."

Houck also was the only lawyer, besides Boies, to question Microsoft's chairman, Bill Gates, during a sworn videotaped deposition over three days last year. Shown at trial, excerpts from the tape of Gates professing to forget key events and appearing to evade questions proved embarrassing for the software giant.

Houck mentioned the Gates tape again during closing arguments last week when he said the judge "plainly has seen enough of Mr. Gates' videotaped deposition to make your own findings" about his truthfulness.

A Microsoft spokesman, Jim Cullinan, declined to comment on Houck's resignation beyond saying, "He has not applied for a job in [Microsoft] law and corporate affairs."

Houck was the head of the antitrust office for New York's attorney general until last year's election, when Democrat Eliot Spitzer defeated the incumbent and replaced Houck with Harry First.



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**vs. Auburn
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**vs. Cal. State
Northridge
Sunday
1:00pm**

**Matches played at Pape Field,
next to the Moshofsky Center.**

Volleyball

**vs. Portland
Tuesday
7:00pm**



Community brief

Pioneer Family Day benefit for house on Skinner Butte

The historic Shelton-McMurphy-Johnson house on the south face of Skinner Butte will host Pioneer Family Day 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

The event is a fund raiser to help preserve the house for the public. The event will feature covered wagon rides, music and tours of the house, which feature an exhibit of antique dolls and toys. Old-fashioned ice cream will be for sale. Guests are invited to bring a picnic lunch.

The event costs \$5 for adults, \$2 for children and \$10 for families. Cost without the covered wagon ride is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children and \$7 for families. The house is located west of the corner of Third Avenue and Pearl Street.

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