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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 10, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Doug Sosnik

SUBJECT: Weekly Report

APR 10 1995

1996 PRESIDENTIAL NEWS

New Hampshire. An American Research Group poll released this week reports that you have a 59% approval/34% disapproval ratio among New Hampshire Democrats. A clip from the *Manchester Union Leader's* "Granite Status" is attached. Phil Gramm and Lamar Alexander were in the Granite State this week.

Iowa. Jesse Jackson was in Iowa this week and said he will make a decision whether to run for president again "before the summer's out." He added that running as a third-party candidate "is a very live option." Clips are attached.

Bob Dole was endorsed by Rep. Jim Leach (R-IA) this week. In the wake of the endorsements from Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Gov. Terry Branstad (R-IA) last week, it did not make a big splash. Dole, meanwhile, scored first in an Iowa Project 1996 poll of 300 likely caucus attendees. He was the favorite of 51%, Gramm was a distant second with 10%. Alexander and Pat Buchanan were also in Iowa this week.

Phil Gramm. Frank Luntz has signed on as a senior consultant with Gramm's campaign and Gramm is negotiating with Bill Kristol as well. Kristol has hinted for a few weeks now that Gramm is his kind of candidate. Gramm picked up the endorsement of second-term Rep. Ernest Istook this weekend and won the straw poll at the Oklahoma Republican State Convention last weekend. He won 50% of the vote, followed by Alan Keyes with 22% and Bob Dole with 15%. Gramm and Keyes addressed the convention; Dole did not.

Pete Wilson. Pete Wilson visited Arizona and Texas this weekend. In Arizona, he attacked the administration's environmental policies and defended his affirmative action stance. He also likened his support of abortion rights to Barry Goldwater's position.

Robert Casey. If former Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey decides to make a formal bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, the 1988 Kemp presidential campaign manager, Jeff Bell, will serve as a senior advisor. Bell has said he would stress issues of concern to "social conservatives" in the campaign, such as abortion, gay rights, school prayer and the "role of the family."

A recent poll conducted by the Harrisburg *Patriot News* showed Casey receiving little Democratic support in the central, more conservative region of the state. The poll showed that Casey would receive

only 25% of the vote from midstate Democrats while forty-nine percent said they would vote for you and 26% were undecided. On April 5th, Pennsylvania state Representative David Wright (D) sent a letter to all Democratic House and Senate Members asking them to support your re-election bid.

Wisconsin Primary Date. The Wisconsin state legislature voted this week to move its 1996 Presidential primary from the first Tuesday in April to the third Tuesday in March, joining Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. The legislation moved the primary on a one-time basis for 1996 only. Referring to a possible presidential bid by Gov. Tommy Thompson (R-WI), Assembly Minority Leader Walter Kunicki (D) scoffed: "This is for boss Tommy."

Delaware Primary. It looks likely that the Delaware Republicans will continue plans for a February 24th state-funded presidential primary without participation by the Democrats. DNC rules prohibit states other than New Hampshire and Iowa to hold a primary or caucus prior to March. Delaware Democratic Party Chair Gary Hindes has tried unsuccessfully to urge the GOP leadership to move the state's presidential primary date to early March. In anticipation of Delaware second-in-the-nation primary, the state GOP will host a fundraiser April 8th featuring five of the announced presidential contenders. Gramm, Specter, Lugar, Dornan and Keyes will all participate in Saturday's program.

Louisiana Caucus. The Louisiana House Committee on Government Affairs has approved a measure to change the state's presidential primary to a caucus system. The change was initiated by the state's budget crisis; abolishing the presidential primary would save the state approximately \$3.5 million. For the change to take effect, the full House, Senate Committee on Government Affairs and full Senate will also have to approve the measure. The full House is expected to vote on the measure April 20th or 21st. While the Louisiana Democrats do not view the proposed caucus system as advantageous to their party in 1996, they find it difficult to argue against the spending cut.

1995 ELECTIONS

Louisiana Gubernatorial Race. Senator Bennett Johnston just completed a 12-day tour of the state that included 45 stops in an effort to "test the waters" for a possible 1995 gubernatorial bid. According to the Louisiana press Johnston was "encouraged" by results from a recent poll. He is expected to conduct another poll in May which should be key to his final decision regarding the race. Should he decide to run, Johnston is expected to announce in June.

Kentucky Gubernatorial Race. The Kentucky AFL-CIO endorsed Lt. Governor Paul Patton (D) in the '95 gubernatorial race. The 400 delegates to the state AFL-CIO convention who endorsed Patton represent approximately 90,000 workers across the state. Kentucky labor leaders are fearful that a GOP victory this year could lead to the passage of a right-to-work law and the repeal of the minimum wage law.

Mississippi Gubernatorial Race. Governor Kirk Fordice (R) vetoed a telecommunications bill Thursday because he did not like its optional set-aside for minority contractors. His veto will result in lawmakers returning to the Capitol on Monday to renew debate on the bill. The Molpus Campaign (D) is reluctant to engage Fordice in a debate on affirmative action and has not crafted a clear message regarding the issue.

Los Angeles City Elections. Two all-Democratic city council elections will be held tomorrow in Los Angeles. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's wife, Barbara, is the favorite in the largely Jewish west

side seat, while respected attorney Stan Sanders challenges iconoclastic incumbent Nate Holden in a largely African American district.

Denver Mayor's Race. City Councilwoman Mary DeGroot has closed the margin on Mayor Wellington Webb and is threatening to force a run-off. She trails Webb 44%-30%, according to a bullet poll released this week. Although automated bullet polls are generally less reliable than standard polls, these numbers basically reflect Webb's internal polling from three weeks ago. DeGroot received a boost last week from the *Rocky Mountain News* endorsement, and the *Denver Post* is unlikely to endorse Webb. Webb will soon begin spending his \$200,000 war chest, which is more than all three of his opponents have combined.

San Francisco Mayor's Race. Assistant HUD Secretary Roberta Achtenberg is likely to announce her candidacy for mayor this week, further splitting liberal opposition to incumbent Mayor Frank Jordan. County Supervisor Angela Alioto announced her candidacy on Saturday and pledged to contest Achtenberg for the city's large gay vote.

Buffalo, New York Primary Splitting Clinton Supporters. On April 6, Erie County Chairman Vincent "Jim" Sorrentino (D) announced his support for Buffalo City Clerk David Swarts (D) who is running a primary challenge against Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski (D). Gorski is unpopular at the moment because he raised taxes and the public thinks he failed to make good on his promises. Because both Gorski and Sorrentino were early and strong Clinton '92 primary supporters, this decision is seriously dividing previously united Clinton-Gore support in Erie County. When the County Democratic Committee meets Saturday, April 8th, Sorrentino's endorsement, added with Swarts' early local labor support in Erie County, will give Swarts a safe margin to win the county party endorsement. Swarts will then run with County Committee support against Gorski, the incumbent, who still has strong fundraising support. The battle is expected to be the ugliest in Erie County in three decades.

Party Change in Yonkers, New York. On March 28th, Vincenza "Vinnie" Restiano (D), the City Council President of Yonkers, the fourth largest city in New York, switched parties from Democrat to Republican. Political insiders believe the Republican Party promised her the nomination for Westchester County Executive, a seat solidly in the Republican column. Yonkers Mayor Terry Zaleski (D), who is up for reelection this November, may be in trouble, and we face a potential loss of his seat to Republicans as well. Although he does not yet have a primary challenger, he is unpopular because of a series of tough battles with the City Council and is seen as ineffective. Zaleski has also been hurt because of some legal and ethical problems that have surfaced regarding his wife. Democrats in the state think that if a primary challenger emerges, Zaleski is likely to prevail, but will then lose to one of the Republicans who is eyeing the race.

1996 RACES

Illinois Senate Race. The *Chicago Sun-Times* and sources close to former Attorney General and 1990 gubernatorial nominee Neil Hartigan (D-IL) report that Hartigan plans to run for the Senate. A sizeable portion of the potential Democratic field, including Rep. Dick Durbin (D), former Senator Alan Dixon (D) and David Wilhelm, is expected to defer to Hartigan if he does run.

Nebraska Senate Race. Businessman Chuck Hagel (R) officially announced his candidacy this week while Attorney General Don Sternberg (R) filed papers with the FEC. Bill Hopner (D), who challenged Ben Nelson (D) in the 1990 gubernatorial primary, is eager to run and is already meeting with

prominent Democrats to discuss a possible candidacy. Senator Bob Kerrey planned to meet with Nelson and Hopner individually last weekend to discuss the race. We will let you know when we have received feedback from the meetings, if they were held as scheduled. Nelson still has not yet shut the door but says that he still is leaning against making the race. This weekend he said that "I have set a time frame for a decision. I know it can't go on indefinitely."

Representative Sid Yates (D). The Chicago Sun-Times reported this week that the Chicago Democrat will likely retire this year. Local Democrats are eyeing hotel executive J.B. Pritzker as a possible replacement. The seat is solidly Democratic.

North Carolina Gubernatorial. House Majority Whip Robin Hayes (R), who is affiliated with the radical right, is considering a challenge to Gov. Jim Hunt (D) in 1996. Hayes says he is encouraged by a recent poll reporting that 61 % of North Carolinians consider themselves evangelical or born-again Christians.

Senator Claiborne Pell. Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell recently disclosed that he suffers from Parkinson's disease. The senator has not displayed symptoms of the disease, such as loss of intellectual ability. Despite speculation that he will retire in 1996, Pell has not made a commitment regarding next year's race.

OTHER POLITICAL NEWS

Nevada Nuclear Waste. The letter you sent to Governor Miller declaring opposition to an interim storage facility in Nevada garnered major media coverage this week.

Administration Travel. Vice President Gore was the keynote speaker at the Ohio Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner last weekend and Secretary Babbitt keynoted the Wisconsin Party's dinner. Both received rave reviews for their performances. Clips are attached. Political Affairs also arranged a reception for Carol Browner during her travel to Utah last weekend. George Stephanopoulos will attend the Arizona Jefferson-Jackson dinner this weekend.

Affirmative Action. The California State Assembly will hold hearings on the state's affirmative action constitutional amendment the first week in May. The measure already failed in a state Senate committee. The state Democratic party unanimously adopted a resolution opposing the proposed anti-affirmative action initiative, but failed to adopt a measure denying party support to candidates who endorse the initiative.

Anti-Discrimination. The Rhode Island State House passed a bill Wednesday that would grant protection to homosexuals in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit. The bill has a good chance of approval in the Senate, and Governor Lincoln Almond (R) has said he will sign it. Similar legislation has failed four times in the state since 1990.

Nathan Deal. Georgia Representative Nathan Deal (CD09) announced today a switch in his party affiliation to the GOP. Deal had previously denied his intentions to switch parties; in fact, he stated to the press in January that he was elected as a Democrat, and would seek a special election should he ever change his affiliation.

FROM : Panasonic PPF

ONATION & WORL

California

Clinton's tough stance pays off

His sidetracked speech wins over hecklers

By TOM RAUM
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, California — President Clinton told a Democratic audience including many vocal affirmative action activists yesterday that the party must be sensitive to grievances of "so-called angry white males" and be prepared to abandon minority preference programs that don't work.

Jumping into the battle for public opinion for the next 100 days, Clinton gave the strongest defense yet of his decision to order a top-to-bottom review of such programs — already under fierce assault from the Republican majority in Congress.

"We have to realize that there is a real problem out there. We can't deny that," Clinton said.

Clinton had been expected to focus his speech, to a meeting of the state Democratic



Don't scream, let's talk. That's just what they want us to do. They want to get this country into a screaming match. . . . We have to lower our voices.??

— President Clinton, to chanting affirmative action activists

party, on a repetition of his problems with remaining items in the GOP Contract with America, and his vow to veto programs that make large cuts in education, environmental and other social programs.

He did that at first. But, confronted with hundreds of activists in the audience waving green signs proclaiming "No Retreat — Stand up for Affirmative Action," Clinton launched into an impassioned defense of his decision to review affirmative action programs.

"We don't have to retreat from these programs. . . . But we do have to ask ourselves — are they all working? Are they fair?"

"This is psychologically a difficult time for a lot of white males, the so-called angry white males . . . most of them are working harder for

Clinton yesterday defends his stand on reviewing affirmative action programs.

less money than they were making 15 years ago."

His words at first drew chants of "no retreat, no retreat" from the sign-waving activists.

"Don't scream, let's talk," he said at one point. "That's just what they want us to do. They want to get this country into a screaming match. . . . We have to lower our voices."

As he spoke on, making his case, the chants receded and finally his words drew widespread applause from the audience of several thousand Democrats.

An initiative proposed for the 1996 ballot in California would repeal state affirmative action laws for government employment, contracting and university admissions. The proposal, drafted by two college professors and supported by Republican Gov. Pete Wilson, requires 600,000

signatures to qualify.

Supporters want the Legislature to vote to put the issue before voters next March — at the time of California's newly shifted presidential primary. Failing that, supporters say they will qualify it themselves for November 1996.

Early polls show it has strong support.

Clinton said Democrats can't allow themselves to be forced into a position by Republicans of defending programs that may be indefensible; and should recognize that there are many examples of reverse discrimination in the country against white, often middle-aged males.

"What we have done is to give more opportunities to women and minorities. This is a very good thing and we should not stop doing it," Clinton said. At the same time, he told the audience, "we do not need to say that we're insensitive" to the concerns of those who feel they have been the targets of reverse discrimination.

Clinton said it was time to have a "national conversation" on the issue and not permit Republicans to maneuver Democrats into a "screaming match" in defense of programs that may have outlived their usefulness.

At issue are over 100 programs, many of them begun in the Nixon administration, that give preference to women and minorities in housing, education and employment.

Clinton had planned to deliver a major affirmative action speech later in the month.

But his spokesman, Mike McCurry, said Clinton wanted to "speak to the frustrations of the angry white male" population sooner rather than later. "Ninety-nine percent of the people we've talked to in the last 24 hours were ready for him to address that issue today," said McCurry.

Later, in a speech to the National Education Association in Los Angeles, Clinton lashed out at House-originated proposals to cut education programs, including one to promote "safe schools."

Noting a new Center for Disease Control study that said one in 12 students carried guns into school in 1993, Clinton said in prepared remarks: "This is a national crisis that requires a national response."

The president was on a three-day swing through California — which is crucial to his 1996 re-election hopes, with its 54 electoral votes, one fifth of the 270 needed for election.

Even though it went for him in 1992, the state is becoming increasingly conservative and Republican. And Democratic strategists were particularly worried about a GOP challenge expected to be mounted by Wilson.

EDITORIALS

CLINTON SPEAKS

Faith and works must be companions

President Clinton the Re-Newed Democrat showed up in Dallas Friday for a major address before the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Why Re-Newed? Because the "New Democrat" values of "work, family, community" repeatedly came tumbling out of the president's mouth. Those were the themes that helped the president get elected, and now, tellingly, he is again singing the anthem of reform-minded Democrats, which is not all that far from reform-minded Republicans on many issues.

Indeed, the president pledged to work with Republicans where he can and part company where he must. In a workmanlike address, the president's first since House Republicans completed work on their Contract With America, Mr. Clinton presented his interpretation.

He enumerated each contract item, supporting some — reducing federal mandates — and differing with some — saying tax cuts are too generous. He said he'll fight where he disagrees, but promised he wants to "lead the quiet, reasoned forces in both parties" to "keep alive the momentum of change."

Well and good. But first run President Clinton's words through history's prism. The president has had chances to lead in a consistent, centrist fashion.

But he hasn't. While he pressed for New

Democratic items like free trade, he reverted to big government form with a gargantuan health plan. Appropriately, the heavy-handed approach spiraled downward in a fiery crash.

So before we all assume Bill Clinton has been truly reborn as a New Democrat, let him prove himself. Does it profit a man to say he has faith but not works?

Let us suggest some tests. Mr. Clinton says he wants to keep reducing the deficit. Good. But where is his plan to reform entitlement spending, the budget's largest driving force?

Moreover, he doesn't want \$189 billion in new tax cuts. Good again. But will the president provide cover for the Senate to trim down House Republicans' huge tax cuts?

Also, the president wants lobby reform and campaign financing changes. Great. But will they be minus wide-tire loopholes?

The next 100 days will not only be important congressional days. They also will be critical for Mr. Clinton.

Paradoxically, he could learn from Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who is impressing many Texans with his disciplined ability to "stay on message." Odd, isn't it, that Mr. Clinton must learn from the son of the man he defeated to become president? To save himself, Mr. Clinton must discipline himself to match his New Democrat message with New Democrat deeds.

Gore hits GOP pact in pep talk to Ohio faithful

By MARY BETH LANE
PLAIN DEALER BUREAU

COLUMBUS — Vice President Al Gore lit into House Republicans' first 100 days last night, portraying portions of their "Contract with America" as a sop to the rich at the expense of middle-income Americans.

"When you hear all the hoopla about the 100 days, remember who wins and who loses," Gore told 1,000 Ohio Democrats who gathered for their party's annual spring dinner and fund-raiser. "Middle-income families would lose and the privileged and powerful would gain."

He heaped special scorn on what he called House Republicans' attacks on the popular college student loan and elementary school lunch programs upon which so many working families rely.

"I sure wouldn't be bragging about it," Gore said. "They did the wrong thing in student loans and school lunches. We're not going to let them get away with it."

In addition, he suggested the \$187 billion tax cut passed by the House is nothing for middle-income families to cheer about. Families making more than \$200,000 a year will receive an average tax cut of \$11,000. But families making \$30,000 a year will get a cut of \$124, he said.

"The basic difference between our philosophy and the Republican Party's is we believe the way to bring our country to economic health is to focus on working families," he said.

Gore appealed to Democrats in Ohio — the state that put Bill Clinton over the top at the 1992 presidential nominating convention — to redouble their efforts in 1996.

"Let's don't fool ourselves. It's going to be a tough fight," said Gore, who made his entrance last night from the Columbus-made bus that he and Clinton used to travel the country during the 1992 campaign.

Referring to that "bleak Tuesday" last November when Democrats suffered massive losses in Washington and lost the Ohio Statehouse, Gore urged hope.

To those who think the Democratic Party is dead, he said, "Not so fast."

That message got a warm reception from the Democrats who paid \$150 per person to attend the fund-raiser, which is expected to raise between \$150,000 and \$200,000 for the party. Others paid \$1,000 for a chance to mingle with Gore at a private reception before the chicken pesto dinner, which was washed down with bottles of Ohio wine.

"There's tremendous enthusiasm out here," said Cuyahoga County Commissioner Mary O. Boyle. She joined other Clevelanders at the dinner, including Ohio House Minority Leader Patrick A. Sweeney; former Attorney General Lee I. Fisher; defeated U.S. Senate candidate Joel Hyatt; and State Sen. Dennis Kucinich.

"We're building toward the next election, and we're going to come back strong," Boyle said.

Senate Minority Leader Robert J. Boggs, an Ashtabula Democrat, shared her optimism.

"The turnout is great," he said. "The mood is upbeat. We're going to go to war. We're like the phoenix rising from the ashes of last year's election."

Sen. John Glenn, who flew in on Air Force Two with Gore, also appealed to his fellow Democrats to stand tall.

"Let me suggest to everyone here tonight that it's time we stopped wringing our hands and hanging our heads," he said. "We are not a hang-dog party. We are Ohio Democrats."

Glenn brought special cheers from the Democrats in recognizing their state party chairman, Harry Meshel, who is recovering from heart surgery. Glenn quipped that Meshel has a heart, unlike the House Republicans who he said are waging heartless war on working families.

Union Leader 4/7/95
Bob Cut-a-Deal Dole
 New Hampshire Taxpayers Are Watching

Has Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole received the November 1994 elections' clear message that the American people demand sharply reduced government spending?

Sure he has.

The senator from Kansas heard it.

He apparently just doesn't believe it.

As of this writing, Cut-a-Deal Bob, who doesn't regard the GOP "Contract with America" as applicable to the elitist political prima donnas in the U.S. Senate, is already busy cutting some interesting deals with Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle.

The two huddled Wednesday night and agreed to:

- Restore \$800,000,000 worth of Republican-proposed spending cuts.
- Preserve \$275,000,000 worth of Clinton-forgiven U.S. loans for Jordan.
- Set aside a Republican senator's attempt to stop short of the line of scrimmage President Clinton's arrogant end-run around Congress, by terminating Clinton's \$20 billion bailout of the Mexican economy.

It sounds to us that affab' Bob Dole has been cutting deals in Con-

gress for so long from a minority position that he is slow to adjust to the fact that he is now in the majority leadership position in more respects than title identification only.

But perhaps someone will eventually alert Senator Dole to the probab-



BOB DOLE

ity that conservative taxpayers in New Hampshire, host of the nation's first Presidential Primary, are watching closely and that they are not the sort of people who forget easily. They surely know that if Dole can't, or won't, dig in and resist the Spendocrats from his top position in the U.S. Senate, then he surely couldn't, or wouldn't, do it from the White House.

—Jim F

Wilson blows through

Calif. gov. stumbles in first N.H. touch-and-go

California Gov. Pete Wilson was in New Hampshire for less than two hours Tuesday, just long enough to get two strikes against him.

First, Wilson portrayed himself as a cheerleader for small government. There are great similarities between California and New Hampshire," he said. We are in many respects kindred souls." Yeah, right.

Campaign '96

A friendly word of advice for the governor: people here don't see many similarities between California and New Hampshire. Quite frankly, California is an anathema.

Now admittedly our perceptions are based on the overwhelming social impact Southern California has on the rest of the country, but Wilson's state isn't considered to be a bastion of conservative thought - politically or socially.

It sounded patronizing to suggest we're kindred souls when you obviously know so little about us.

That ignorance caused strike two. When asked if he was willing to take the pledge," Wilson responded, I don't know what the pledge is. Sounds like something to do with alcohol."

Not quite governor.

It sounds odd saying this 11 months before the primary, but Wilson is getting a late start. Many Republican Party activists have already picked sides. Sen. Bob Smith is backing Sen. Phil Gramm and Sen. Judd Gregg is set to embrace Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole. The big holdout is Gov. Stephen Merrill, but he's more likely to back someone he thinks can win.

Wilson will appeal to socially moderate Republicans in the state who are pro-choice on abortion and pro-control on guns. There are many Republicans in New Hampshire with such leanings, but probably not enough.

Daily Democrat

3/30/95

P. 10

Despite gaffes, Clinton will carry party's standard in '96

By ROBERT SHOGAN
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — For all the misadventures of his first two years in office, President Clinton seems likely to gain renomination with less opposition than any Democratic chief executive since Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Citizens' Voice, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.



Yet this news is not nearly as reassuring as it might seem for the president and his party. It is not widespread enthusiasm for his leadership that is inoculating Clinton against a serious challenge. Rather his immunity mainly reflects weaknesses in his party — the absence of the strong convictions, energy and nerve that have sparked insurgencies throughout the turbulent history of modern Democrats.

"There was a great defeat in November, and we still have not regrouped," said Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., often mentioned as a 1996 challenger to Clinton. "I just don't have any interest" in seeking the nomination.

"There is not at present any ideological focus to the Democratic Party," said one disillusioned liberal activist who is a veteran of the 1968 rebellion against Lyndon B. Johnson and the 1980 insurgency against Jimmy Carter. "What would the rationale for a candidacy against Clinton be?" asked the activist, who is close enough to the Clinton White House that he requested anonymity. "Would you claim: 'I can reinvent government better?'"

At first glance, Clinton would seem to be an inevitable target for another of the impassioned challenges that have dogged his modern Democratic predecessors. After gaining office with only 43 percent of the vote, enduring repeated charges of impropriety and watching health care reform — the centerpiece of his domestic program — be torpedoed, the

Clinton got just less than 50 percent support in a recent Time

magazine/CNN survey of Democratic voters who were asked their preference for the 1996 nomination. But, notes Andrew Kobut, director of the Times Mirror Center for the People & the Press, then-President Bush, by contrast, got nearly 80 percent support from his party's voters in a 1992 matchup against commentator Patrick J. Buchanan, who was already running hard in his challenge for the GOP nomination.

Kobut also cited a Times Mirror poll taken last month that showed Republican Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas garnering 88 percent of GOP voters while Clinton was backed by only 79 percent of Democrats, enough of a difference to give Dole victory in the poll.

"Rank-and-file Democrats are more restless about Clinton than

Analysis

candidates are willing to take him on," Kobut concluded.

Of course much can change in the 17 months remaining before the roll is called at the Democratic convention in Chicago, particularly given the allegations concerning the Clinton family's real estate venture in the Ozarks before he entered the White House.

"No one knows what Whitewater will bring the day after tomorrow," said veteran Democratic strategist Ted Van Dyk, a longtime Clinton critic.

According to press secretary Mike McCurry, the White House is still operating on the assumption that Clinton will face a challenge — a prudent step given the party's turbulent history. Many Clinton advisers, for example, fear that the Rev. Jesse Jackson could run against Clinton — although more likely as a third-party candidate in the general election than as a Democrat in the primaries.

Still, McCurry sees little sign of a serious opposition candidacy developing now and points out: "The deeper you get into 1995, the less

trouble of the House and Senate," contended Democratic pollster Mark Mellman.

But such practical considerations have not prevented past insurgencies, which were sometimes inspired more by commitment to a cause than by hopes of actually gaining the nomination.

One ideologically motivated candidacy that Clinton might face would be centered on opposition to abortion. Former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey, an ardent abortion foe, said Friday he is forming an exploratory committee that will allow him to raise money while he decides whether to run — a decision he intends to make later this spring. If he does run, Casey said in an interview, he will offer "a comprehensive message that addresses the problems confronting the country." But he added that his stand against what he calls Clinton's "radical pro-abortion policies" will be an important part of his campaign.

But given the widespread support for abortion rights among Democratic primary voters and Casey's low name recognition outside his own state, most analysts say they doubt that could have much impact on the campaign.

While the reluctance of more prominent Democrats to enter the fray is often attributed to what Van Dyk referred to as a "post-November hangover," the roots of the current Democratic lassitude extend beyond the crushing results of the midterm elections to the previous years of GOP domination of the White House.

It was during this long stretch in the political wilderness that Democrats seemed to have lost their confidence and their sense of purpose, a condition epitomized by the party's 1988 standard bearer, Michael S. Dukakis, when he declared in his convention acceptance speech that "this campaign is not about ideology. It's about competence."

Now, when Democrats do disagree with the president, they tend to minimize their ideological differences rather than use them as the springboard for a campaign.

One exception was Democratic leader Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, who opposed the Clinton-backed North American Free Trade Agreement. But even though Gephardt has made trade a central issue in his career, he said recently that his disagreements with the president have not been "on the fundamental issues that the party represents."

On the party's other flank, former Rep. Dave McCurdy of Oklahoma bitterly described Clinton after the November election as an "old Democrat" and told a reporter that some of his supporters were urging him to consider a challenge to the president.

president had to take much of the blame for one of the worst electoral defeats in the history of his party.

And while Clinton's personal problems have simmered down for the time being, no fewer than four present or former members of his Cabinet have come under federal scrutiny as a result of various allegations of misconduct.

While recent surveys of Democratic voters show Clinton's standing has improved since the November election, pollsters detect enough softness in his support to deem him vulnerable to a challenge.

It is that anyone can mount a significant challenge. Where do you get the money?"

Besides money, other practical reasons exist to make potential challengers hesitate. Even a weakened president can be a formidable adversary, as Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., learned to his regret when Carter turned back Kennedy's bid to oust him in 1980. Moreover, any intraparty rival would be accused of fomenting disunity. "If by challenging Clinton someone merely succeeds in weakening him further, they would hurt the party's chances of regaining con-

Jackson joins 'classic fight'

By JIM POLLOCK

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Jesse Jackson may not be running for president now, but he offered some presidential campaign advice Thursday afternoon in a speech to striking Bridgestone/Firestone workers.

"When (Bob) Dole and (Phil) Gramm and that crowd come to town, make them tell you where they stand," he said, referring to two leading Republican presidential candidates. "Dole, which side are you on? Gramm, which side are you on?"

Earlier on his visit to the site of the long, bitter strike, he put it this way: "Those who would be president must make a decision for or against these workers."

Workers Cheer

Jackson, who twice ran for president himself, also gave the crowd at the United Rubber Workers union Local 310 hall his opinion on Gov. Terry Branstad's reluctance to get in-

involved in the strike: "The governor's non-involvement is involvement," he said to the cheers of the workers.

"When the governor says nothing, the governor says everything."

Jackson's speech to the union capped a busy day in Des Moines, which followed a trip to Memphis, Tenn., on the 27th anniversary of the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

"The perception then was that he was fighting for black workers. He was fighting for workers," Jackson said. "Twenty-seven years later, the workers are becoming whiter and more middle-class every day. The fundamental issue is not black and white, it's wrong and right."

Calls for Boycott

Jackson called for a national boycott of Firestone products and also tried to enlist support for his Rainbow Coalition.

"We need picket signs boycotting Firestone in about 10 major cities around the country," he said. "This is a national fight."

When the Rainbow Coalition holds a march this spring in Atlanta from House Speaker Newt Gingrich's office to King's tomb, "That's where the rubber should meet the road," he said, inviting URW members to take part in the demonstration.

"Fight With Dignity"

However, he spent most of his time encouraging the union to stand firm in its strike.

"It's better to fight in dignity than to go back and duck your head in shame," he said, echoing King's words to civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks. "If the baseball players could hold out, you can hold out."

Jackson first stopped at the picket line, where security guards declined his offer to shake hands. He and his son, Jesse Jackson Jr., then spoke briefly with the pickets.

"These workers must be strong enough not to let their spirits be broken," he said. "Nelson Mandela was in prison for 27 years."

"This is becoming a classic fight. When the presidential candidates come to Iowa, they must make a decision. They must take a stand."

Des Moines
Register

Casey's presidential bid unlikely to go unnoticed

By Chuck Raasch
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON: Although he is given little chance of unseating President Clinton, former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey could be more than just a nuisance in next year's Democratic primaries, even if he is identified primarily as an anti-abortion candidate.



Casey

Casey formed a presidential exploratory committee Friday. He has been harshly critical of his party since being denied a speaking opportunity at the 1992 Democratic Convention in New York City.

He has little name identification or proven fund-raising ability beyond his state and the national anti-abortion network. And taking on an in-office president, particularly one with the political skills of

Analysis

Clinton, is daunting.

G. Terry Madonna, director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs at Pennsylvania's Millersville University, said Democratic primary voters are "overwhelmingly pro-choice."

But challenger candidates in an era of political cynicism do not have to win to have impact.

Just ask Patrick Buchanan, who drew first blood on George Bush in 1992. Or Ross Perot, who siphoned off disaffected moderates to help give Clinton the White House.

Casey's challenge could have an impact on the 1996 primaries by:

- Giving the Christian Coalition an opening to get involved in the Democratic primaries.

- Giving Republicans some cover on the contentious abortion battle that looms in their primaries, with anti-abortion and pro-choice candidates in the field.

- Cutting into GOP arguments that anti-abortion candidates have nowhere to turn because Democrats won't allow debate on the issue.

THE UNION LEADER, Manchester, N.H. — Tuesday, April 4, 1995

GOP Strategist Be

By JOHN KING
AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON — Jeffrey Bell, a veteran Republican operative, is crossing party lines to take a leading role in former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey's likely primary challenge to President Clinton.

Bell said he agreed to serve as a senior adviser to Casey primarily because of the Democrat's unwavering opposition to abortion.

"This is where I think that cause can go," Bell said in an interview. "I think the Republican Party has gone at least inactive on the pro-life issue."

Casey, 65, last month formed a committee to explore a 1996 campaign campaign. Bell said the former governor was "moving clearing in the direction" of running, but would not make a final decision for several weeks.

Bell said Casey's fundraising efforts "are at very early stages

Joins Casey Camp

but show a lot of promise."

Bell was a senior strategist in Jack Kemp's 1988 Presidential campaign and has long been associated with conservative Republican causes.

He said he was "still a Republican" but unhappy because most of the GOP's leading Presidential candidates, "while nominally pro-life aren't really interested in pushing the issue. A kind of collective decision has been made at the top level of the party to not

talk about the pro-life issue."

When asked if it might raise eyebrows that a Democratic primary challenge to a sitting President was being orchestrated by a longtime Republican, Bell said, "life is getting very confusing."

Casey began feuding with Clinton in 1992, when Clinton denied Casey's request to speak — and air his anti-abortion views — to the Democratic National Convention.

"I think the Republican Party has gone at least inactive on the pro-life issue."

Jeffrey Bell

**REPRESENTATIVE
DAVID R. WRIGHT**

April 5, 1995

Pennsylvania

SUBJECT: Message

TO: All Democratic House and Senate Members

FROM: David R. Wright

If you are willing to have your name added to the list of Democratic Members who support this message to the President, please call me at (717) 787-2651.

**President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500**

Dear Mr. President:

As Democratic members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly who have supported Bob Casey in his campaigns for Governor, we wish to reaffirm our commitment to your nomination and re-election as President of the United States.

In a world of complexity and uncertainty we believe it is unwise for a candidate to seek the Presidency of the United States on a single issue, not withstanding the fact that many of us agree with his position.

Bob Casey has no claim to the loyalty and support of Democrats. In every election of state-wide consequence he has sabotaged Democratic candidates with the exception of Pro-Choice Senatorial candidate Lynn Yeakel - and that in opposition to his own Lt. Governor.

The election of 1994 makes clear the necessity of a progressive voice in the White House. That can only happen if Democrats rally around the issues that unite us rather than those that divide us.

A Bob Casey candidacy is a blueprint for reversing every gain we have made for the working men and women of America.

We earnestly hope that our former Governor will not undertake his quixotic errand but if he does, you can be assured of our support.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A18

THE UNION LEADER, Manchester, N.H. — Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Candidate Wilson's Position

By JOHN HOWARD
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Pete Wilson promised he wouldn't run for President. He's running.

He said he likely would sign a homosexual-rights law. He vetoed it in 1991.

He opposed raising taxes. Then he raised them \$7 billion during his first year as governor.

He bashed former Gov. Jerry Brown for doing the same thing Wilson's doing now — leaving the state to campaign for President.

As Wilson begins his first foray into national politics, his contradictory record — which has excited little comment in California — offers a juicy target.

He opposes affirmative action policies he once supported as mayor of San Diego in the 1970s.

He criticized Ronald Reagan in 1976 as a big-spending governor who raised taxes three times. Four years later, he supported Reagan for President.

He describes himself as fiscally responsible. But on his watch California issued \$3.8 billion

worth of IOUs for the first time since the Great Depression.

"He has got to get control over it because it can spin out of control," Republican consultant Sal Russo said of the flip-flop perception. "The problem is, he hasn't spent the last two years preparing to be President, he's been preparing to be governor."

Wilson only became serious Presidential material after his stunning comeback last year to defeat Democrat Kathleen Brown and win a second term as governor. He recently formed an exploratory committee to study a run for the White House.

Suddenly, the governor of the nation's most-populous state is under a national spotlight.

Wilson's spin: Yes, he raised taxes \$7 billion, but he matched them dollar-for-dollar with cuts, closing a \$14 billion budget gap that was the largest ever in any state. In four years he's cut \$30 billion from state spending.

He did favor affirmative action policies as mayor, but says now the need for them has passed.

IOUs were issued, but it was

the fault of an intransigent Legislature.

Wilson attacked Reagan in 1976, but it was because he was already backing incumbent President Gerald Ford.

"He's way behind in getting his story told, and if you don't tell your story, somebody else will with a different spin," said Russo, who directed media campaigns last year for New York's Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and Gov. George Pataki.

Opponents Bob Dole, Phil Gramm, Pat Buchanan and Lamar Alexander already depict Wilson as out of touch with a party tilting to the right. They also bring up his 1994 promise not to run for President.

That promise was made most publicly last October during his televised campaign debate

Shift on Key Issues

against Brown, when a reporter noted that Wilson left his mayoral job early to go to the U.S. Senate and his Senate seat early to be governor. Wilson promised he would complete a gubernatorial term.

The possibility that Wilson would leave his office to Democratic Lt. Gov. Gray Davis has upset some supporters, said John Kern, a member of the San Diego County Republican Central Committee.

"I have been extremely surprised at the intense reaction to breaking his promise," Kern said.

"Pete has this image of unshakable integrity, and this has been damaged."

However, he added: "Those same people will still vote for Wilson."

Kern says Wilson's changes show that Wilson is a pragmatist willing to change positions to solve problems.

"For example, he was a big supporter of affirmative action at one point, and now he's not," Kern said. "The fact is, the issues have changed and he has changed; it makes him an extremely competent administra-

tor."

One of Wilson's closest advisers, Larry Thomas, agreed.

"Let's talk about the real world we're in: Gramm voted for a George Bush tax package that Wilson voted against. You have Bob Dole who is moving to the right now in the assault weapons ban repeal."

"There is this standard imposed by the media and others that there is supposed to be some rigid, dogmatic consistency over a period of decades," Thomas said. "I don't think that's realistic."

Government/Politics

Gramm Message: Less Government, More Opportunity

By WARREN HASTINGS
State House Bureau

CONCORD — U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas who calls himself a "foot soldier in the Reagan revolution" took his less government-more opportunity message to employees of Chubb Life of America yesterday.

The Republican Presidential hopeful, whose professional background includes teaching economics at Texas A&M University, told Chubb employees that if the nation doesn't get spending and regulation under control this won't be the same country 20 years from now that it is today.

Either change the way government does business dramatically or lose the American dream, warned the former Texas Democrat-turned-Republican.

"But the good news is that we don't have a problem that we can't fix," Gramm added.

With a Ph.D in economics, Gramm focuses his conservative message on the cost of government which he feels has gotten out of control.

Yesterday Gramm promised to work hard to see that the Reagan

"... the good news is that we don't have a problem that we can't fix."

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm

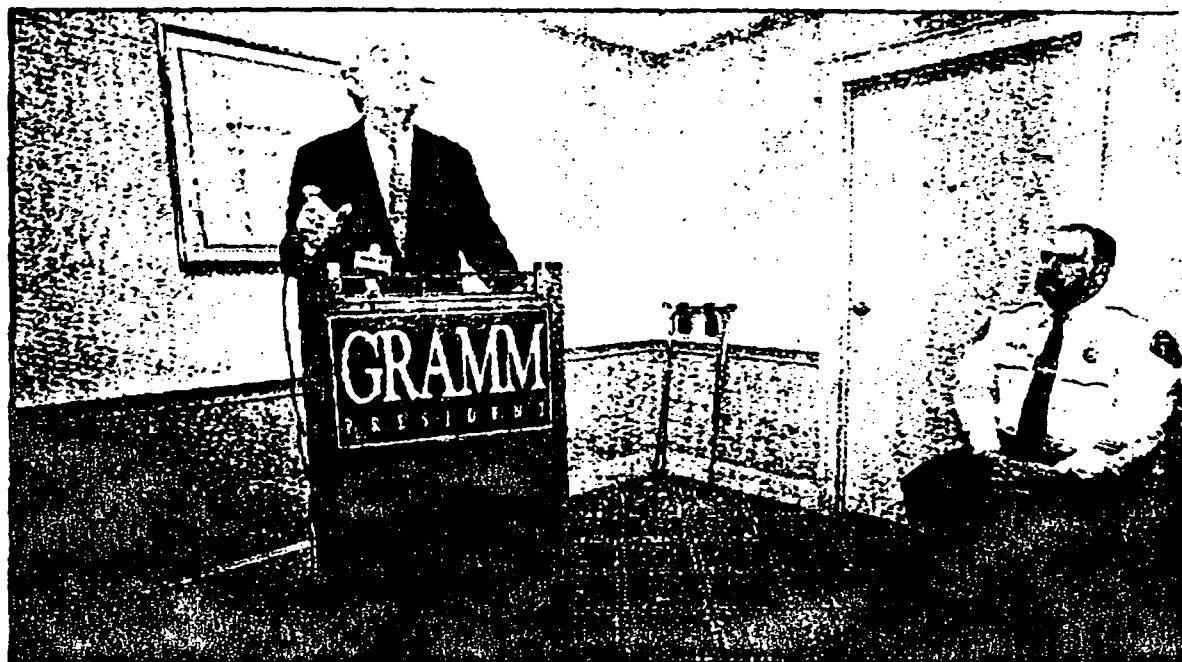
revolution comes to fruition.

Gramm said that government needs to start making economic decisions the same way that families and businesses living in the real world do. Government hasn't lived in the real world for 40 years, Gramm said.

Gramm said the federal Department of Education should be eliminated and that the money should be redirected toward allowing parents and local schools to set their own priorities.

Gramm also supports the concept of a flat tax and reduced capital gains taxes. Gramm has consistently taken the view that a lower capital gains tax would help corporations create more jobs.

Congress also needs to say no when the right answer is no.



AP Photo

STUMPING — Republican Presidential hopeful Phil Gramm of Texas addresses New Hampshire sheriffs and police chiefs at a breakfast in Concord yesterday. On the right is New Hampton Police Chief Nathaniel H. Sawyer Jr.

Gramm said. "In President Clinton's case 'no' is generally the right answer," Gramm quipped.

Gramm chided Clinton on his economic thinking, promising to rewrite the President's crime bill which he said was half-social programs. Gramm said he would like to redirect that money toward direct enforcement help for police.

Gramm suggested that federal prisons be restructured to offer inmates education programs on a mandatory six-day-a-week basis.

"Holiday Inn" type prisons.

Acknowledging that government has a role to play in national life, Gramm said that decisions, such as those made in the area of environmental protection, should be based on actual necessity.

He cited several cases of extremes in environmental regulations.

Gramm criticized land-taking by regulation and supported the concept of compensating land-

usefulness directly because of regulation.

He cited the case of a California farmer who couldn't farm his land because a rat killed on it was deemed part of an endangered species.

Gramm was elected to Congress in 1978 as a Democrat. After a philosophical battle with the House Democratic leadership, he was expelled from the Budget Committee, switched parties and won a U.S. Senate seat from

Specter faces dubious

Iowan Republican Party

DES MOINES (AP) — Not long ago, Arlen Specter peered out across a cavernous Des Moines convention center and delivered a stern call for moderate Republicanism. Scattered boos rolled back.

On Saturday, amid rare flowering plants in a botanical garden, Specter said he wants the party's presidential nomination so he can save the GOP from an "intolerant right."

From afar, the boos rolled in. "I think he's a fine gentleman and has a lot of good things to say, but I don't think he's going to be taken very seriously in Iowa," said Brent Siegrist, a Council Bluffs Republican.

Siegrist, majority leader of the state House of Representatives, concluded: "I would dismiss him as a real serious candidate."

"I don't think it's going to work very well," said Steve Roberts, a Des Moines lawyer and member of the Republican National Committee.

Specter was in Iowa, which holds the nation's first test of presidential strength with precinct caucuses next February, to formally announce he'll seek the party's nomination.

The heart of the Pennsylvania senator's campaign is an appeal to centrist Republicans. He warns that the increasing power of religious conservatives threatens to drive the GOP out of the political mainstream and hand re-election to President Clinton.

"We need to keep religion out of politics," said Specter, at a rally attended by about 100 people.

"Neither this nation nor this party can afford a Republican candidate so captive to the demands of the intolerant right that we end up re-electing a president of the incompetent left," said Specter.

In Iowa, he'll make that case to a party that has drifted steadily to the right and where religious conservatives have gained effective control of the party machinery.

Iowa Republican Chairman Brian Kennedy acknowledged the importance of religious conservatives as a force in the party.

"There's a lot of activism there," he said.

Roberts added, "In state central committee elections, in state chair elections, in precinct caucuses, they play a major role."

Steve Scheffler, a leader in the

Sen.
Arlen
Specter
Seeking
presidency



state's Christian Coalition, labeled Specter's message "divisive." While religious conservatives will likely migrate to more than one GOP candidate —

Scheffler is with Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole — they are likely to be united in opposition to Specter.

One of Specter's main issues is his support for abortion rights. He is pledging to lead the charge to delete the strict anti-abortion plank from the Republican platform.

Kennedy said that's a settled issue for Iowa Republicans.

"I really don't believe the nomination fight and the caucus fight is going to turn on that issue," he said.

Siegrist, a hacker of former Education Secretary Lamar Alexander, conceded that Specter is raising issues that may come back to haunt Republicans.

"The influence of certain segments of our party, the people you would see in the religious

right, have had the effect of pushing our candidates to the right," he said. "If we allow

ourselves to get shoved too far to the right it is going to cause us problems."

GAZETTE EDITORIALS

**'Hot air' and
a new breeze**CR 95
4-7-95
4ACedar Rapids,
Gazette

REPUBLICANS ARE wrapping up their "Contract With America" ahead of schedule.

For the source of the length of this initial legislative push, look to Franklin Roosevelt's first 100 days in office. For its contents, look to opinion polling done for Republicans by Luntz Research Co. of Arlington, Va., a consulting firm.

Look also to the practice of business people, educators and other professionals to head off from the humdrum once in a while to figure out what they stand for and to sort out their priorities. Rep. Jim Nussle, R-2nd District, told The Gazette last fall that the "Contract With America" was developed during just such a lengthy "retreat" by House Republicans.

Democrats were another factor in creating this "Contract With America." Over the years they held sway. Democrats choked debate and prevented votes on a number of popular issues — term limits, budget cuts, unfunded federal mandates and tax cuts among them. Moreover, they exempted Congress from provisions imposed on the rest of the country, bloated their committee staffs and developed rules to make it harder for the public to keep track of the public's business. All that is changed now.



Newt Gingrich

Survey: 40 percent favor,
47 percent disapprove

The "Contract With America" promised rules changes the first day of the new session and votes within the first 100 days on a laundry list of issues. It did not promise that each part of the laundry list would become law. Much would depend on the other chamber. And the Senate, by being more deliberative than the House, is fulfilling its constitutional function — also for the first time in years.

The "Contract" was a House document. People seem to forget that. But Republicans won't let people forget that they made promises and they kept them. Shortly after the House is gavelled to order each day, a member takes a turn at reciting key provisions and repeating, "We have kept these promises."

Maybe that is why more than half the respondents to a Time magazine/CNN poll released Saturday said the Republican Congress is doing a good or very good job. However, nearly two-thirds of those respondents said they were not familiar enough with the "Contract With America" to identify its best features and just under half expressed disappointment in Speaker Newt Gingrich. Sounds like wide but shallow support.

So it's difficult to read too much into the "Contract With America," if one party to the contract (America) doesn't have near the same understanding of its provisions as the other, the Republican Party. Last October, The Gazette described it as "a lot of hot air," although we liked some of the contract's objectives.

Besides its efforts at deficit reduction, the most compelling goal of all, what's most worthy about the Republican Congress' first 100 days is a reminder that America functions best in a two-party system. Give-and-take between them results in the strongest legislation. The Democrats' 40-year run was starting to impede such barter and compromise.

Now comes a fresh breeze. Republicans are seizing an opportunity to initiate course corrections and some radical reforms. They were given this opportunity because voters saw need for course correction and

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

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'Contract' doomed to fail

As an exercise in parliamentary skill, the performance of House Speaker Newt Gingrich and his Republican colleagues has been masterful. They promised to vote within 100 days on every item in their "Contract With America," and they have kept that difficult promise in grand fashion, passing nine of the 10 contract items.

As an exercise in public relations, the contract has also been a huge, if perhaps temporary, success. That's not surprising, because the contract was conceived as a marketing ploy from the beginning. House Republicans poll-tested every item in the contract before announcing it last fall, dropping those items that did not draw at least 60 percent approval.

However, in the end, the contract will be judged not as a marketing ploy and not as an impressive display of party discipline. It will have to be judged as a blueprint for governing, and on that basis it will prove a failure.

Gingrich has referred to the tax cut passed Wednesday by the House as the contract's "crowning jewel." That's an apt description, because in many ways the \$189 billion tax cut does exemplify the contract and its failings.

In the first place, passing a tax cut is perhaps the easiest vote a politician can cast. No opponent is going to turn that vote into a campaign commercial, reminding voters that "Congressman Joe Schmo tried to lower your taxes!"

But cutting taxes is not always the best policy, and in this case it is downright irresponsible. The reluctance of many of Gingrich's own party members to support the cut testifies to that. The economy is simply in no condition to absorb that much new money without touching off inflation. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan has warned as clearly as he can that every additional dollar dumped into

the economy by the tax cut will have to be absorbed again by raising interest rates, even if it means pushing the economy into recession.

Furthermore, the U.S. dollar has been taking a beating in recent days, in part because foreign investors continue to be concerned about the federal deficit. The \$189 billion tax cut over five years represents an increase in the national debt of \$189 billion, and if enacted into law it is bound to make the dollar even weaker. It's the wrong move, at the wrong time, for the wrong reason. Recent polls indicate that the American public understands that, even if the Republicans don't.

The tax cut also exemplifies another of the contract's major failings: its pandering to big business and affluent Americans. The vast majority of the benefits of the tax cut would go to those who need it least. For instance, the House proposes to eliminate the alternative minimum tax for corporations. That tax was passed to ensure that profitable corporations can't use loopholes to duck all their income-tax liability. The alternative minimum tax ensures that they have to pay at least something; repealing the tax would let them skate.

In essence, the Republican argument is that those who have benefited the most from the current system need to benefit still more, while those who have suffered the most need to suffer some more. You might call it a carrot-and-stick approach: The rich get the carrot and the poor get the stick. It's a philosophy evident throughout the contract, from provisions gutting consumer-protection laws to attempts to legalize life-threatening pollution.

The rewards of that approach have already begun to come in. It's only April, and campaign-finance reports indicate that the Republican Party has already collected more donations than in all of 1994.

4-6-95

Molpus
Camp 2/97

Molpus poll indicates Fordice is vulnerable as a candidate

JACKSON

This year's gubernatorial showdown gets an unusually early start when the two contenders for the governor's office in November face off for the first time next Thursday at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Economic Council.

Republican Gov. Kirk Fordice and his Democratic challenger, Secretary of State Dick Molpus, will jointly be questioned by a panel chosen from the business community.

It's not billed as a debate but it will probably be as close to one as anything in the foreseeable future. Certainly having the two candidates on the same platform with the election seven months out is a first in the memory of this writer.

Both Fordice and Molpus have to dispatch token opponents in their respective party primaries in August, but that is a given. What makes this gubernatorial derby extraordinary is that Molpus doesn't have to face a traditional Democratic primary blood-letting to get his party's nomination. And Fordice doesn't have a major foe to contend with in the GOP primary as he did four years ago.

Duoyed by their first poll

The Molpus camp has recently been duoyed by the results of their first poll, taken by the Garin-Hart Research Group.

The poll — taken in mid-March with 610 respondents — showed Fordice is far from unbeatable. Fordice's "re-electable" rating stands at 41 percent, as against a 50 percent-plus rating which an incumbent is supposed to have to be considered virtually invul-

BILL MINOR



Free-lance Writer

nerable. The electability reading came from asking voters if Fordice should be re-elected.

Perhaps even more significant, only 30 percent of voters "firmly" support Fordice for re-election.

Unlike polls over the last few years, neither jobs nor the economy was foremost in the minds of voters. It was education — considered tops by 33 percent. Taxes, crime and welfare were down the list at slightly over 20 percent. The economy was down at 13 percent.

Since education is Molpus' strongest suit, and Fordice's weakest, Molpus has a solid base for a starting point. Molpus is the founder of "Parcours for Public Schools" and was one of Gov. William Winter's stalwarts in the monumental battle to enact the 1982 Education Reform Act.

Fordice's pitch to position himself as the "anti-crime" governor evidently does not resonate well with the electorate. The Garin-Hart poll showed him getting a less than passing grade on fighting crime. His income tax cut gambit, when put up against cutting the sales tax on gro-

ceries (the kind of tax relief Molpus had advocated), also fell short.

Molpus, it appears, will do well with the electorate if the direction of the upcoming campaign can be focused on state issues rather than on the Clinton administration or, more specifically, the president himself. As any sampling of opinion in Mississippi indicates, Bill Clinton, even though he is a neighbor from Arkansas, is unpopular in the hinterlands.

Molpus must narrow the debate

The task for Molpus will be to keep from being linked in any way to Clinton or national Democrats and to narrow the debate to bread-and-butter issues pertaining only to Mississippi. The Fordice handlers (his hired guru is Jim Weber, an Alexandria, Va.-based GOP strategist) can be expected to shift the rhetoric to a popularity (or unpopularity) contest against Clinton rather than Molpus.

In that regard, the Garin-Hart poll indicated that Mississippians don't regard Molpus as some kind of flaming liberal. Only 15 percent said they thought Molpus "too liberal" in his stands on issues. Even among conservative whites, just 27 percent rated Molpus too liberal.

Mississippians are about to be exposed to seven months of gubernatorial campaign rhetoric, the longest in state political history since the two combatants for the governor's chair are known earlier than ever before.

Are you ready for it?

• Bill Minor, who has covered state politics since 1967, writes columns for Mississippi newspapers. His address is P.O. Box 1243, Jackson, MS 39215.

Kentucky
Governor
Race

Louisville
Cannon

Gable, who has no campaign staff or headquarters, reported total spending of \$2,240 and a March 24 balance of \$27,435. Forgy, who is running radio commercials, reported spending \$241,071, leaving a balance of \$528,084.

We leads the pack campaign funding

DeGroot gains in the February money race

Christopher Lopez and Mark Eddy over Post Staff Writers
4/16/85
Denver mayoral candidate Mary DeGroot scored up in the money race last month, but incumbent Wellington Webb more than doubled the take of any of his challengers.

Webb supporters contributed \$6,378.81 to the mayor's campaign March, \$20,000 more than he raised in February and \$56,000 more than DeGroot, the second-most successful fund-raiser.

DeGroot took in \$50,840 last week, a \$30,000 increase over February when she raised only \$20,000, a lead of any candidate.

"We're comfortable with our fund-raising," said Webb campaign manager David Kenney. "It shows the amount of support the mayor has out there."

DeGroot said her fund-raising is reflective of how her campaign has taken off.

"It's pretty clear that Denver wants a change," she said.

John Frew was hot on DeGroot's side, generating \$49,517 in campaign contributions last month, while Webb Crider raised the least amount of money last month at \$42,398.

Crider, however, has more cash on hand than either DeGroot or Frew. He entered April with a balance of \$6,837.

DeGroot, by comparison, had \$6,181, and Frew \$41,895 to spend coming into this month.

Webb, meanwhile, continues to campaign with the most money. Leading into the stretch, he has \$202,637 in the bank.

Crider campaign manager Chris Jones said his candidate is being

careful about how he spends his money, which reflects why Crider has more money to spend at this point than the other two challengers.

"We're saving money wherever we can," said Jones, "and doing more with less."

Another spin on campaign fund-raising rests with the fact that Frew has raised more money throughout his campaign than DeGroot.

Frew has raised a total of \$144,497 compared with \$127,951 for DeGroot.

"I think we're showing surprising strength considering John (Frew) is the least known of the candidates," said Frew strategist Jay Marlin.

But what does Frew have to show for the amount of money he has raised and spent so far in his run for mayor?

According to the latest poll, he's sitting at 6 percent with less than a month until the May 2 vote.

"We're running against three career politicians," said Marlin, "and when you're a relative unknown, it takes more time and more money to get your message out."

DeGroot gains in latest poll, but Webb still comfortably ahead

By Brian Weber 4/16/85
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

City Councilwoman Mary DeGroot seems to be gaining momentum in her mayoral bid, although Mayor Wellington Webb still holds a comfortable lead, according to a new poll.

The KUSA-Bullet Poll conducted Tuesday night put Webb at 44%, or 5% less than he regis-

tered in a similar poll three weeks ago.

DeGroot attracted 30% — a 12% gain from the last survey of 500 likely voters in the May 2 election.

That's a 17% swing in her favor which is significant, said Jay Leve, editor of the Bulletin Poll.

"It appears DeGroot has caused this to turn into a two-person race," he said. "She has soonmen-

tered in a similar poll three weeks ago. Meanwhile, the other two challengers dropped or stalled. Auditor Bob Crider went from 18% to 14% while attorney John Frew kept his 6%.

"There has to be a profound event for Bob Crider or John Frew to be serious contenders," Leve said.

If no candidate wins more than 50% on May 2, the two top vote-

getters will face off in a June 6 runoff.

Besides her overall improvement, DeGroot gained support from key groups that account for a large share of those who traditionally vote, Leve noted. At the same time, Webb slipped with those groups.

Males now back her by 32%, up from 17%. Three weeks ago Webb had 52% of men and now has 42%.

Webb maintains lead in fund-raising game

Mayor has raised twice as much as any of his three challengers, but they're posting respectable gains

By Brian Weber 4/16/85
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Front-runner Mayor Wellington Webb dominated his three opponents in fund-raising during March.

Webb has raised \$106,375 as he seeks a second term — twice as much as any of his challengers. With fewer than four weeks until election day, Webb has \$202,637 in the bank — more than three times the cash of any of his opponents.

But two of his rivals — Mary DeGroot and John Frew — posted their best fund-raising month and Bob Crider put in a strong performance.

City Councilwoman DeGroot, who is running second to Webb in the polls, took in \$50,840 and has \$60,181 on hand. In the first two months of the year, DeGroot

brought in \$39,000.

The two-term councilwoman gave herself \$1,000. Her chief consultant, Eric Sonderrmann, kicked in \$1,500. She received contributions from several consultants, and contractors who have done business with the city. Chandelise Properties, which developed the Denver Valley

shopping center and a retail center at East Mexico Avenue and South Colorado Boulevard, gave \$3,000.

Attorney John Frew raised \$49,517. He has \$41,895 in the bank.

Frew tapped former law partners, lobbyists and a public relations executive.

Auditor Bob Crider raised

\$43,399 and has \$66,837 on hand. He was helped by property managers and apartment building owners, lawyers and accountants. Crider and his wife contributed \$1,400.

Webb relied heavily on a variety of city contractors for financial aid.

Jerry Morgenson, chief executive of Hensel Phelps Construction Co., which built Concourse C and other airport facilities, gave \$3,000. Ron Norby, a Hensel Phelps executive, gave \$1,000. The law firm that represented the city in baggage system negotiations, Gelf Fleishman and Sterling, gave \$3,000. DMJM, an engineering company, gave \$2,000. Dogplan, which built the airport baggage system, gave \$2,000.

Rocky Mountain News Tues., April 4, 1995

Hispanic lawyers protest rejection of appointment

Bar association calls decision 'unacceptable'

By Kris Newcomer

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Leaders of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association protested Monday the Justice Department's rejection of Pueblo District Judge Dennis Maes for an appointment to U.S. District Court.

Maes, nominated in August by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, would have been the first Hispanic federal district judge in Denver.

But his nomination was rejected by the Justice Department, then the White House, and his name was not submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

"The decision to eliminate Judge Maes' nomination leaves Colorado with no immediate hope for diversifying its federal district court with the addition of a qualified Hispanic judge," bar association president Peggy E. Montaño

said in a statement.

"In the view of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, this is simply unacceptable given the state's large Hispanic population."

Maes has expressed dismay because he called the White House several times to inquire about the status of his nomination, and he was told as late as February that everything was fine. The Pueblo judge then got word in mid-March that his name had been eliminated from consideration in December.

In the Hispanic Bar Association's statement, Montaño said the association "rejects the Justice Department's conclusion and continues with its strong support of Judge Maes."

The Justice Department's decision reportedly was based on the its determination that Maes lacked federal court experience.

The Hispanic Bar Association said that state trial court judges are routinely appointed to the federal district court bench.

DISPROVING A THEORY

Smaller farms get most help

4/9/95

By JERRY PERKINS

REGISTER FARM EDITOR

The largest share of government farm program payments is going to small and medium-sized farms in the United States and Iowa, according to statistics compiled by Al Krebs, research director of Prairiefire Rural Action, an advocacy group based in Des Moines.

"Large farms are really not getting all that much in the way of subsidies," said Krebs, who based his research on the 1992 Census of Agriculture conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. "Most of the payments are going to farms with sales between \$50,000 a year and \$500,000 a year."

Krebs said the 1992 Agriculture Census shows that farms in the \$50,000 to \$500,000 annual sales category make up about 27 percent of the farms in the nation and more than half of Iowa's farms.

The U.S. farms with \$50,000 to \$500,000 in sales in 1992 received 31.5 percent of the government's farm payments in 1992, Krebs said his research showed.

Iowa farms with \$50,000 to \$500,000 in sales in 1992 that received government farm program payments got 40.9 percent of the state's direct farm program payments in 1992, Krebs said.

Misstatements

Krebs said he crunched the numbers because he is concerned that opponents of farm spending are misstating who gets farm program payments.

"I wanted to disprove that it's a bunch of big, greedy farmers getting government payments," Krebs said. "The point needs to be made that a farm with \$100,000 in yearly sales is not that big."

Krebs said that in 1992, 64 percent of Iowa's farms received what

he called "direct government payments," which include deficiency and diversion payments, Conservation Reserve Program payments, Wetlands Reserve Program payments, conservation program payments, wool payments and all other federal farm program payments made directly to farmers.

He kept separate statistics on government price support loans, which are given to farmers for corn, soybeans and other crops covered by the Commodity Credit Corp. of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Government loan programs tend to favor farmers in the South who grow cotton, Krebs said. For example, cotton farmers received an average loan of \$212,000 in 1992, Krebs said. In comparison, corn farmers received an average loan of \$74,500, he said.

"At the risk of fighting the Civil War again, cotton is the problem" with loans to large farmers, he said, primarily because individual cotton farms tend to be larger than corn farms.

EEP Spending

Krebs also tracked government spending for the Export Enhancement Program, which subsidizes U.S. commodity exports.

EEP spending has gone mostly to large corporations, Krebs said.

The four largest 1994 recipients of EEP money were Cargill Inc., Continental Grain, Louis Dreyfus and Bunge Corp., which together received a total of \$549 million, or almost half of the \$1.1 billion in EEP spending last year.

In 1993, the same four companies received \$499 million, or 52 percent of the \$967 million spent under EEP, Krebs said.

In 1992, Krebs said, the 369,200 farmers in the United States who received government farm payments got a total of \$5.2 billion.

DNR

Clinton, in L.A., Assures Jews on Israel's Security

By JOHN M. BRODER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

President Clinton on Sunday sought to reassure anxious American Jews that his Administration will not sacrifice the security of Israeli citizens in its desire to promote the Middle East peace process.

Speaking to a Jewish fund-raising luncheon in Los Angeles hours after terrorist attacks left at least six Israelis dead and 47 injured in the Gaza Strip—including three Americans, according to White House officials—Clinton said that the bombings demonstrated the risks of peace.

"Once more the enemies of peace have sought to abuse the opportunity peace presents to kill it, to kill hope, to kill all possibility of a normal life" for Israelis and Palestinians, Clinton said.

"Let us stiffen our resolve to say to those who seek to abuse human life . . . 'You will not succeed. You must not succeed,'" Clinton said to the applause of the 1,000 donors to the Jewish National Fund who met Sunday at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Clinton was warmly received by the group, the charitable

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SECURITY

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fund-raising arm of the Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles. He was greeted with a lengthy ovation when he arrived, and his 20-minute remarks on his foreign and domestic policies drew loud, rhythmic applause at their conclusion.

The appearance concluded a three-day presidential visit to California, which included political and fund-raising events in Sacramento and Los Angeles.

The American Jewish community has been particularly supportive of the Middle East peace process, and any sign of wavering by its members could affect the assertive role the United States has taken as well as the momentum for further agreements.

A senior Administration official traveling with the President said Sunday that the support has remained strong despite the numerous terrorist incidents that have killed more than 100 Israelis since Israel entered into peace agreements with the Palestinians in September, 1993, and subsequently with Jordan.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher takes pains after each of his negotiating

trips to the Middle East to brief American Jewish leaders on his progress, the official said.

The status reports are designed not only to keep the American Jewish community informed but also to ensure their continued political backing for the Administration.

The official said that American Jews, like Israelis, are growing increasingly concerned about whether a peace accord with Syria would intensify Arab opposition and anti-Israel terrorist assaults. But "we still perceive a great deal of support for pressing ahead for a comprehensive peace in the region," the official said.

Clinton spoke to the Jewish group after attending Palm Sunday Mass at St. Vibiana's Cathedral in Downtown Los Angeles. Before the Mass, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony presented Clinton with a copy of Pope John Paul II's latest encyclical, "The Gospel of Life."

The document, the Roman Catholic pontiff's strongest statement on the sanctity of human life and the church's unswerving opposition to birth control, abortion and euthanasia, was a pointed reminder of Clinton's differences with the leadership of the church on fundamental social issues.

Mahony is chairman of the Pro-Life

Activities Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and as such the American church's leading spokesman against abortion.

It was the first visit by a President to St. Vibiana's. Clinton's party included Education Secretary Richard W. Riley and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry G. Cisneros.

Mahony noted that no changes were made in the Palm Sunday liturgy, except to insert a "special prayer of thanksgiving" for the victory of UCLA over the University of Arkansas in the national collegiate basketball championship game.

Clinton's day began with a jog along the Santa Monica beach with actress Kate Capshaw, the wife of producer Steven Spielberg, with whom Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton spent Saturday night.

At a \$50,000-a-couple Democratic National Committee fund-raising dinner at Spielberg's Pacific Palisades home Saturday night, the Clintons were feted by about 100 Hollywood luminaries, including Barbra Streisand and Sharon Stone.

After a dinner of grilled corn chowder, fried chicken and peach cobbler, singer k.d. lang entertained the crowd with several songs, including Clinton favorites "Right to Love" and "Constant Craving."

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