

Mike Espy imposed harsh new penalties against Tyson Foods. And, Espy's brother was convicted in a case stemming from the Donald Smaltz "independent" probe.

### Clinton counterattacks

With these developments rapidly unfolding, President Clinton had to either capitulate, or fight back. He chose to fight—with strong support from the First Lady.

On Jan. 26, one day before his annual State of the Union address, President Clinton appeared at a White House press conference, along with the First Lady and Vice President Albert Gore, and delivered a brief but unequivocal denial that he had had an affair with Lewinsky, or had told her to lie to attorneys for Paula Jones.

The following morning, on Jan. 27, the First Lady appeared on the NBC-TV "Today" show. She backed up President Clinton's statement of the previous day, and launched into a no-holds-barred attack against special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, televangelist Jerry Falwell, and others, whom she characterized as part of a "vast right-wing conspiracy that has been conspiring against my husband since the day he announced for President."

Clinton loyalists, including James Carville and Mandy Gruenwald, joined the fray, making widely publicized television attacks on Starr, Falwell, Mellon Scaife, et al.—which even the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* prominently featured, along with their own belated (and limited) "exposés" of the President's enemies.

Also, Monica Lewinsky's attorney, William Ginsburg, was unambiguous about the brutality of the treatment his client received at the hands of the FBI. Describing Lewinsky's 10-hour ordeal with FBI agents and prosecutors from Starr's office in a Pentagon City, Virginia hotel room on Jan. 16, Ginsburg told ABC's "Good Morning America" that Lewinsky "was devastated, concerned, upset, and fearful, [and] does not know what the future holds. Repeatedly during the course of discussions with the office of the prosecutor, we have been squeezed. Now she finds herself caught between the President of the United States, Vernon Jordan, and Kenneth Starr, probably three of the most powerful people in the world." Ginsburg said that Starr's behavior "should frighten anyone."

In response to the bad publicity, Washington sources have told *EIR* that Starr has launched a new disinformation campaign, aimed at regaining the momentum, in what now promises to be a protracted battle over the fate of the U.S. Presidency. In one embarrassing setback for Starr, the *Dallas Morning News* posted a story on its internet web site, claiming that Starr was interviewing Secret Service agents who had seen the President with Lewinsky in compromising circumstances. The story was scheduled to be the banner headline lead of the next day's edition. But overnight, the story was yanked, when the paper learned that it was a fabrication.

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## Timeline

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# The assault on the Presidency

by Edward Spannaus and Jeffrey Steinberg

**April 1991:** Linda Tripp goes to work for the Bush White House as a political appointee, following a series of civil service jobs in the Department of Defense.

**November-December 1992:** At the recommendation of senior Bush administration people, the Clinton transition team hires Linda Tripp as an administrative assistant.

**January-March 1993:** After working initially for Presidential aide Bruce Lindsey, Tripp is assigned to the Office of Legal Counsel, working for Bernard Nussbaum and sometimes for Vincent Foster.

**Winter 1993:** Tony Snow, a conservative columnist on the payroll of Rupert Murdoch's Fox TV, introduces New York City literary agent Lucianne Goldberg to Linda Tripp, as Goldberg is seeking contracts for anti-Clinton books.

**Feb. 11, 1994:** Paula Jones holds a press conference, claiming she had been accosted by Governor Clinton.

**March-April 1994:** The *Sunday Telegraph's* Washington bureau chief, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, holds a series of meetings with Paula Jones and her lawyers, pressing her to file a lawsuit against the President.

**April 1994:** Tripp is transferred from her White House job to a position at the Pentagon. Clinton loyalists have already become suspicious that Tripp has been a "mole" for Republican "Get Clinton" forces. Tripp lies to colleagues at the Pentagon that she was expelled from the White House because she "knew too much about Whitewater."

**May 5, 1994:** Paula Jones files her lawsuit against Bill Clinton. She receives extensive financial support from conservative and evangelical legal foundations, most of them funded by Richard Mellon Scaife.

**Summer 1994:** Kenneth Starr is preparing a *pro bono* legal brief for women's groups supporting Paula Jones. He is simultaneously doing work for the Landmark Legal Foundation, one of the groups bankrolled by Mellon Scaife.

**Aug. 5, 1994:** Starr is named to replace Robert Fiske as Whitewater independent counsel. The three-judge selection panel is headed by Appellate Court Judge David Sentelle.

**Summer 1995:** Monica Lewinsky becomes an unpaid intern in the White House. She is later given a paid job there, answering correspondence.

**July-August 1995:** Tripp testifies before the Senate

Whitewater committee about events surrounding the death of Vincent Foster.

**April 17, 1996:** Lewinsky is transferred to the Pentagon.

**Autumn 1996:** Lewinsky meets Tripp.

**November 1996:** Starr begins questioning Arkansas state troopers about Clinton's extramarital affairs, although there is no clear mandate for this line of investigation.

**Spring 1997:** *Newsweek's* Michael Isakoff first meets Linda Tripp, while Isakoff is working on the Paula Jones case. Lucianne Goldberg attends some of the Tripp-Isakoff meetings.

**August 1997:** Tripp speaks to *Newsweek* about an alleged sexual encounter between President Clinton and Kathleen Willey.

**Aug. 11, 1997:** Clinton's personal attorney, Robert Bennett, attacks Tripp's credibility after the Willey story breaks in the news, and Willey denies the Tripp allegations.

**Late August 1997:** Linda Tripp begins taping phone conversations with Monica Lewinsky.

**October 1997:** Tripp and Isakoff meet with Lucianne Goldberg, in Joshua Goldberg's Washington apartment. Tripp plays several of the Lewinsky tapes for Goldberg.

**Autumn 1997:** The Rutherford Institute, which is now representing Paula Jones, reportedly receives three anonymous phone calls from a woman, alerting them to a Lewinsky-Clinton "affair." Earlier, an anonymous call, also from a woman, had reportedly tipped off the Rutherford lawyers about Kathleen Willey.

**Dec. 17, 1997:** Lewinsky and Tripp are subpoenaed by Jones's lawyers, to be deposed for the upcoming civil suit against the President.

**Dec. 26, 1997:** Lewinsky leaves her job at the Pentagon.

**Jan. 7, 1998:** Lewinsky signs an affidavit denying that she had had an affair with President Clinton.

**Jan. 10-12, 1998:** Sometime during this 72-hour period, Linda Tripp brings her tapes to Kenneth Starr.

**Jan. 13, 1998:** Tripp meets Lewinsky at Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Pentagon City, Virginia; Tripp is wearing a wire, with FBI agents in hiding. At this point, Starr still has no jurisdiction to probe the Lewinsky matter.

**Jan. 15, 1998:** Starr meets Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder and requests expansion of his investigative authority.

**Jan. 16, 1998:** Reno applies to the three-judge panel for expansion of Starr's investigation. The request is immediately approved.

**Jan. 16, 1998:** Starr interviews Hillary Clinton under oath at the White House.

**Jan. 16, 1998:** Tripp meets Lewinsky at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel; FBI agents grab Lewinsky and bring her up to a hotel suite, where they try to compel her to take immunity — without a lawyer present — and then attempt to entrap Vernon Jordan and President Clinton's personal secretary, Betty Currie.

**Jan. 18, 1998:** Clinton's deposition is taken in the Paula Jones case.

## President seeks to expedite Jones trial

by Edward Spannaus

On Jan. 26, President Clinton's lawyers asked a Federal judge to move up the date of the trial in the Paula Jones case, charging that Jones's lawyers had teamed up with Whitewater special prosecutor Kenneth Starr to destroy the President.

Last May, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Constitution of the United States does not bar the President of the United States from being subject to a civil suit arising out of events that took place before the President took office. The high court's ruling left open the possibility that the case could still be delayed or the trial postponed, saying that the District Court must decide this on the basis of a specific showing of how the suit might interfere with the President's duties — not on general Constitutional grounds.

It was the pre-trial discovery in the Paula Jones case, which provided the pretext for Linda Tripp and others to collaborate with Jones' lawyers to have a subpoena issued to Monica Lewinsky on the Jones case; apparently President Clinton was also questioned about Lewinsky during his deposition in the Jones case on Jan. 17.

Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr then took the pretext to insert himself and his criminal investigation into the sordid Tripp-Lewinsky matter. Starr's involvement was triggered by allegations that Lewinsky had lied in an affidavit submitted in the Jones case, and that Clinton had lied in his deposition. Were it not for the existence of the civil suit brought by Jones, Starr would have had no excuse to become involved.

In their Jan. 26 motion, Clinton's lawyers argued that the Jones case has become too much of a distraction for Clinton to effectively run the country, and they noted that the case had become "a vehicle for parties allied in an attempt to destroy the President."

Then on Jan. 29, Starr filed a surprise motion, seeking to halt *all* pre-trial discovery in the Paula Jones case, saying that lawyers for both Jones and Clinton were "shadowing" his case and interfering with his criminal investigation, by pursuing the same evidence and witnesses.

Judge Susan Webber Wright stunned all sides in her ruling issued late on Jan. 29. Not only did she halt discovery regarding Lewinsky, but she went further, and ruled that *any* evidence concerning the Lewinsky matter would be excluded from the case altogether, stating that "the substantial interests