Reno said the note should not be given to the Justice Department but to the Park l'olice as the lead investigators. By 8 p.m. Tuesday, more than 30 hours after its discovery, police investigators were called to the White House and given the note.

The delay in turning over the note was not the only White House action that police believed hindered their investigation. Police were upset about the failure to seal Foster's office immediately to ensure that no documents, notes or correspondence were removed. McLarty acknowledged that, while he had ordered the office sealed the night Foster died, it remained open and unguarded until at least 10 or 11 a.m. the following day. One person with firsthand knowledge said, "One or two or three" people went in and out before Nussbauin got the Secret Service to post a guard outside the office.

the office.

Later, when Nussbaum searched the office in the presence of law enforcement officials and a lawyer representing Foster's family, one source said, an FBI agent was reprimanded by a White House official when he stood up from the chair to which he had been relegated. The official accused the agent of attempting to "peek" at some of the material Nussbaum was removing, and ordered him to sit down.

Police who arrived at Foster's house the night of the death were turned away after being told Lisa Foster and Jamily members were too distraught to talk. Investigators were not allowed to interview her until yesterday, "That was a matter between her lawyers and the police," Gergen said, and the White Ilouse had no role in it."

Despite increasing acknowledgement by White House officials that Foster had been far more upset than they originally had suggested, McLarty, Gergen, White House press secretary five Dee Myers and others said yesterday that nothing resembling deep depression was evident to them.

"He was not quite the same cando guy. His attitude was not the
same. But he was working at his
sub, accomplishing his work. He was
less than upbeat, yes, but he did not
send any signals of suicide,"
htclarty said.

Judging from the late-discovered

note, and from conversations with friends, Foster did appear to be weighed down by a sense of failures in his work as lawyer to the president and Hillary Rotham Clinton.

The list discovered by Park Police in Foster's possession after his death contained the names of two Washington psychiatrists: Stefan A, Pasternack and Martin G. Allen, clinical professors of psychiatry at the Georgetown University School of Medicine, But Foster did not contact or visit either of them. "And that's the tragedy of it all," said Pasternack, "This could have been prevented."

Friends and associates reported that he showed certain signs of a person suffering from depression, including weight loss and insomnia. But Foster's friends and colleagues cautioned against painting the picture of a suicidal man too starkly. "Yeah, he was under a lot of pressure, but everyone at the White Ilouse is under a lot of pressure,"

said Skip Rutherford, a friend of Foster and confidant of McLarty.

Many friends noted that Foster attended a pool party three weekends before his death, worked both days two weekends before his death, and variationed at the beach house of Washington lawyer Michael Cardoou the weekend before his death.

"He seemed relaxed and he seemed to be enjoying himself," said Hardyn Cardozo, "There was no indication he was significantly troubled.... His relationship with his wife seemed wonderful."

In separate interviews yesterday, Harolyn Cardoro and Michael Cardozo said the weekend had not been designed to cheer up Foster, but had been planned more than a week before as a means for everybody concerned to get a break from the stress of their Washington jobs.

Staff writer David Von Drehle contributed to this report.

The Washington Post reported there was a list of only two psychiatrists.



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windjammers.

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family said Vince Foster was not depressed.

This concealed that the

False story in Washington

interview the Foster family.

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