



New Independent Counsel investigation is initiated

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Attorney General Janet Reno has called for an independent counsel to investigate the dealings of Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. This is the seventh time a high-level member of the Clinton Administration has been placed under the investigative microscope.

Following accusations by businessman Laurent Yene, the Justice Department carried out a five-month inquiry into allegations that Herman solicited illegal campaign contributions and peddled political influence. The inquiry turned up no clear evidence that Herman was guilty of wrongdoing, yet Reno has stated that she cannot dismiss the allegations, because "a great deal of Yene's story has been corroborated."

As a citizen of Cameroon, Yene had business dealings with Herman's close friend Vanessa Weaver. The two co-owned a company called International Investments and Business Development (IIBD).

Yene alleged last November that while Herman was a Clinton aide and head of the White House Public Liaison Office from 1994 to 1996, she had a deal to receive a ten percent kickback from Weaver for aid given to IIBD clients. He further alleged that at Herman's direction, Weaver solicited campaign contributions from her company's clients in exchange for government favors. The contributions, Yene said, were funneled to the Democratic National Committee.

For example, Yene said that an IIBD client, who was a foreign national and therefore barred from contributing to U.S. campaigns, paid \$250,000

in contributions in exchange for a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license. Reno has stated that a foreign businessman did in fact send over \$250,000 to another Weaver company, Alignment Strategies Inc., and that shortly thereafter, the Weavers contributed \$240,000 to campaign funds. Before that, they had not made any large contributions.

The businessman and Weaver claim that the payment was made for a contract.

According to Reno, the Justice Department inquiry turned up "conflicting stories" in regard to this and other similar allegations.

The Justice Department found no evidence that Herman "took any steps to influence any government decision on IIBD's behalf." However, Reno has stated that "IIBD ... did benefit from its access to Herman, and through her, the White House, in impressing its clients." Herman did meet the company's prospective clients, and entertained one client at a White House luncheon.

Described by Reno as "fully cooperative" with the investigation, Herman maintains her innocence. "I'm obviously very disappointed and extremely baffled by this decision," she told reporters.

President Clinton has issued a statement of support. "I am confident that in the end, investigators will ... conclude that Ms. Herman did nothing wrong," he said of his Cabinet member.

Weaver's attorney, E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., also denies the allegations, calling Yene "a vengeful former business partner whose lack of credibility has already been established."



Former champion fosters concern for needy children

*By John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Twelve-year-old Lindsay Colbert knows "Iron Mike's" softer side.

So do hundreds of other children who attended an outdoor carnival picnic at the former boxing champion's palatial estate.

In between sharing hugs and jokes with Mike Tyson, the children bobbed for apples, played games, zipped around on carnival rides, saw exotic animals, received tee-shirts, engaged in a pie eating contest and free-throw shooting competition, and were treated to live entertainment.

Tyson opened his Southeast area home to the children and their foster parents May 9. Tyson, a foster child himself, wanted to spread joy to foster children as part of National (See Tyson, Page 16)



Photos special to the Sentinel-Voice by Alex Mendez
Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson took time out on Saturday to jokes around with the invited kids and providers at his home who are involved in the foster care program. Face painting was one of the favorite activities during the afternoon of food and fun.

Lillian McMorris to work with valley's newest newscast

*By Deborah Kohen
Sentinel-Voice*

After five years on the air daily as Nevada's only African-American television show host, Lillian McMorris will be taking a break from on-screen appearances for a few months beginning June 1 when the local Fox affiliate initiates a new daily news program.

McMorris, will continue her duties as KVVU Fox 5's public

affairs director and as host of "A.M. Southern Nevada," a public-service oriented show.

But she will move behind the scenes for a while as the station readies for its news program, "Fox 5 News at Ten." The show will air weekday evenings.

Since the talk show's production crew will be diverted to the news program, "A.M. Southern Nevada" will

go off the air for reformatting when "Fox 5 News at Ten" starts up.

Tentatively scheduled to return in September with a different format, it will be a one-hour weekly program devoted to community service information.

The revamped program will be tighter and faster-paced, McMorris said, and soft news, like segments on nutrition and

pet adoption, will be cut.

McMorris will produce the new "A.M. Southern Nevada" edition.

In the meantime, she will continue her director's duties: developing and maintaining partnerships between the station and community service organizations, coordinating the station's civic activities, creating public service programs and collecting and

disseminating information via public service announcements, community billboards and the station's website.

She will also provide community service information and stories to the news program.

When "A.M. Southern Nevada" returns to the air, McMorris expects to be given a more favorable time slot than her present 5:30 a.m. slate.



LILLIAN McMORRIS