

Post

Ex-Agent Turned Author Could Face U.S. Lawsuit

White House Book May Violate FBI Rules

Los Angeles Times

The Clinton administration may be writing the last chapter of the tell-all book by retired FBI special agent Gary Aldrich, and a conservative legal foundation is helping him solicit money in case he has to relinquish his royalties.

Last assigned to the White House security detail, Aldrich retired in disgust and dashed off a book cataloging the misbehavior he said he encountered in the presidential mansion. He alleged such goings-on as Clinton aides being involved in drugs, sexual promiscuity in the White House, even late-night mysterious disappearances by the president himself.

The book, "Unlimited Access: An FBI Agent Inside the Clinton White House," was released in June and sold 425,000 copies, even though some of its more brazen assertions have been discredited.

Acting on a recommendation from the FBI's legal department, the Justice Department is considering whether to file suit alleging that Aldrich violated federal guidelines governing what former officials may divulge from their access to privileged information. If it concludes the book

went too far, the department will ask that the government be awarded all of the proceeds from the book's sales.

Top officials at the Justice Department and the FBI denied they want vengeance on a 30-year FBI agent who embarrassed the White House. They said they believe Aldrich violated the rules by not obtaining full clearance for his manuscript.

While Aldrich said the FBI delayed its review of his book so long that he almost missed his deadline, he acknowledged that he submitted the book for publication without the required final FBI approval for two sections—a meeting he said he had with White House aide Vincent Foster shortly before Foster's suicide and allegations that some White House staff members had histories of drug use.

Aldrich turned to the conservative Southeastern Legal Foundation for help in the event of a Justice Department lawsuit. Matthew J. Glavin, president of the Atlanta-based foundation, mailed 360,000 copies of Aldrich's letter. In it, Aldrich offers a copy of his book for \$29, or an autographed copy for \$79 or more.