

LIVING ROOM TIMES

BINDER UPDATE

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THE WEIGHT OF HISTORY

Mood somber as Senate begins first presidential impeachment trial in 130 years; no agreement reached yet on how to proceed

"Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye. All persons are commanded to maintain silence on pain of imprisonment while the House of Representatives is exhibiting to the Senate of the United States articles of impeachment against William Jefferson Clinton, president of the United States."
—**Sergeant-at-Arms James W. Ziglar**

"We have an awesome responsibility."
—**Don Nickles, Senate Majority Whip**

"I was saddened by the fact that we have to do this."
—**Henry Hyde, House manager**

"Save the Presidency; Jail Kenneth 'Porno' Starr"
—**sign at a protest in California**

"We are in the process of doing things in defense of our society which may very well produce a society which is not worth defending."
—**John LaCarré, quoted on Ms. Perkins's chalkboard Thursday**

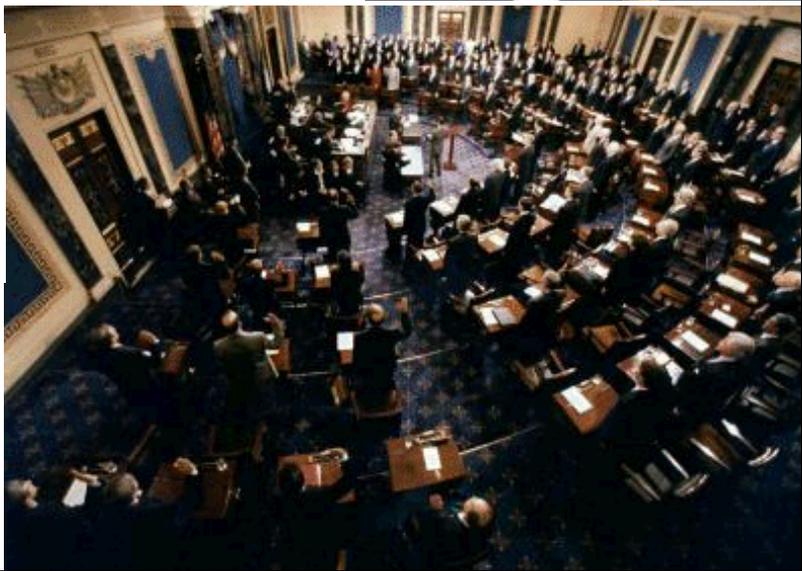
WASHINGTON (Reuters)— The Senate opened the first presidential impeachment trial in more than 130 years Thursday, sitting in judgement on whether President Clinton should be removed from office for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Standing at their desks in the Senate chamber, the 100 senators raised their right hands to take their oaths as jurors before presiding officer Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Rehnquist had been sworn in minutes earlier by Senate Presi-
(Continued on page 2)



Above right: Bill Clinton attends an education-related event in the White House East Room on Thursday, the day his impeachment trial began in the Senate. **Right:** All 100 U.S. Senators take an oath of impartiality, swearing them in as jurors for the first presidential impeachment trial since 1868. **Below:** Brendan Loy watches the trial live on C-SPAN2 using a TV in the Newington High AV Room during seventh period Thursday.



Newington to battle Maloney tonight

Bolduc looks for first point, team strives to break .500

Newington girls basketball senior co-captain Jen Bolduc, who returned triumphantly to the lineup Tuesday after missing the first seven games of the season while she recovered from knee surgery, will be looking for her first points of the season tonight as her team seeks to break .500 and have a winning record for the first time this season.

The Indians (4-4, 1-1 CCC South) host Maloney (0-7, 0-2) tonight at 7:00 PM in the Richard E. Rogalski gymnasium.

Bolduc did not score any points Tuesday night, but turned in a good performance overall on the unofficially named "Jen Bolduc Day" as Newington came from 10 points behind in the game's last four minutes to defeat Bristol Central, 43-41.

Newington's overall record has reached .500 three times this season—at 2-2, 3-3, and 4-4—but has not climbed above that percentage.

The Indians' conference record is also exactly .500, and they are currently fifth in the CCC South standings with that 1-1 mark, behind Bulkeley (2-0), Platt (1-0), New Britain (1-0), and Bristol Eastern (2-1). Maloney (0-2) is tied for last place with Bristol Central (0-1) and Southington (0-2), but its most recent game was a loss to New Britain, the defending Class LL state champion, by just seven points.



Above: Senior co-captain Jen Bolduc attempts a shot Tuesday in the first half of Newington's win over Bristol Central. Bolduc did not score on Tuesday in her first game of the season, and she will be looking tonight for her first points of the season.

Senate begins presidential impeachment

(Continued from page 1)

dent Pro Tempore Strom Thurmond as the Senate began a constitutional process used only once before in U.S. history.

But the trial opened with no clear rules for how it would proceed, as a flurry of closed-door meetings

failed to reach an accord on how long it should last and whether witnesses would be called as requested by the House of Representatives.

In a series of false starts and blunted initiatives, a bipartisan meeting of all senators was announced and

(Continued on page 3)

2000: The year of the political wife?

First, Elizabeth Dole for President; now, Hillary Clinton for Senate?



Above: Bill and Hillary Clinton attend a White House event together on Thursday.

Associated Press— Hillary Rodham Clinton is being urged by some Democrats to run for the Senate from New York in 2000. While friends are quietly circulating her name as a potential candidate, the first lady's closest aides say she is not actively considering the bid—at least not now while the Monica Lewinsky scandal and the Senate trial are threatening her husband's continuation in office. "She's aware that people are speculating about what she might do in 2000, but at this point she has no plans to run for elective office," said the first lady's spokeswoman, Marsha Berry. "For the next two years, she wants to make the most out of being first lady. I'm not in the position to rule it out. I'm just telling you I can't tell you." The Hillary-for-Senate campaign got new life on Sunday when Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., told NBC that he wouldn't be surprised if Mrs. Clinton ran for the seat long held by Democratic Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who is not seeking re-election. The White House says Torricelli was acting on his own, and did not make the comment on Mrs. Clinton's behalf. Judith Hope, chairwoman of the New York Democratic Party, said Mrs. Clinton asked her several months ago not to encourage speculation about a Senate bid. "I would be surprised if this is what she chose to do," said Hope. Still, several of the first lady's confidants admitted on condition of anonymity that there is something to the rumors.

Senate impeachment trial begins

(Continued from page 2)

then postponed, with a vote on competing Democratic and Republican trial plans announced and then postponed almost as quickly.

By the end of the day, both sides had fashioned proposals that differed primarily on calling witnesses -- the Republicans would leave the door open for them, while the Democrats would not allow them.

Republican Leader Trent Lott and Democratic Leader Tom Daschle vowed at a joint news conference they would continue to work for a bipartisan agreement.

A meeting of all senators was scheduled for Friday morning, with a vote planned in the afternoon -- either one vote on an agreement that would be included in a summons to the White House, or two votes on the competing proposals.

"Senator Daschle and I are not dictators," Lott said of the standoff. "We have to bring along 98 other senators."

The White House objected to any attempt to continue the trial without clear rules on how to proceed.

"I would suggest that that would be a situation, an environment, that is manifestly unfair to the president," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said.

Lott met with Hyde and the House managers late Thursday to try to work through the possible arrangements.

Under a plan discussed at a Republican caucus late Thursday, the House and White House would get 24 hours to present their cases, senators said. If either side wanted to call witnesses, it would then have to explain why and the Senate would vote on each request.

The rules of the Senate require a majority vote of 51 senators to issue subpoenas, meaning six Republicans could join Democrats to block a witness being called.

The plan by Senate Democrats would not allow witnesses. It would give each side two days to present its case and senators two days to ask questions, with one day for closing arguments, two days for deliberations and final votes on January 26.

Democrats have said calling witnesses would almost certainly open the door to a prolonged and contentious trial that could break into the kind of partisan rancor displayed during the House inquiry.

Sen. John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat, said he thought the caucus could reach some type of agreement. "We think there is certainly some potential for real progress," Kerry said.

Lott said the Republican plan would allow the trial to be wrapped up and articles of impeachment voted on

by Feb. 5 or at the latest, Feb. 12.

"Let's have the presentations, the opening statements, the evidence, and the House explain why they might need this particular witness to clarify this particular fact, or the White House, then let the Senate consider that and vote," Lott said.

A two-thirds vote of senators would be required to convict Clinton and remove him from office, which at this point is considered unlikely.

The trial began in the morning when a group of 13 House members who will act as prosecutors walked across the Capitol and into the Senate chamber.

House Judiciary Chairman Henry Hyde read two articles of impeachment alleging Clinton should be removed from office for committing perjury and obstructing justice in hiding his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Senators sat solemnly as Hyde read the articles, passed on largely party-line votes by the House in December. Senators and spectators were instructed by the sergeant-at-arms to remain silent on "pain of imprisonment."

"I was saddened by the fact that we have to do this," Hyde told reporters afterward, adding that during the presentation he was "not so much jittery -- it's a little depressing. All of us wish we could move ahead and get this over with."

Among the witnesses House managers have said they might call are key players in the scandal drama such as Lewinsky and Clinton secretary Betty Currie.

"I believe that there are a number of moderate Republicans who just don't want to see the debacle of Monica Lewinsky on the floor of the Senate," said Sen. Tom Harkin, an Iowa Democrat. "What will this degenerate into? Where did he touch you? How did he touch you? How did it feel?"

The need for witnesses could depend on how much evidence the White House and prosecutors fail to agree on. Hoping to head off witnesses or the presentation of new evidence, the White House said Thursday it would be willing to accept the evidence presented by the House in its impeachment report.

"We're willing to have the case tried based on that record," Lockhart told reporters. Senators in both parties were not overly impressed with the offer, however, with Republicans noting it would only hold if there were no witnesses.

The only previous presidential impeachment trial was of President Andrew Johnson, who escaped conviction by one vote in 1868.