

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Presidential hopeful admits plagiarism

WASHINGTON — Sen. Joseph Biden admitted Thursday that he committed plagiarism in law school 23 years ago but dismissed the furor over his failure to attribute the words of others in his speeches as "much ado about nothing."

At a Capitol Hill news conference, the Delaware Democrat and presidential hopeful released law school records that disclosed his plagiarism at Syracuse University in 1965 and said, "I did not intentionally move to mislead anybody."

"I did something very stupid 23 years ago," Biden said. "Little did I know I would be standing before the whole world acknowledging the fact I did not know how to write a legal mem-

orandum and the mistake is costing me as much as it is costing me."

Biden also admitted a series of errors in not attributing quotes correctly in several campaign speeches this year. But he said fellow presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson called to say he also uses phrases Biden has been accused of lifting.

Saying all candidates use "certain generic quotes" from past leaders, he charged that the controversy is meaningless.

"I am being honest. . . The American people will judge. I think it's much ado about nothing," said Biden.

"In the marketplace of ideas in the

political realm, the notion that for every thought or idea you have to go back and find and attribute to someone is frankly ludicrous."

He rejected the notion that his admission of errors in speeches suggested he cannot control himself.

"I feel very capable of using my mouth in sync with my mind," he said.

Ad Biden declared he will fight on for the Democratic nomination.

"I want to tell them all. I'm in this race to stay. I'm in this race to win. And here I come," he said.

Biden repeatedly suggested that the sources of the stories about his speeches and law school record came

from his opponents, although he said he could not identify any one campaign, Republican or Democratic, as the source.

"It is no coincidence," Biden said, that these allegations came to light just as he began to chair the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court.

But he said, "I don't think it will undermine" his leadership during the hearings.

That stand was supported by members of the committee.

"He is absolutely, totally credible. . . He is a very strong, honest man,"

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz.

"Joe has been doing an outstanding job in these hearings, and doing so under great pressure," said Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., another presidential candidate. "I have complete confidence in Joe Biden's integrity and ability."

Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., who is considering a presidential bid, said the flap could hurt Biden's campaign. "Anything can be fatal in this day and age," she said.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., added, "I think it's always a good idea to attribute quotes, but I don't think he deserves capital punishment for running a red light."

Bashes cheer Constitution's bicentennial

PHILADELPHIA — The birthplace of the Constitution threw a button-popping party Thursday to celebrate the 200th birthday of a document President Reagan hailed as "the triumph of human freedom."

The bash was one of hundreds, solemn and sparkling, across the country Thursday as Americans rang bells, saluted the flag, became American citizens and took train rides into history to commemorate the Constitution.

In Kansas, water from the Fountain of Justice began to flow by the Kansas Judicial Center, culminating years of fund-raising efforts by residents.

On the boundary between New York and New Jersey, the largest free-flying flag in the country, all 5,400 square feet, was unfurled on the George Washington Bridge.

In Georgia, hundreds of schoolchildren were treated to a reading of the great document amid marches and flag shows at the state Capitol.

And in North Dakota, the youngest Americans were the winners. Babies born Thursday were each given a copy of the Constitution.

Former U.S. Chief Justice Warren Burger, who turned 80 Thursday, led an international bell-ringing ceremony at 4 p.m., the precise time the 4,453-word Constitution was signed after four steamy months of hot debate two centuries ago.

A beaming Burger, who accepted the signatures of 6 million school children reaffirming the Constitu-



Michelle Miklos/Daily Nebraskan

tuted on a rope to ring a replica of the Liberty Bell for five minutes.

Throughout the land and military installations around the world, other bells great and small chimed in.

Burger likened the Constitution to a bridle that harnesses a horse.

"The government could pull but not push the people. It marked the beginning of the end of the idea of the divine right of kings," said Burger, head of the federal commission celebrating the bicentennial.

The city's \$6 million bash featured a parade, picnic, pageantry and seven barges of fireworks to

honor the day when the Constitution was signed by 39 of its 55 designers.

Speaking in front of Independence Hall, Reagan called the signing of the world's first constitution an event "that would profoundly and forever alter not just these United States but the world."

"In a very real sense, it was then — in 1787 — that the revolution truly began," he said. "For it was with the writing of our Constitution. . . that the hopes and dreams of the revolutionists could become a living, enduring reality."

Officials' talks extended, 'history in the making'

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze decided dramatically Thursday to extend their talks on a missile-reduction treaty, and a Soviet spokesman said "history is in the making."

Shultz and Shevardnadze scrapped plans for a midday windup and separate news conferences, sent down to the State Department cafeteria for sandwiches and pressed on with their talks over a treaty to scrap intermediate-range missiles.

"We're moving ahead across the full range of issues," said Charles E. Redman, the State Department spokesman.

"History is in the making," said Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet spokesman, "We must wait a little bit."

The original plan had been to wind up the talks at about noon. Shultz and Shevardnadze were then to hold separate news conferences and make separate visits to Capitol Hill to talk to members of Congress.

But the hours ticked away, without word from Shultz's seventh-floor office.

The first indication of a shift was a telephone call to reporters from the Soviet embassy that Shevardnadze was

postponing his news conference, which had been scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

Then, at 2:32 p.m., Redman and Gerasimov joined a group of reporters waiting to no avail in the lobby to record Shevardnadze's departure.

Redman described the talks as constructive, positive and forward-moving. "The ministers simply decided they had a lot of work to do," Redman said.

He said they would continue through the afternoon, possibly into the evening, and make no "formal statement" until Friday.

But later, Phyllis Oakley, a department spokeswoman, said Redman and Gerasimov would have a statement on nuclear testing.

Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev has called a ban on further weapons tests the most urgent nuclear issue. "There is no more urgent and important task today than that of ending all nuclear testing," he said in August 1986.

Gorbachev suspended further Soviet tests, but failing to persuade President Reagan to join in the ban, the Soviet leader ordered a resumption last February after a 19-month hiatus.

'Accusations unfair' Bork calls his record misrepresented

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork, complaining of unfair attacks by critics, bristled Thursday over an accusation he favors unbridled presidential power and complained that his record is being misrepresented.

Bork, in his third day of questioning by the Senate Judiciary Committee and facing a fourth day Friday, engaged in a tense exchange with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and expressed frustration about a news report describing his denial that he is a racist.

Bork suggested the report made him sound defensive by failing to point out he was answering a direct question whether he is a racist.

"All of a sudden I'm denying something I wasn't accused of," Bork said.

Bork, a former Yale University law

professor, said some liberal groups which have analyzed his record have done sloppy research.

Asked by a supporter on the committee, Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, if he would flunk them for their analyses, Bork said, "It would not be a passing grade."

The nominee directly challenged one organization's published report that he almost always votes for the government and big business, and against individuals.

"If you look at my decisions on race, on women, on labor unions, on individuals versus the government, you will find no consistency along those lines," Bork said. "You will find no political axis, no political line along which those decisions line up. They go both ways. They line up only according to legal reasoning."

Pope sympathetic to farmers, AIDS patients

MONTEREY, Calif. (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Thursday asked growers to "respect the just claims" of their farm workers, thousands of whom took a day off work without pay to hear him celebrate Mass under a bright sun on a dusty racetrack.

"At every level of the agricultural process, the dignity, rights and well-being of people must be the central issue," the pope told an estimated 72,000 people gathered at Laguria Seca Raceway.

Later, the pope was to fly to San Francisco and hold an emotionally charged meeting with AIDS patients at Mission Dolores. Among the 62 victims were a 5-year-old boy, a priest, former drug abusers, and gay men unrepentant about their homosexuality.

"They all wanted the blessing of the

pope before they die. There was no feeling that this was a time for dissent, for any sign of anger," said Sheila Madden, a counselor at the nearby Most Holy Redeemer church and coordinator of the meeting.

In his Mass at the automobile and motorcycle racetrack set in rolling hills, the pope made reference to the nation's farm crisis which has introduced "thousands of American farmers . . . to poverty and indebtedness."

"Many have lost their homes and their way of life," he told the audience, drawn from the lush growing fields of the Monterey Peninsula.

Many who came to hear John Paul were Hispanic farm workers whose employees gave them the day off without pay. The diocese of Monterey contains 121 farmworker camps.

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In Brief

Lebanese man charged with taking hostages

WASHINGTON — Fawaz Younis, a Lebanese Shiite Moslem indicted for masterminding the 1985 hijacking of a Jordanian airliner with four Americans aboard, was plucked from the Mediterranean Sea by FBI agents and returned to the United States on Thursday to stand trial.

The arrest marks the first time U.S. law enforcement officials have brought an international terrorist to justice in the United States, Attorney General Edwin Meese III told a news conference.

Sen. Zorinsky's widow to run for Congress

Cece Zorinsky, widow of U.S. Sen. Edward Zorinsky, said she will run for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the 2nd District.

Zorinsky also had considered running for the Democratic nomination for her husband's old Senate seat, which will be up for election in 1988. The 2nd District seat is now held by Rep. Hal Daub, R-Neb., who is running against Republican David Karnes for GOP Senate nomination.

Hershey unveils chocolate to bar none

HERSHEY, Pa. — Hershey Chocolate Co. says chocolate cravings are hitting the roof, so it has introduced Bar None in an effort to satisfy them.

President Joseph P. Viviano said the new product features a cocoa water, chocolate creme, peanuts and a milk chocolate coating. The last Hershey product introduced for national distribution was the Skor bar in 1983.