

[CWA] has recently elected Larry Mancino as the new vice president to lead CWA District 1, the largest region in the union. As a fellow native of New York City, I am pleased by Mr. Mancino's election to vice president.

Most significant, Mr. Mancino made it to the top of the CWA District 1 the old-fashioned way. He earned it! For more than 30 years, he has been a dedicated trade unionist, serving as a rank-and-file activist before advancing to the union's national staff. In 1991, he was promoted to assistant to CWA President Morton Bahr, the position he held prior to his election as vice president.

Mr. President, there are revolutionary changes occurring in the telecommunications industry as the United States approaches the 21st century. The convergence of computer and telephone technology is transforming not only how our citizens communicate with each other, but also how Americans communicate with the world.

In this turbulent time of transition in the telecommunications field, the CWA members in district 1 are fortunate that Larry Mancino is an innovative leader who can confront the challenges that workers in the telephone industry face.

I wish the CWA members in New York and throughout district 1 well as they journey forward under the proven leadership of Larry Mancino.●

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants [PICPA] celebrated its 100th anniversary on March 23, 1997. I rise today to congratulate PICPA for a century of service to the people and businesses of Pennsylvania. This distinguished organization, which boasts more than 18,000 members, is the second oldest society of certified public accountants [CPAs] in the United States. In fact, several of the big six accounting firms were actually founded by PICPA alumni.

Mr. President, PICPA is comprised of dedicated professionals who provide essential financial advice to individuals, corporations, nonprofits, and government entities. Every day, they ensure that corporate financial dealings are properly reported to stockholders, help organizations comply with our tax laws, and provide detailed financial reports for managers.

In a dynamic business climate, it is essential to stay apprised of changing professional standards, government regulations, and accounting practices. PICPA associates have risen to this challenge. They have demonstrated a commitment to the accounting profession by adhering to a continuing education requirement. Likewise, they subject themselves to periodic peer reviews to improve the quality of their financial statements.

I am also pleased to note that PICPA encourages community service. Members have proudly helped improve the quality of life for less fortunate Pennsylvanians by donating thousands of hours to charitable organizations.

Mr. President, members of PICPA are currently serving the public as auditors, tax advisors, computer consultants, personal financial planners, educators, legislators, small business advisors, managers, and estate planners. I salute CPA's in all walks of life, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the accountants and employees of PICPA, both past and present, for 100 years of exemplary service.●

RELATIVE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL APPOINTING AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL IN 1996 CAMPAIGN FINANCE INVESTIGATION

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Attorney General, today, will apparently respond to the request of a majority of the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee that she seek the appointment of an independent counsel in the investigation into campaign finance irregularities of the 1996 campaign. In deciding how to respond, the Attorney General's duty is to follow the law, not to respond to political pressure.

But over the weekend, extraordinary attempts were made by several House Republican leaders to literally scare the Attorney General into doing what they want, not necessarily what the law requires.

Both Speaker GINGRICH and Majority Leader ARMEY said Sunday in effect that if she doesn't seek an independent counsel it's because she caved in to administration pressure. I ask that the Washington Post article of Monday, April 14, 1997, entitled "Republicans Warn Reno on Independent Counsel" be printed in the RECORD immediately following my remarks.

Mr. President, those comments by the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the House constitute an attempt at political intimidation. Their message to the Attorney General yesterday was that if she doesn't seek the appointment of an independent counsel today, she runs the risk of being hauled up before a congressional committee and put under oath. There are consequences, they are telling the Attorney General—there are consequences to not doing what they want her to do.

Well, Mr. President, those statements by House Republican leaders fly in the face of the very purpose of the independent counsel law. Here's a statute that we passed to take the politics out of criminal investigations of high-level officials, and the Speaker and House Leader worked hard to put politics right back in. Their threats to the Attorney General—to make her do what they want her to do are inappropriate and jeopardize the very law they are demanding that she invoke.

I have confidence, Mr. President, that the Attorney General will follow the law wherever it leads her, despite their clumsy effort at political intimidation. I hope that Members on both sides of the aisle here in the Senate will respect her decision, whatever it is, and the discretion the law entitles her to exercise.

The article follows:

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 14, 1997]
REPUBLICANS WARN RENO ON INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

ATTORNEY GENERAL SHOULD BE CALLED TO TESTIFY IF INQUIRY IS NOT REQUESTED, GINGRICH SAYS

(By John E. Yang)

House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) said yesterday Attorney General Janet Reno should be called before Congress to testify under oath if she does not tell Congress today that she will seek an independent counsel to investigate alleged abuses in Democratic Party fund-raising.

Gingrich declared he has no confidence in Reno as attorney general and, when asked if she should resign, said: "We'll know tomorrow," the deadline for Reno to respond to a request from congressional Republicans that she call for an independent counsel in the matter.

"The evidence mounts every day of lawbreaking in this administration," Gingrich said on "Fox News Sunday."

"If she can look at the day-after-day revelations about this administration and not conclude it's time for an independent counsel, how can any serious citizen have any sense of faith in her judgment?"

Late last week, the indications were that Reno would likely not seek a counsel in the case, which is already being investigated by career Justice Department prosecutors, but aides emphasized no final decision had been made.

If she decides not to ask a three-judge panel to name an independent counsel, Gingrich said, Reno needs to explain her decision. "She needs to answer in public, she needs to answer, I think, under oath," he said.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) said Reno "becomes a major issue" if she does not call for an independent counsel.

"The conflict of interest, both apparent and real, it seems to me, would necessitate her choosing an independent counsel," he said on ABC's "This Week." "If she doesn't then I think there's going to be a swirl of criticism that's going to be, I think, very much justified.

Justice Department spokesman Bert Brandenburg dismissed such talk. "Unfortunately, this has become a battle between law and politics," he said in a telephone interview. "The Justice Department will adhere to the law."

Reno routinely asks the career prosecutors looking into the matter whether any development requires the appointment of an independent counsel, according to Brandenburg. So far, they have not said that an independent counsel is indicated, he said.

The law says the attorney general must ask for an independent counsel if there is specific, credible information of criminal wrongdoing by top administration officials—including the president, vice president and Cabinet officers—the head of a president's election or reelection campaign or anyone else for whom it would be a conflict of interest for the Justice Department to investigate.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.) said an independent