

POLITICAL POINTS

(Continued from Page 2)

nied the opportunity to challenge the lies and clarify her views.

The political process failed her and her nation. She was denied due process; she was denied a public hearing before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. In this denial was the weakening of our democracy. And thus the nation will be denied the service of this outstanding woman.

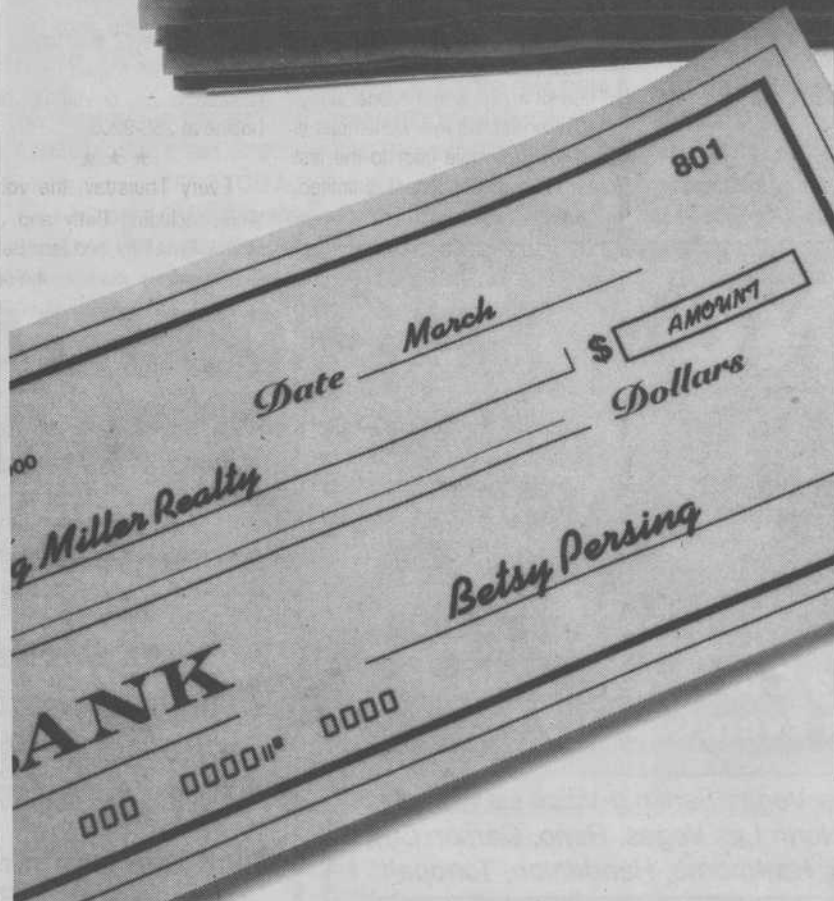
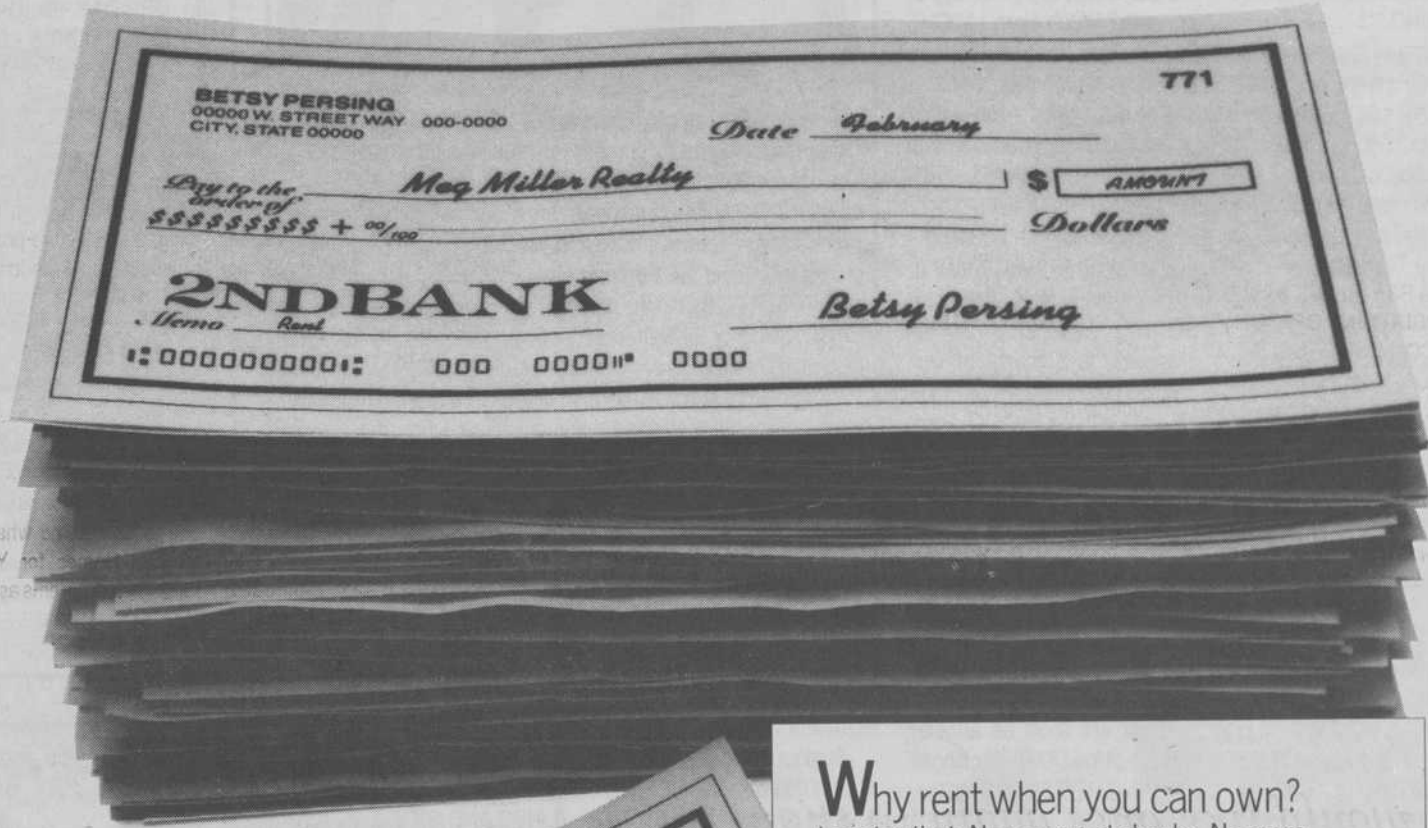
President Reagan stood by his nominee to the Supreme Court, Robert Bork, and allowed the process to be carried out. President Bush stood by Michael Williams, his controversial nominee for Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education; he stood by Clarence Thomas, and would not back down amid controversy. If Democrats and this Democratic President had been as true to Lani Guinier as the Republicans had been to Thomas, Guinier would have been afforded the basic opportunity to a public hearing, and would have been confirmed. But in the face of no aggressive White House strategy, a gag order on Guinier herself, and gross distortions by the enemies of civil rights, Guinier never had a chance. The political right was given veto power over this nomination. But, like, Fannie Lou Hamer and Rosa Parks before her, Lani Guinier stood tall and firm, not for the political left, or the political right, or the political center, but for the moral center, and would not back down. She has conducted herself with principle and dignity.

The White House's actions on the Lani Guinier nomination, following on the heels of the appointment of Reaganut David Gergen, have raised serious questions about the direction and moral center of this presidency. There is a pattern of putting individuals, groupings of people, and issues out there, and then abandoning them when the appearance of the controversy arises. Candidate Clinton's covenant with the American people — for jobs and justice — has been violated. He has thus far betrayed the trust that our vote placed him in.

The President's explanation for abandoning Guinier isn't credible. Did he apply the same criterion of agreement with his writings when he appointed Reagan's spinmaster David Gergen?

(See Political Points, Pg 17)

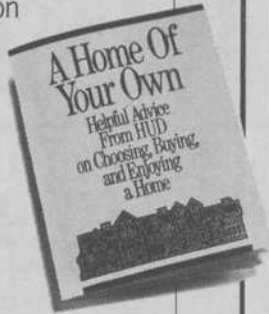
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