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## Arkansas news roundup

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# Moral majority perilously close to violating church-state separation

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — The Moral Majority was criticized this weekend by Gov. Bill Clinton, who said it comes "perilously close" to violating the constitutional requirement for separation of church and state.

"I don't think you can tell whether you're a moral person, or whether you're going to go to heaven, by whether you say yes or no to whether we ought to abolish the federal Education Department, or whether you think we should have normalized relations with the People's Republic of China," he said.

Clinton made the remarks Saturday to a meeting of the Arkansas Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

"It's hard for me to be unbiased because they took out after me so bad," the lame-duck governor said.

Clinton said he was reared as a Baptist and considers himself a moral, Christian person.

Since childhood it had been his experience, Clinton said, that "the people

who pranced around like peacocks advertising their so-called religious convictions were very often the biggest hypocrites. So I have a personal skepticism about that sort of thing."

The governor said he remembered from his childhood days that the many people who said they were religious "were the biggest opponents we had to civil rights."

The Moral Majority will continue to be a political force, and perhaps a growingly effective one, Clinton said. But he said many people who would not necessarily approve of the group's methods might not be persuaded to vote in a particular way in the future.

After Gov.-elect Frank White's victory over Clinton, White proclaimed that the upset was a "victory for the Lord."

Clinton said he had never felt when he won an election "that the Lord elected me or defeated my opponent."

"The implication in White's statement seems to be that the evil has been vanquished," Clinton said. "Like most people, I don't think I'm evil."

Clinton also said that President

Carter told him he was sorry if the Cuban refugee situation at Fort Chaffee cost Clinton votes in the Nov. 4 election.

White made the refugees a campaign issue through a controversial television commercial that included footage of the June 1 riot at Chaffee.

Clinton said Carter apologized to him during a recent visit to Washington.

"I told him I came to Washington with a few refugees I wanted him to sponsor," Clinton said of the meeting. "He was not amused."

Clinton said he had "no plans to seek further office at this time," but added that he would "like to serve Arkansas again sometime in my life. It's all I wanted to do."

Finally, Clinton said his most costly mistake as governor was, "I tried to do too much too soon."