

Candidates prepare for debate; Quayle refines answers

George Bush and Michael Dukakis courted the support of Italian-Americans in competing Columbus Day appearances Monday that left plenty of time to polish their lines in private for this week's second and final presidential campaign debate.

It was a day that mixed campaign rhetoric with colorful made-for-television images.

Dukakis proposed a plan to make it easier for first-time home buyers to finance their residences before marching in a Columbus Day parade up Fifth Avenue in mid-town Manhattan alongside Gov. Mario Cuomo, New York Mayor Ed Koch and John F. Kennedy Jr.

Bush took a turn at a pool table in an Italian neighborhood in New Jersey, bouncing the No. 4 ball in the corner pocket while the morning patrons cheered. After that came a

speech on crime.

Their daily campaign rounds over, both men hustled back to their political lairs to resume preparations for their prime-time debate later in the week.

Both camps said they expected the 90-minute debate to be held at 9 p.m. EDT Thursday night on the campus of UCLA, and the presidential rivals were flying to the West Coast on Tuesday to prepare.

The candidates exuded confidence as they began the final four weeks of campaigning.

The vice president, a step ahead in the polls, said he was heartened by surveys showing him the leader across the South and in other key states.

Countered Dukakis: "This one is out there to be won. ... We can taste

it. We can feel it."

Indiana Sen. Dan Quayle was the only vice presidential candidate with appearances scheduled.

He was in Ohio and Michigan, where he offered another refinement of the answer to the question in last week's debate that plagued him — what would he do if he suddenly became president.

He said he would make a request to speak to the nation and would consult with U.S. allies.

"Obviously you do different things under an assassination. The first thing you do in an assassination — I would still say a prayer for myself and the nation — but the first thing you do is you get on the phone and call the head of the CIA and see what he thinks it was. You don't convene a Cabinet meeting right

away," Quayle said.

"You get your secretary of defense, your national security adviser, your Secretary of State and meet with them immediately. In the situation of an illness it would be a different type of situation," he said.

Dukakis attacked Bush's record on housing issues in his first stop of the day.

"George Bush has no housing program. He has no solutions," the Democrat said in a speech in Levittown, a Long Island community that was the embodiment of the post-World War II boom in affordable housing. "He has no new ideas."

But the vice president got the endorsement of *Il Progresso*, an Italian-language newspaper, which said the "traditional values of Italian-Americans can be found in the elec-

toral program of Vice President Bush.

Italian-American Cuomo answered for Dukakis, saying, "Then they ought to change their name. From going forward — progress — to going backward," he said.

The vice president street-campaigned in New Jersey, walking through an Italian neighborhood in south Trenton before delivering a speech on crime.

"Frankly, law-abiding Americans are fed up with the cruel and unusual punishment inflicted on them by those who are soft on crime," the vice president said.

He proposed making it easier for victims to collect civil judgments for restitution and allowing them to receive more money automatically if a convict's financial situation improved.



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

Clocks latest sign of Estonian autonomy

TALLINN, U.S.S.R. — When Soviets set their clocks ahead next spring for an extra hour of daylight, Estonia won't switch with them.

The tiny Baltic republic will no longer tick to the time in Moscow, 500 miles to the south, but to the time in Finland, 50 miles to the north.

Thus, even the clocks will reflect the new spirit of independence among Estonians.

Long viewed as one of the most progressive of the 15 Soviet republics, Estonia is trying in many other ways to set its own course. Its leaders hope to use their independence to demonstrate the effectiveness of President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's social and economic reforms.

With the blessing of the republic's Communist Party, officials are planning to open trade offices abroad, enter joint ventures with Western companies without

Moscow approval, return to family farming, and even issue their own currency that, unlike the ruble, could be traded on world markets.

"The Communist Party of Estonia can be regarded as one of the front-rankers of the reconstruction drive. Estonia has been the initiator of many reforms," said Estonian party chief Vajino Vyalys.

"At the bottom of our hearts, all Estonians want secession," said Ulo Kaevats, head of the auditing commission of the People's Front, a grassroots organization pushing for reform. "But if we did put forward this question, we would have martial law, and we all know that very well."

The self-restraint seems to be paying off for the People's Front.

The group's blue, red and green emblem can be seen on posters, flags and buttons throughout Tallinn, Estonia's ancient seaside

capital. State-run radio broadcast the front's organizing conference live Oct. 1-2, and newspapers reported it on their front pages.

Even in Moscow, the centrally controlled press, which has branded other such groups as "anti-socialist," carried generally sympathetic reports on the People's Front.

The People's Front demanded "decolonization" and seeks local control of agriculture, industry and businesses without interference from Moscow. The group also wants Estonian to be the republic's official language and proposes curbs on the settlement of non-Estonians, who make up 40 percent of the republic's population.

The group also is after political power. It has fielded candidates in local elections and plans to put up more in legislative elections next spring.

Kerrey blasts Karnes and Bahler for negative campaign

LINCOLN — Democrat Bob Kerrey said Monday that an attempt by his Republican Senate opponent to link him with actress Jane Fonda has pushed him to the limit of his patience.

"This isn't a cheap shot; it is a lie," Kerrey said about a statement by U.S. Sen. Dave Karnes. "The statement displays gross insensitivity to the pain and anger which Vietnam veterans still feel toward Miss Fonda."

Kerrey won the Medal of Honor for his action as a Navy commando during the Vietnam War. He suffered a wound that cost him part of a leg.

Karnes had said Kerrey has been invited to a fund-raiser sponsored by Hollywood Women's PAC.

"One of the key players in the Hollywood Women's PAC is Jane Fonda," Karnes said. "They want to have Bob Kerrey back in the United

States Senate because they can count on his vote. ... And people of Nebraska think that this guy is just like one of us."

Kerrey, who spoke to students at Omaha's Westside High School, said that he served in Vietnam and that friends suffered because of Miss Fonda's much publicized trip to North Vietnam.

"So kindly pick a different liberal to accuse me of associating with; or pick a different person other than me to associate with Jane Fonda," Kerrey said.

Kerrey also criticized Karnes for running a negative campaign.

Brent Bahler, political director for the Karnes campaign, declined to respond to Kerrey's charges until he had seen a copy of his remarks.

Kerrey objected to what he said

was an attempt to discredit him by Jack Hart, a former aide and longtime friend to former Republican Gov. Charles Thone.

Kerrey said the husband of Karnes' campaign manager filed incorporation papers for the group that published Hart's report. That report was critical of Kerrey's handling of the Commonwealth Savings Co. collapse.

Hart has said the group is separate from the Karnes campaign.

Kerrey attributed some of the most negative behavior of the Karnes campaign to Bahler.

"He is a man who does not care for Nebraska," Kerrey said. "His well-known slur of Kansas while he worked for Sen. Bob Dole demonstrates his contempt for the people of the Great Plains."

In February 1986, Harris News Service columnist John Marshall wrote that Bahler, Dole's press secretary, made this remark to reporters at the Kansas Statehouse press room:

"What a wasteland. We were in Garden City. Gawd. And then there was the drive from Garden City to Hays. There is absolutely nothing out there. Absolutely nothing. Oh, there are a few cows lying flat on the ground. I am convinced now that if you are reincarnated, that's where God sends you if you f— up."

Kerrey also said Karnes' assertion that Kerrey is a tax-and-spend liberal is preposterous in two ways: "My record as governor and your record as senator."

He said he agreed with Karnes that the federal budget deficit must be contained first by having Congress

stop its wasteful spending, yet he said Karnes' borrowing of staff from other senators and his use of franked mail has gained him a national reputation.

Kerrey said that U.S. Sen. J. James Exon, D-Neb., immediately was able to account for the use of his 1988 Senate office funds but that Karnes has said it will take a while to get the information.

Kerrey said Karnes could get the information in five minutes by calling the disbursing office of the secretary of the Senate.

"Unfortunately, your call will be long distance," Kerrey said. "For unlike every other Republican and Democratic senator who is standing for election, you have chosen to campaign full time. You have chosen to remain in Nebraska while the Senate is in session and voting on important issues."

Congress aiming to finish drug, tax bills

WASHINGTON — Its election-year antennae in full working order, Congress is aiming to finish fast-moving, exciting-for-everyone anti-drug bill and a \$2.7 billion tax measure this week and then adjourn for the year.

Both measures would satisfy a competing urge that overtakes lawmakers each election year: to clean out legislation popular with large numbers of voters.

Work on both, however, is being influenced by another instinct that becomes unusually potent on Capitol Hill late in even-numbered years: the desire to be ready to go to time in campaign

for reelection.

Thus, when the Senate turns to the drug measure — possibly on Wednesday — legislators will be struggling to finish their work quickly or going home with no bill at all.

The drug bill is a two-year, \$2.6 billion collection of programs ranging from an expansion of the availability of treatment programs to a stiffening of penalties for people convicted of distributing drugs to children.

But lawmakers are lining up to offer an assortment of amendments that are so controversial that the bill just might be debated to death.

Senators and their aides spent

the long Columbus Day weekend trying to figure out how to slash the number of amendments the chamber will have to sort through, with Republicans ready to offer six to 10 amendments and Democrats poised to introduce more than 70 others.

Among the more controversial amendments are proposals to allow courts to consider illegally gathered evidence that police obtained in good faith; narrow the rights of prisoners to claim they were jailed illegally; require a waiting period for people wishing to purchase handguns; and apply tougher sanctions against the apartheid government of South Africa.

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