

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 308

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the failure of Attorney General Janet Reno to seek application for an independent counsel to investigate a number of matters relating to the financing of campaigns in the 1996 Federal election, including the conduct of President Clinton and Vice President Gore.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 1998

Mr. BARR of Georgia submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the failure of Attorney General Janet Reno to seek application for an independent counsel to investigate a number of matters relating to the financing of campaigns in the 1996 Federal election, including the conduct of President Clinton and Vice President Gore.

Whereas the majority of the members of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, in letters dated March 12, 1997, and September 3, 1997, requested that the Attorney General request the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate a number of matters relating to the financing of campaigns in the

1996 Federal election, including the conduct of President Clinton and Vice President Gore;

Whereas the majority of the members of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, in a letter dated March 13, 1997, requested that the Attorney General request the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate a number of matters relating to the financing of campaigns in the 1996 Federal election, including the conduct of the President and the Vice President;

Whereas the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Louis Freeh, in a memorandum sent to the Attorney General in November 1997, called for the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate matters relating to the financing of campaigns in the 1996 Federal election;

Whereas the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation stated in the memorandum, “It is difficult to imagine a more compelling situation for appointing an independent counsel.”;

Whereas the Attorney General has denied the requests of the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate to request the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate a number of matters relating to the financing of campaigns in the 1996 Federal election;

Whereas after a 10-month inquiry, Charles G. La Bella, the Chief of the Department of Justice’s campaign finance unit, has submitted a report to the Attorney General stating there is no alternative but to seek an independent counsel to investigate the political fundraising abuses in President Clinton’s reelection campaign; and

Whereas Mr. La Bella concluded that there was sufficient information to warrant the appointment based on the mandatory and discretionary provisions of the independent counsel statute: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) deplors the refusal of the Attorney General
4 to seek application for an independent counsel, pur-
5 suant to chapter 40 of title 28, United States Code,
6 concerning the 1996 election campaign of President
7 William Jefferson Clinton and Vice President Albert
8 Gore;

9 (2) condemns the continued control of the in-
10 vestigation by the Attorney General, despite her ac-
11 tual conflict of interest in investigating, among oth-
12 ers, the President at whose pleasure she serves, and
13 the Vice President;

14 (3) laments the loss of confidence of the Amer-
15 ican people in their Department of Justice, engen-
16 dered by this investigation, which continues to un-
17 dermine the notion of one standard of justice for all
18 Americans, regardless of position;

19 (4) instructs the Attorney General to faithfully
20 uphold and execute the laws she has sworn to up-
21 hold, specifically by seeking application for an inde-

1 pendent counsel to investigate the 1996 Clinton-
2 Gore campaign, without further wrongful delay; and
3 (5) instructs the President to request that the
4 Attorney General seek application for an independ-
5 ent counsel to investigate the 1996 Clinton-Gore
6 campaign, without further wrongful delay.

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