whether former President Clinton commuted the sentences of four convicted swindlers in exchange for Hasidic Jewish votes for his wife during her run for the Senate. The Associated Press, learned Friday.

The four men were members of the Hasidic community of New Square, which voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Rodham Clinton when she was elected in November.

U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White is investigating their commutations as part of a probe that is also said to include the pardon of fugitive financier Marc Rich, according to a source.

Julia Payne, a spokeswoman for the former president, referred all questions to Clinton attorney David Kendall, who did not immediately return calls for comment.

"Senator Clinton has spoken about these commutations on several occasions and we do not have anything to add at this time," said her spokeswoman, Karen Dunn.

Mrs. Clinton has said previously that she did not discuss the men’s fate with Hasidic leaders before the election but sat in on a December meeting with supporters of clemency for them. However, she said she played no part in her husband’s decision.

"I did not play any role whatsoever," she said last month. "I had no opinion about it." It is unusual for a first lady to sit in on a clemency meeting.

The commutations are part of a growing furor over several of the 140 pardons the president made on his last day in office. Also under scrutiny are a pardon and a commutation for which Mrs. Clinton’s brother Hugh

Duke City Activist Granted Clemency

By Guillermo Contreras
Journal Staff Writer

Eldoria Gloria Candelaria had been waiting nearly 10 years for forgiveness.

She finally got it in the mail this month—a pardon from ex-president Bill Clinton for her 1992 conviction on a federal charge of voter fraud.

Candelaria, 59, an Albuquerque community activist and former state Democratic Party worker, was among the people Clinton pardoned, during his final days in office.

In a telephone interview Friday night, Candelaria said she applied for the pardon on her own behalf six years ago.

"I certainly didn’t have a lawyer," she said. "It was a chance I took."

She first learned she had been pardoned when a friend called her recently and told her that her name was on a list of Clinton’s pardons and commutations printed in The Wall Street Journal.

Then she got her pardon by mail last week, Candelaria said.

"This is a relief really and truly," Candelaria said. "I was really elated when it happened."

Candelaria had served 36 months of probation for her guilty plea to a federal charge of giving false informa-
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She was the director of the non-profit Community Dental Clinic in the San Jose neighborhood until she resigned in March 1991 amid controversy over spending practices.

She and Floralee Sanchez, the clinic's then-assistant director, both pleaded guilty to federal charges of voter fraud.

Previous newspaper stories quoted federal court records as saying that Candelaria got a woman to register to vote, gave her a false address — Candelaria's own home address — so the woman would be eligible to vote in the 1988 elections. Sanchez also registered people to vote using Candelaria's address, the newspaper stories said.

Both were sentenced to 36 months of probation. Candelaria also was ordered to serve six months of home confinement, during which she was monitored with an electronic ankle monitor, the stories said.

Candelaria also pleaded guilty to state charges that she embezzled more than $3,500 from the clinic. She was sentenced to three years of probation, which ran concurrently with the federal sentence.

Sanchez is not on the list released by the federal government of people pardoned or those whose sentences were commuted.

One of Candelaria's friends, Mary Molina Mescall, said Friday that she was "heartened" that Candelaria — who's not a criminal in the strict sense of the word — was granted a pardon.

"She has contributed significantly to this community for years," she said. "And her husband together did lots, especially for the disadvantaged and kids," she said. Mescall, deputy director of the Support Services Bureau for the Albuquerque Police Department.

"It's wonderful that she was given the opportunity to become whole and to participate in her community in every possible way," Mescall said.

Candelaria said that for the past three years she has been president of the San Jose/Jack Candelaria Neighborhood Association. She said that previously she had taken time off from community activism because of illness.

"For three years I've been doing things, such as programs for the kids, because that's our life," she said. "We're doing good things for the community. I love doing it, and I'll continue to do so.

The Register collection from Bernhardt features bow fronts, wide channel motifs and braid moldings with a hand-molded mid-toned finish on hickory veneers and select...
The city approved capital projects to buy pieces of art. Commissioners not having a say, Perea did the idea of putting the paintings in the chambers didn't come up until after the works were purchased.

"Staff said I thought the place they would get the most visibility is in the chambers," Perea said. "There's nothing in the chambers now, and we thought the paintings would dress the place up and wouldn't be so blah."

Perea also said she didn't know about the agreement Cassidy cited until she got a chilly reception from commissioners when they were told about the paintings.

"None of the commissioners were saying we shouldn't have art in the chambers," said commission Chairman Pat Baca. "We questioned why we weren't part of the selection process. That seems to me like a reasonable thing."

Council President Pauline Gubbels said she wants the paintings to hang in the chambers and hopes things can be patched up with the commissioners.

"It would give the television audience something better to look at than us," Gubbels said jokingly. "I hope the commissioners will reconsider."

Baca and Cassidy said they are willing to discuss the matter if it is brought before the Intergovernmental Committee.

However, Perea said it may be too late to go that route.

"This isn't something that's still open to debate."

**Former Dental Clinic Head, Aide Sentenced for Embezzlement**

**By Susanne Burks**

*Journal Staff Writer*

Gloria Candelaria, one-time community and Democratic Party leader, was placed on three years' probation Wednesday for fraud and embezzlement that victimized Community Dental Services Inc., which she headed.

Floralee Sanchez, her former top aide at the clinic, received the same sentence.

Candelaria declined comment late Wednesday, saying it was "too soon." But she said she might comment later because, "I want people to know what really happened."

Her lawyer, Michael Sanchez of Los Lunas, could not be reached for comment.

Candelaria, who was executive director, and Floralee Sanchez, both 31, pleaded guilty May 27 to embezzlement of more than $2,500 involving money the clinic received from health plans.

They pleaded guilty to embezzlement of more than $2,500 for taking an air conditioner owned by Community Dental Services and Child Care Inc. in June 1990.

Other counts in their May 1991 indictments were dropped as part of plea agreements.

Rejecting requests by defense attorneys Sanchez and Louis McDonald, that he defer sentencing, state District Judge Pat Murdoch in separate proceedings imposed three year sentences on each woman, suspended the sentences and ordered the three years of probation.

A deferred sentence means the person does not have a felony record for some purposes if she successfully completes probation.

Murdoch ordered that Sanchez's probation run concurrently with her federal probation, as specified in her plea agreement. He did not orally include that language in Candelaria's probation but said later Wednesday it was an inadvertent omission and would be included in the written judgment.

The two women pleaded guilty in March in U.S. District Court to obtaining false voter registrations and in May were ordered to serve three years on probation.

Deputy District Attorney Joe Paine did not speak at sentencing and had no comment afterward.

**Lawyers Maneuver To Block Court-Martial**

*By Robert Redfern*