

# Clinton, Gore testimony sought on donations

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Congressional committees investigating campaign contributions from foreign sources should hear testimony in some form from President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, Republicans said Sunday.

But Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., who leads the committee that is scheduled to begin hearings on the foreign money issue Tuesday, responded cautiously to the idea of testimony from the White House.

"I haven't addressed that and the committee has not addressed that," Thompson said on ABC's "This Week." "It's premature to get into that. I know that others have, but I choose not to at this stage," he said.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., was among lawmakers suggesting Clinton and Gore might testify, voluntarily or otherwise.

"At some point they are going to have to answer questions that are pretty direct and pretty serious" about reports of possibly illegal 1996 campaign contributions from

Asian sources and of possibly illegal fund-raising activities within the White House, Gingrich said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

"I can't imagine that (Clinton and Gore) would believe that sooner or later people wouldn't want to know, in a clear and legally binding manner, what their role was," Gingrich said.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., a former prosecutor who is a member of Thompson's Governmental Affairs Committee, said the committee should consider first "whether the vice president or even

the president would like to come in and appear before the committee on a voluntary basis."

"President Ford testified before the Congress," Specter said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "Other presidents have testified before Congress. So before we get to a question as to whether the committee's going to call on the vice president, I think the vice president ought to give consideration to coming in himself, and the president."

Thompson said his objective is to conclude the hearings satisfied

that "we had all the information that we needed from all the people we needed." But he said the president and vice president are "not just like any other individual ... You don't send off subpoenas willy-nilly down the street with regard to that."

White House special counsel Lanny J. Davis issued a statement Sunday that pledged cooperation with Thompson's committee but did not directly address the question of testimony from Clinton or Gore.

# NATION REPORT

From Wire Reports

## Hazardous waste added to fertilizer

SEATTLE — Toxic heavy metals, chemicals and radioactive wastes are being recycled as fertilizer and spread over farmers' fields nationwide — and there is no federal law requiring that they be listed as ingredients, The Seattle Times reported.

The issue came to light in the central Washington town of Quincy, population 4,000, when Mayor Patty Martin led an investigation by local farmers concerned about poor yields and sickly cattle.

In Gore, Okla., a uranium-processing plant gets rid of low-level radioactive waste by licensing it as a liquid fertilizer and spraying it over 9,000 acres of grazing land.

## Glenn hopes to take his 'right stuff' to space again

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Glenn, who was the first man to orbit the earth 35 years ago, may be close to fulfilling his dream of going back into space, this time to help in the study of aging.

"Nothing has been firmed up completely," Glenn, D-Ohio, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." Although he's wanted to return to space travel, Glenn said he would not want to do it in the absence of a real scientific reason.

Glenn, 75, said putting older people into space would give scientists a chance to look at changes in the body's immune system during aging and to study osteoporosis.

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# Baby eagles, troubled teens test their wings in Washington

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Urlick Evans gazed at the caged eagle 60 feet up in an old cottonwood and the bird glared down at him, two proud creatures struggling to adapt to their environment.

"He's wild," the 21-year-old former son of the streets said. "I was pretty much wild then, too."

The eagle, named Hoptowitz, is one of four bald eaglets being raised in temporary captivity on the banks of the Anacostia River in hopes of repopulating the nation's capital with the national symbol. Evans is one of 12 young men and women from Washington's poorest neighborhoods working to make that dream — and a few of their own — come true.

The two were brought together by the Earth Conservation Corps, a nonprofit group that was the brainchild of documentary filmmaker Robert Nixon. The corps tries to help kids from Washington's public housing projects, along with American Indians from five northwestern tribes, escape the double-barreled threat of poverty and crime by helping threatened species and habitats survive the scourge of man.

"It is a tough old world out there if you're a young eagle," said Paul Nickerson, an endangered species specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Humans pose the greatest threat to bald eagles through loss of habitat. But the North American bald eagle has made a spectacular

comeback in the 25 years since the pesticide DDT was banned. From a 1960s low of 417 nesting pairs in the lower 48 states, the number has soared to well more than 5,000 nesting pairs today.

The rebound is so encouraging that bald eagles were downgraded from an endangered to a threatened species in 1995, and eventually may be removed from the list altogether.

## The eaglets are named for four former corps members who were killed by guns or drugs.

"They're doing great," Nickerson said. "As the human population increases, the eagles are getting more tolerant and will nest in trees that are not as buffered from humankind as they used to prefer."

But bald eagles are not yet nesting in the nation's capital, and that's what the ECC hopes to change.

Each summer since 1995, the group has relocated four eaglets from Wisconsin, where bald eagles are plentiful, to the 444-acre U.S. National Arboretum and the towering cottonwoods along the Anacostia. This year's birds will be freed later this month.

It's too soon to tell if the experi-

ment is working; bald eagles don't start breeding until they are 4 or 5 years old. But the habitat is conducive — about 10 pairs are nesting outside the city — and eagles typically return to nest where they were raised.

The young guardians are engaged in a struggle of their own. Two corps members were suspended temporarily for stealing, and the eaglets are named for four former corps members who were killed by guns or drugs.

Corps members gather early every morning to feed and monitor the birds. To avoid human imprinting, they use a bucket-and-rope pulley system for feeding.

Three members hide behind a bank of trees and load a tin bucket with donated day-old fish that is sprinkled with vitamin powder. Then, using the pulley, they raise the bucket to a point above the cage and jerk the rope until the food tumbles down to the birds.

The concern and attention paid the eaglets does not go unnoticed by corps members.

"They eat more than we eat," said 20-year-old Lamont Johnson.

"And they care about them more than they do us," 19-year-old Mack Calloway chimed in.

"It's a cool program," said Calloway, who admits to past run-ins with the law. "It teaches you discipline and some responsibility. ... It's structured. When you're ready to give up the drugs, you want to get yourself established."

Evans, who was arrested on drug charges, dropped out of



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tinesa Raves, 20, Vanessa Chambers, 21, and Moe Callaway, 21, observe a bald eagle Wednesday in Washington. They are part of the Earth Conservation Corps, a program to help the threatened birds and young people from the city's housing projects.

school and couldn't find a job until he signed up with the EEC. In late June, he took the high school equivalency exam, a necessary step

to qualify for the tuition money. "From here," Evans said with a look at Hoptowitz, "I'm going straight up, straight up the ladder."

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