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NEWS RELEASE

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Whitman Calls Clinton Explanation Too Little Too Late

NJ Gov. Christie Whitman said today that President Clinton's most recent statements surrounding his relationship with a 21 year- old White House intern did little to undo the damage caused by his behavior.

"The President's grand jury appearance today and his television performance tonight were obviously very difficult for him and his family, but these difficulties were entirely of the President's own doing. They were the direct result of reckless and inappropriate sexual encounters between the President and a young intern in the White House," Gov. Whitman said.

"Indeed, the stonewalling, legalistic double-speak and outright lying we have endured for the past seven months are the product of neither a vast right-wing conspiracy nor of the special prosecutor appointed by Attorney General Reno. They are entirely the product of the President's own reckless behavior," she said.

"Contrary to what his apologists say, the President's behavior does matter. It is important, character does count," Gov. Whitman said.

"Looking the American people in the collective eye and telling absolute falsehoods is wrong. It's lying of the first degree. Certainly this record calls into question the sincerity of tonight's apology," she said.

"We expect our Presidents to live up always to the best and highest principles that we know. In this regard, the President has not met the standard. This latest episode seems to be just one more disturbing indication that at times this President has difficulty taking responsibility for his own actions," she said.

"President Clinton's failure to tell the truth about his involvement with a 21-year old intern has subjected this country, the office of the presidency and the first family to seven months of tawdry news, diminished stature and questioned authority," she said.

"We can only hope that this most recent display of our President's moral compass gone haywire has now come to a close. Thus far his actions have left us with a presidency that is both demeaned and demoralized," she said.