

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 397

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the President's use of the White House Counsel's Office in matters relating to his personal legal battles.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 1998

Mr. HAYWORTH (for himself, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. STUMP, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. MCCRERY, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. RYUN, Mr. NEUMANN, Mr. DELAY, Mr. COBLE, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. SMITH of Michigan) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the President's use of the White House Counsel's Office in matters relating to his personal legal battles.

Whereas the White House Counsel's office was established to assist the President in legal analyses of pressing national official issues;

Whereas President George Bush maintained a staff of no more than 8 professional lawyers in the Counsel's office, even during the time of the Persian Gulf crisis;

Whereas, after being sworn into office in 1993, President Clinton maintained a staff of 4 attorneys in the White House Counsel's office;

Whereas, currently, President Clinton maintains a White House Counsel's office staff of 33, at an unprecedented cost of \$2,360,000 in salaries alone, all paid by the taxpayers;

Whereas 15 of the attorneys at the White House Counsel's office are "on loan" from other executive branch agencies;

Whereas the White House budget report shows that the White House overall has as many as 77 total lawyers on staff and 21 total lawyers on loan;

Whereas salary expenses of the White House Counsel's office comprise nearly 10 percent of the total White House salary budget;

Whereas the Chief White House Counsel stated that he spends at least half of his taxpayer-funded office hours working on the President's personal legal issues and such work clearly is not in any way related to official duties of the Office of the President;

Whereas the President retains additional attorneys paid for out of his legal defense fund and these attorneys should bear the sole responsibility for handling the President's personal legal battles; and

Whereas the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals has found that "to allow any part of the Federal Government to use its in-house attorneys as a shield against the production of information relevant to a Federal criminal investigation would represent a gross misuse of public assets": Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the President should maintain a dis-
2 tinct line between private legal matters and those legal
3 matters related to the official business of the United
4 States and should immediately discontinue using taxpayer
5 funded attorneys to work on his personal legal matters.

