

\$1,600 trip by DA questioned

District Attorney
By KATHY KREIGER

Sentinel staff writer



Danner

SANTA CRUZ — District Attorney Art Danner ran afoul of another county procedure last week when he jetted off on a \$1,600 trip to Washington, D.C., to attend ceremonies related to President Clinton's signing the crime bill.

The prosecutor already faces questions from the supervisors for incorrectly filling out employee time cards in two instances. Supervisors have been discussing the matter behind closed doors and are expected to do so again Tuesday.

Now, supervisors are being to ratify their approval last week of Danner's trip because it wasn't by the book. The request comes from county Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello, who says county rules require such excursions be approved in advance by the supervisors, unless such travel is in the ordinary course of business. But at the time last Tuesday that supervisors voted 4-1 to OK the trip, Danner was already in the nation's capital. The dissenting vote came from Aptos Supervisor Walt Symons, who normally votes against out-of-state travel.

If the supervisors don't affirm their action, Danner would have to repay the cost of the trip out of his own pocket.

Letters show Danner did not confirm his invitation until Sept. 9, the Friday before the board met.

In a letter dated Monday, Sept. 12 — the day he left — Danner asked the board to let him go to Washington so he could make sure the county gets its share of crime-fighting money.