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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PRESS CONFERENCE

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Get-Acquainted Session

with

ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO

Tuesday, March 23, 1993

12:00 noon

U.S. Department of Justice
Press Conference Room B
10th & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

P R O C E E D I N G S

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I've been in office about a week now, and I told you I'd try to be accessible, so I'm here to answer any questions you all might have.

QUESTION: You have no statement?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I have no statement.

QUESTION: Can I ask you a question about William Sessions? What do you think, now that you've had some time to review the situation, about William Sessions, and is the stand-off in Waco, Texas, the only thing that is keeping him in his job at present?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: The two issues are independent. I am proceeding to do as I indication, which was to review reports and talk to people, and make the best recommendation I can, after I've completed my entire review.

QUESTION: In what stage is the review?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Pending.

QUESTION: What's your reaction to published reports this morning saying that his successor has already been chosen?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I haven't chosen him, and the President hasn't chosen him, and I don't know who else

would choose him.

QUESTION: Have you met with Mr. Sessions face to face in conjunction with your review of his situation?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Excuse me, I didn't hear.

QUESTION: Will you interview Judge Sessions, one-on-one or face to face, in connection with his continuing as FBI Director as part of your investigation?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I would certainly welcome the opportunity to visit with him.

QUESTION: Has he not asked?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No.

QUESTION: Have you not invited him?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I'm not at the stage yet of inviting anybody.

QUESTION: What happens to the FBI is obviously of major concern to the whole country -- it's supposed to be lead law enforcement agency. Can you give us some kind of an idea of the time frame -- when the decision will be made -- as to whether the director of this organization will stay or go?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It will be made as soon as possible, consistent with thoroughness, objectivity and fairness.

QUESTION: Can you give us some idea of **how** long such a process would take?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, because I never know what I will learn. I learned long ago, when media ask me that question never to commit in time, because something new may come up that would prevent me from honoring the time commitment I've provided.

QUESTION: What is the status of the U.S. Attorneys?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We have asked -- I think the U.S. Attorneys, having worked so closely with them, are absolutely integral to the whole success of the Department of Justice, and to the building of the Department of Justice as a team -- a team both in people here in Main Justice and throughout America.

The U.S. Attorneys were the one group that did not submit resignations. I have asked for their resignations, at the request of the President. We're going to try to do it in a very orderly way, that does not impact in any way on any pending matter, and we have already received selections from Senators.

We are sending to Senators a description of what we're looking for in terms of U.S. Attorneys -- basically,

U.S. Attorneys that represent excellence, that represent diversity, professionalism and integrity.

QUESTION: Why are you asking for the resignations?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We're asking for the resignations so that the U.S. Attorneys presently in position will know where they stand, and that we can begin to build a team that reflect a Department of Justice that represents my views and the views of President Clinton.

QUESTION: I'd like to clarify one thing on the Sessions issue. There is certainly some reporting, both last week and this morning, that suggests that the Sessions decision has been made, it's a done-deal, that really everything from here on out is just merely a formality.

Can you address that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It has not been made by me, and it has not been made by the President. I don't know of anybody else who has the authority to make such a decision.

QUESTION: With respect to the United States Attorneys, can you tell us what your policy will be if they have a case where a member of Congress might be indicted? Will you want to be apprised of that in advance, and will you take any steps to review that sort of decision?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It will depend on each particular case, and how it's done, and what the issues are, and what is involved.

QUESTION: So it won't be a matter of policy, then, for you to be made aware of this?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I think that the Attorney General of the United States ought to know in advance that a member of Congress is going to be charged, but one of the things that I have tried to do is to make sure that the procedures that are in place for indicting anybody, whether it be a citizen in the community or a leader in this Nation, that it's fair and objective, and that people are not treated differently just because of who they are.

QUESTION: Will you also set guidelines for where members of Congress can be tried, in terms of, would there be a racial balance required on juries, as in this matter arising out of the Ford case?

And secondarily, will members of Congress -- will people on the political side of your operation be allowed to arrange meetings with people on the criminal side, for members of Congress to discuss their case, or members of Congress to discuss other congressmen's cases?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: With respect to an individual defendant, whether it be a citizen in the street or a leader, whoever they are, they ought to have -- and they are charged, and they are a defendant, their lawyer ought to have the right, if there is a matter to be discussed with the appropriate agency or appropriate division of the Department of Justice, to discuss it, and that will always be available in terms of appropriate review, in terms of the litigation itself.

With respect to other people who have any information, or want to discuss pending criminal cases, they will be told to do it through counsel. If they have evidence that they think is relevant to the case, they will be told to provide that evidence to investigators who will review it.

If they say that they have law that they would like to be considered, the best way for that law to be considered is through counsel. Where there are issues of policies that may impinge on a pending case, we'll have to look at that very carefully, because all Americans, no matter who they are, ought to have a chance to address themselves on policy.

QUESTION: On the jury question, can you answer another jury question? There's a great deal of concern in

the country about the racial balance on juries.

Do you plan to issue guidelines to U.S. Attorneys on when they can move cases, and whether they can move cases only to cities that have the same kind of balance?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: With each case, we will look at it based on the law, and based on the circumstances of that case, and try to make the best judgment possible, based on the law.

QUESTION: This morning the Supreme Court issued a decision in the Flores case, regarding alien juveniles and their detention. This was not this administration's policy, and in fact it has been enjoined until today.

Do you have any intention of reviewing this policy, and possibly changing the regulation?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I'm not aware of the decision, and I will certainly have somebody check into it and report to me.

QUESTION: General Reno, on the U.S. Attorney resignations, how many U.S. Attorneys are there, and how many have already submitted their resignations?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't know the precise number that have submitted resignations. The last I heard, I

believe it was 15, but I can ask somebody to provide you with more specific information.

QUESTION: When did you ask for their resignations?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We're asking for it today.

QUESTION: Was this something that you went to the President and said I'd like to do, or did the President make a suggestion to you that this was something that he would like to have done?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I think this was a joint decision, that it really came up in our mutual discussions, that we had to move forward, because when we had met we had agreed that choosing U.S. Attorneys is going to be key to our vision of what the Department of Justice should represent.

QUESTION: You indicated last week that you were getting a report from the Civil Rights and Criminal Divisions on your directive that they look at current Federal law and see if anything can be done to affect abortion -- women exercising the right to choose?. What's the status on that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: The status of that is that I've received the reports, that I do not feel that remedies, in light of the Bray decision, are adequate.

I have asked our staff to work with congressional

staff to do anything possible to develop legislation that addresses these issues in the most effective manner possible. I think one of their first meetings with the staff was last Friday, I think it was productive, and I look forward to working with Congress to secure the passage of such legislation.

QUESTION: Just so I understand, you're saying that current law -- as far as you can tell, current law cannot now be used to --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, current Federal law, light of the Bray decision, I don't think is adequate to address the issue to prevent, or to help prevent, physical interference with access to abortion clinics.

QUESTION: What about calling in the marshals -- the Federal marshals, as was done during the civil rights integration days in the '50s and '60s, as has been suggested by some?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Well, I think one of the problems we face is the Bray decision, and then what we are looking for, because you can't call marshals in without some Federal authority, is to do it in the right way, the most effective manner possible.

We have concluded that passage of this legislation is a priority, it is important, and we're going to work with Congress in every way to secure passage of it.

QUESTION: Why do you think it is important?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I think that a woman's right to choose should be protected. I think it should be protected from physical conduct that prevents that right to choose from being freely exercised.

QUESTION: General Reno, along those line, you had said the first day that you were sworn in that you would look to see if there were any Federal laws implicated in the Dr. David Gunn murder.

What's going on there? Will the Justice Department become involved in that prosecution?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We reviewed it, I have talked with Mrs. Gunn and her daughter. I'm very satisfied at the process that's now underway in Florida. Florida law on this subject is more effective than Federal law in dealing with the issue, and Florida authorities are proceeding, I think, as effectively as possible.

QUESTION: Tim Esish from WPLG in Miami. Will there be a decision soon on the HIV-infected Haitians in

Guantanamo?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: My understanding is that a Federal court has not yet issued its order. I'm looking to review that order. I'm still being briefed on all the issues involving the situation with respect to the Haitians in Guantanamo. I have not been fully briefed on the diplomatic side of it, to provide informed advice to the President.

QUESTION: On the U.S. Attorney decision, are you saying that these resignations are going to be effective, essentially, by return mail, or at what point would you actually anticipate they would leave?

And are you saying that those who are handling perhaps some sensitive cases may be allowed to remain for some period of time?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We're going to work with the Senators. Some Senators have already sent in their selections. I hope to begin interviews, hopefully, this week, just as soon as possible, so that we can get people in place, and that we can provide as smooth a transition as possible, to avoid any impact on any pending work in any U.S. Attorney's office.

QUESTION: Aaron Epstein, Knight-Ridder. Are you

changing, in any way, the political influence -- that is, the Senators' influence -- on the appointment of U.S. Attorneys?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I can't speak for the past 12 years, but traditionally if the White House is in power it will look to its party if it has the prevailing voice in Congress, and so the White House will be looking to the Senators of the democratic party to make nominations or suggestions.

What we're trying to do is to work with Senators to do everything possible to secure the best possible appointments, that represent excellence and diversity.

QUESTION: Could you tell us about your plan to remove Jay Stephens? And do you also have any comment on the Rostenkowski case that his office is working on?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I'm not familiar with the Rostenkowski case. Mr Stephens is one of all of the U.S. Attorneys whose resignation has been asked for. He has not been singled out in any way.

QUESTION: You mean like, right now, you want them out? You want to terminate them?

QUESTION: Or are they remaining in office for some time?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, that's not what I said.

QUESTION: What are you saying?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I said that we have asked for the resignation of the U.S. Attorneys, so that they will know where they stand, and that we will accept the resignations and work out the transition to avoid any impact on any impending case.

QUESTION: Effective when?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It will depend.

QUESTION: What is Mr. Stephens' status today?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: He's the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia.

QUESTION: He has not submitted his resignation?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Not to my knowledge.

QUESTION: Do you anticipate not accepting any resignations at this point?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't know. I'm going to take each one submitted on a case by case basis, and make the appropriate decision based on whether there is a selection that has been made, or that can be made, based on who is present in the office, in terms of career staff, who can carry forward, as many have done before, and do everything

possible to make sure that there is no adverse impact on any pending cases.

QUESTION: Some of them may stay on then?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: That will depend [on the factors I have outlined above.]

QUESTION: If it is alleged that you're asking for Stephens' resignation because they're close to indicting Rostenkowski, what would you say to that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I haven't asked for Stephens' resignation, I've asked for the resignation of all the U.S. Attorneys, as a part of an orderly transfer to a new administration, so that the new administration can choose its U.S. Attorneys which it thinks is absolutely integral to the Department of Justice, and based on what we think the qualifications for U.S. Attorneys should be.

QUESTION: And there's no linkage between that decision and Rostenkowski?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No linkage whatsoever.

QUESTION: Are you asking for more than one name from each Senator? Are you asking for each Senator to also submit the names of women and minorities?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We will be submitted to the

Senators this week a statement of what we hope will be reflected in the selections for U.S. Attorney, again concentrating on excellence, on professionalism -- it will be great if they have prosecutorial experience.

I am going to look for people who are objective and fair, and based on what I have heard from the Senators, I think we can work together.

QUESTION: How many names do you want from each Senator? Do you want more than one name?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: If one name reflects excellence, diversity, professionalism and integrity, I welcome that one name.

QUESTION: Will we be able to see the statement that you send to the Senators?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Um-hmm.

QUESTION: Can you tell us a little bit about the selection process now going on for the new Supreme Court justice, and have you been involved in that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Yes, and I have recommended that there be an open search, so that we secure the very best, that represents the best selection that the President can possibly make.

QUESTION: What do you mean by an open search?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: So that everybody is clear, so that people are consulted throughout American, so that it is a process that people can have confidence in, in making sure that the first judicial appointment for the Supreme Court by this administration reflects this administration's deep and abiding concern for justice for all.

QUESTION: Do you think the candidate's stand on abortion should be considered in this review?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I think the President has made clear that he will look to candidates who have expressed support for a woman's right to choose, but I think he has also made very clear that he will not ask them how they will rule on a specific impending case.

QUESTION: Ms. Reno, could I return for a moment to Jay Stephens? There isn't a Senator from the District of Columbia; the President has the power to name a new U.S. Attorney tomorrow if he wishes. Is that imminent? Do you have candidates you are considering? Are there people -- has this been under discussion?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't have any candidates that I have considered for U.S. Attorney yet. I have looked

at some of the various nominations. I've heard various names, but I don't have any candidates, and haven't interviewed anybody yet.

QUESTION: Will you give a higher priority to places where there already is no U.S. Attorney present, or where one has resigned -- say, west Tennessee, where the Attorney resigned over the Harold Ford case? Do you give a higher priority to filling that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: What we're going to do is to try to give a high priority to doing everything possible to avoid any impact on any pending matter in any U.S. Attorney's office in the country.

QUESTION: When do you anticipate making the announcement on the Deputy Attorney General and the other positions in the Justice Department, and can you share with us any of the feedback you've been getting from the Senate on this process?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I expect to make an announcement when I finish reviewing the possible applicants, and make a final decision. One of the things that I think came out of the confirmation hearings was a good dialogue between the Senators and me.

It's been helpful to me to talk to people, to get their views, in trying to make the best and most informed decision possible.

QUESTION: Ms. Reno, just to follow up on something you said about the Waco situation and Judge Sessions. Are you saying that whatever happens in Waco has nothing whatsoever to do with Judge Sessions' position as Director of the FBI, or your decision whether he stays?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: That's correct.

QUESTION: So if the stand-off ends tomorrow, that doesn't necessarily mean Judge Sessions would be removed tomorrow, if you all had concluded that --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Oh, I haven't concluded that he should be removed, and I haven't determined that he should stay, because I haven't concluded my review of the matter. And when I conclude my review of the matter, I will make a recommendation to the President.

QUESTION: Would the same thing hold true of the World Trade Center bombing in New York, that the FBI's conduct of that investigation has nothing to do with Judge Sessions' situation?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: That is correct.

QUESTION: Ms. Reno, if you in fact have not completed your review, do you think it's strange that apparently the White House has been interviewing candidates, or has interviewed at least one possible candidate, for the job?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't know anything about that. You'd have to check with the White House.

QUESTION: Well, do you think that there's a chance that the White House would just make a choice without your input?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No.

[Laughter.]

QUESTION: Ms. Reno, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association has asked the Department for an antitrust exemption, so that its members can get together and decide on a voluntary price restraint program, and Senator Metzenbaum has urged you not to grant that exemption.

Has there been any decision on that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No. Obviously I'm looking to put in place an Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division to work with me and advise me on that matter as soon as possible.

QUESTION: Ms. Reno, you told us last week that you had written a reminder to yourself, if you hadn't heard from Nicholas Bua by a certain date to give him a call.

Have you heard from him? Is there any hope for an end to his inquiry on Inslaw?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I didn't have to hear from him because we received word that I could expect the report this week.

QUESTION: And how quickly will that be made public?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't know, because I don't know what's in the report.

QUESTION: Ms. Reno, last week 17 Senators asked for the FBI to get involved in investigating attacks on abortion clinics nationwide, and the FBI said under current law, or current policy there was no Federal law that would allow them to do that.

In light of your comments earlier about the need for new legislation, you say that the FBI cannot start investigating that? You will be directing them to investigate or not to investigate it?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't think that the remedies are adequate under Federal law at this time. I

think in terms of the Gunn case that the State remedies are adequate, and that State officials are pursuing it.

I think the most effective remedy will be legislation. I think it is imperative that we move toward that, and we're working with the Congress in every way possible in that effort.

QUESTION: Ms. Reno, Bill Gibson, Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel. I notice you're meeting with some women's congressional groups later this week. Have you encountered any difficulties being accepted by a male-dominated establishment here in the Department or in Washington generally?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Well, to begin with, the Senator Judiciary Committee was certainly welcoming, and made me feel right at home in Washington, and then the United States Senate certainly made me feel right at home in Washington, and the President of the United States has made me feel at home.

And as far as the Department of Justice is concerned, I continue -- I have been meeting this past week with the heads of the various divisions and the component groups of the Department. It is a huge department, but as I

meet with people, again and again and again I am so terribly impressed with the depth of knowledge, the real professionalism, the concern for the Department of Justice.

I've been made to feel welcome in Washington. It was nice to go home this weekend, and I'm still trying to figure out how to list my phone number and still get some sleep, because it was nice to pick up the phone at home and have somebody talk to me about real world problems.

So, somehow or another I have got to blend Washington with all of America, and try to be accessible. It's going to be interesting to try to do it, but I'm dedicated to doing it, because it was nice to walk around in my bare feet and pick up the phone when it rang, and not think of myself as Attorney General.

QUESTION: Can you tell us about the status of filling 116 other Federal judgeships at the District and Appeals Court levels?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: That process is ongoing. Some of the Senators have submitted names, and those people are being reviewed, and that process is certainly underway, and it's certainly one of the high priorities, both for the Department of Justice and for the White House.

QUESTION: How soon might we see the first nominations among those judgeships?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I can't answer that, except to say that, with all these issues, obviously we've come in after some delay, and we're behind others. We want to catch up with the other agencies of government as soon as possible, but we don't want to sacrifice what we're trying to build in the Department of Justice, in terms of excellence and the best possible appointments, just for speed.

QUESTION: In regard to any of the jobs that we've mentioned here today, have you originated any of the potential nominees yourself?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I've thrown out a whole bunch of ideas; so, in terms of originating ideas, yes, I have originated some ideas.

QUESTION: Will the Justice Department be the primary screening organization for the new Supreme Court justice?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I think it will -- my hope will be, since I think this is one of the most important steps that the White House can take, that we will all work together as a team, and I will feel very comfortable in that

effort.

QUESTION: How big is the team that's deciding on the Supreme Court justice, or advising regarding that position?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I'm presumptuous to suggest how the President should constitute his team, but I have a team that somehow or another lets all America speak on the subject.

QUESTION: General, back to the review of Judge Sessions, what concerns do you have about the questions that have been raised, and what do you think needs to be done to restore faith in the top of the FBI?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: One of the things I learned long ago, until I've finished, and I know exactly what I'm talking about, to the extent that I'll talk about it, I'm not going to talk about it.

[Laughter.]

QUESTION: Can you clarify your answer a minute ago about the team? Do you have your own separate team advising you about the replacement for Justice White, in addition to your membership on a White House team that's thinking about this?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, there is no team. We're all talking together.

QUESTION: And to follow up on that question, have you submitted names to the White House of possible nominees?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I think that's the wrong way to approach it, just in a reaction. I think you have to look and consider, and just see who is there. I think that's one of the most important things to do, is to make sure that the process is open, and that everybody is considered, no matter where they come from, and no matter who they are.

There are some extraordinary people throughout this Nation, and I think we've got to be very careful that we consider all potential nominees.

QUESTION: And following up on that one, who do you ask for their opinions on that question?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I ask lawyers whom I admire, I ask people whom I admire -- I asked a cab driver the other night.

VOICE: Oh, no.

QUESTION: Was he a citizen?

[Laughter.]

QUESTION: What did he tell you?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: "Huh?"

[Laughter.]

QUESTION: General, Tony Collings from CNN. How long do you think this process of selection will take, and when do you anticipate the confirmation hearings will get underway?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't know. I don't think I've been here long enough to estimate how long things will take. I was thinking that I was going to have ten days to go home and get my office wrapped up and things packed before I was confirmed by the Senate, so I have been wrong before. I wouldn't estimate that.

QUESTION: Can you tell us a little bit about the senior staff that you do have in place now, and the people who have come and who are now here working with you?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: There are some pretty impressive people. The people who've been acting chiefs of the divisions, I am so impressed with. These are career people who are really incredible public servants, and deserve great thanks from the American people.

I can tell you who Webster Hubbell is -- he's one

of the finest people that I've met in a long time, and one of the really fine people that I have met in Washington. He has good judgment, he is a fine person. He, I think, understands so many different issues.

Together, Mr. Gerson, who is the Acting Attorney General, and Mr. Hubbell and the division chiefs -- so many different people have worked together, and I think the basic strength of this Department has carried it forward during this interim period.

QUESTION: Will you rely on a group of special assistants, for example, as Attorneys General have in the past?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: This is what I told the acting division chiefs, and I met with three or four people from each division, and I'm trying in the process of the next weeks to meet with each division and talk with as many people as possible, to speak to people throughout the Department.

My hope is to make sure that people know that I'm accessible, that when we have an issue that we bring as many people involved together for a spirited discussion. I've sent out the message that I want people to disagree with me if they have good, sound reasons for policy and law.

I want spirited discussion in these meetings. If somebody in the division has done the work, and the matter is presented to me, I want the person who has done the work to come with them, so that they can discuss it, and they can have a give and take with me.

I want to make sure there are no gatekeepers at the AG's door, and that anybody in the Department -- they may have to come relatively late in the evening, just judging by the schedules to date -- but if somebody has suggestions for how to make this a better department, that they know I am available.

One of the things that I have started to do, as I began a new term in Miami, was to call in all the assistants one by one, and say, if you were State Attorney what would you do to improve the office? And one of the messages that I'm trying to send out is, if you were the Attorney General what would you do to improve the Department of Justice?

QUESTION: There was a -- in terms of accessibility, one of your predecessors, with great fanfare announced back in the wake of the Rodney King beating that he was going to have a major study done on how the Justice Department handled previous police brutality cases.

He did in fact have the study done, and when it was completed he announced that it was secret and it could never be revealed.

Is there any chance we could get that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Let me take a look at it. That's the first I've heard about such a report.

QUESTION: If I could return for one second to the abortion clinic, because I'm not sure I understood legally why taking a step as has been recommended, such as calling out U.S. marshals to protect women, under existing law, you decided you can't go that route.

And just secondly, since you raised that I think the first day, maybe in the Rose Garden or right after the confirmation vote, do you think you might have spoken too hastily there? Since you raised the prospect of using existing Federal law, and not legislation.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I don't think I spoke too hastily. What I said was that I was going to ask the Department of Justice to see what remedies were available, and in trying to be as open and as candid with you as I possibly can, understand that when I say I'm going to check into something, it doesn't mean I'm going to do something.

And if you want me to clam up and not be accessible to you, construe it that way. But when I say I'm going to check into something, it means I'm going to check into it, and try to make the best judgement I can.

The advice that I've gotten, and the review that I've made of the law personally, is that the remedies are not effective, and that the best way to proceed is to secure passage of that statute as soon as possible.

QUESTION: And why can't you use marshals now, under existing law, to --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I think, in terms of the existing law and what is available in terms of the constitutional framework, much of the action that is covered by some of the tactics, and I don't have the details with me, so I don't want to speak -- it just does not provide full Federal authority for that type of action in those circumstances.

One more questions, please.

QUESTION: Why is it that today's remedies are not adequate?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: One of the problems that I think that we have seen, and we have seen it even in my

jurisdiction, is that so much of this effort cuts across State lines, involves comprehensive efforts throughout the United States, and I think it is something that we should all be concerned about, and that effective Federal effort should be very helpful to local and State law enforcement in this issue.

Thank you all, very much.

[Whereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the press conference was concluded.]

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