

## Both presidential candidates lay claim to momentum

George Bush and Michael Dukakis both laid claim Sunday to precious, last-minute momentum in their campaign marathon, the vice president declaring the tide was "moving in our direction" and the combative underdog insisting he was "rocking and rolling" to an election upset Tuesday.

The political equivalent of a nuclear exchange occurred on television, where the Republicans and Democrats spent millions of dollars in advertising for the waning hours of the campaign. The two candidates bought time for 30-minute commercials on all three major networks for election eve on Monday.

Although national polls pointed to a victory by GOP nominee Bush, both candidates battled the clock and physical exhaustion in a final drive to snare undecided voters and nail down the presidency.

NBC News said Bush led nationally by five percentage points, and that one of every five voters were

undecided or might switch allegiance.

"There ain't no stopping us now unless we stop ourselves," the vice president said at a breakfast rally in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"We can't turn the White House over to the people who claim to be on our side but who left the country on its back," Bush said.

Countered Dukakis, also beginning his day in Colorado: "He's slipping and sliding, we're rocking and rolling." He sought to raise fears over the possibility that Bush - if elected - might put vice presidential running mate Dan Quayle in charge of the White House crisis management team.

"Gives you the chills, doesn't it?" Dukakis asked. "Think about it - the Cuban missile crisis, with Dan Quayle in charge."

Democrats voiced confidence they would retain or perhaps widen their majorities in the House and Senate in Tuesday's balloting, and

they got little dissent from Republicans on that score.

One of the tightest Senate races was in Florida, where a late-hour poll showed a virtual tie between Rep. Buddy MacKay and Republican Rep. Connie Mack for the seat being vacated by Democratic Sen. Lawton Chiles.

Democrats also hoped for modest gains among the 12 statehouse races on the ballot.

It was the costliest campaign in American history, and just one piece of it, a series of California ballot initiatives, had a price tag of more than \$100 million.

Bush aide Alixe Glen described the vice president's rapidly changing itinerary as a "Magical Mystery Tour." Dukakis tried to defy the clock and was flying overnight from Spokane to Cleveland and then St. Louis - and then back to the West Coast for a noon rally Monday.

A series of state polls provided a picture of several close races. One

poll gave Bush a 17-point lead in Texas, with its 29 electoral votes. But Dukakis was reported gaining on Bush in the latest survey in Colorado, and holding an eight-point lead in Iowa.

NBC News said its nationwide survey completed Saturday night showed the vice president with a lead of 48 percent to 43 percent, down from two weeks earlier, and that a very high 21 percent of the voters are "undecided or may still change their minds."

Bush professed little doubt about the outcome Tuesday.

"Things are moving in our direction," he said as he raced Sunday from Colorado to California to Michigan.

Dukakis, in a desperate race, noted that both candidates began the day in Colorado.

"For months George Bush has been following me around on the issues. He discovered education a few months ago, he even discovered the environment a few months ago," he

said. "This week he started following me around on my message, telling people he's on your side. Now he's following me around the country. I'll tell you one place he's not going to follow me. He's not following Lloyd Bentsen and me to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue."

Bentsen, the vice presidential nominee, flew from Illinois to Texas in a final bid to prevent Bush from taking his home state.

In an NBC interview, Bentsen said that if he returned to the Senate in a Bush administration, he would help Bush when he thought it was deserved and try to block him when he thought he was wrong.

Quayle, who shows up as a drag on the Republican ticket in virtually all the polls, declined invitations to appear on network television and campaigned Sunday in Virginia, one of the safest Republican states, where a new poll showed Bush with a 56-25 percent lead.

## Karnes banking on western Nebraska to secure victory

The heavily Republican, western half of Nebraska holds the key to Sen. David Karnes' hopes of defying the polls and pulling out a late-night victory over Democratic challenger Bob Kerrey, Karnes' top aide said Sunday.

Karnes ate pancakes at South Sioux City and danced the polka at Utica on Sunday while pleading for votes in the final days of the campaign. He is one of only four incumbent Republicans believed to have a chance of losing their Senate seats.

Kerrey campaigned on Sunday with Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and complained about the high cost of Nebraska's Senate race - expected to top a total of \$6 million.

The former governor promised in Omaha Sunday to "run the race hard" to the very end, despite polls showing him with a lead of more than 20 percentage points.

Both candidates planned appearances Monday in Nebraska's Panhandle. Kerrey scheduled a breakfast with Democrats at the Scottsbluff Elks Lodge and Karnes was to appear Monday afternoon during a rally at the Scotts Bluff County Airport.

Karnes' spokesman Brian Bahler said Sunday the 3rd Congressional District encompassing western Nebraska is the key to defeating Kerrey. "There's no doubt about it."

He said Karnes expects to draw strong support from that region just as he did when he won the GOP

primary over Rep. Hal Daub, who had strong backing from eastern Nebraska.

"It will play out just like the primary. We hope it's a long election night. The longer the night, the better for us," Bahler said.

Bahler said for Karnes to win, Kerrey would have to be held to about 62 percent of the vote in the Omaha-dominated 2nd Congressional District.

The 1st District, which includes Lincoln, would have to split fairly evenly between the two and Karnes would have to pile up 60 percent to 65 percent of the vote in the 3rd District for Karnes to win, Bahler said.

Paul Johnson, Kerrey's campaign manager, said he expects Kerrey to carry all three districts.

Kerrey said Sunday during an appearance on WOW Radio in Omaha he does not intend to let up in the final days of the campaign.

"The object is to run the race hard from beginning to end," he said.

He criticized Karnes for refusing to agree before the race started to limit their campaign spending. Each candidate is expected to end up spending \$3 million.

"The cost of these campaigns is way out of line. It for this year is just outrageous," Kerrey said.

Earlier during the weekend, Kerrey predicted victory and Karnes admitted his own appointment to the Senate by Nebraska Gov. Kay Orr could cost him some votes.

"I figure there's probably 5 in 6

percent of the vote that's going to vote against me because I was appointed by her," Karnes told one woman while at a campaign stop in Omaha.

Karnes said most of the people who appear to be against Mrs. Orr think she raised taxes in the state. "I'm disappointed too," Karnes said. "I had to write a big check, which I don't particularly care for."

Kerrey said he would hire Mexican-Americans to his Senate staff.

"There will be Hispanic faces that come to see me in my office, and I will guarantee you that they will be met by Hispanic faces," Kerrey told a largely Mexican-American crowd of more than 200 at a \$25-a-person dinner in Omaha.

## Initiative 402 backers, opponents disagree on medical effect

SCOTTSBLUFF — Proponents and opponents of a Nov. 8 ballot issue that would remove Nebraska from a low-level radioactive waste compact disagreed recently on the effects the measure would have on use of radioactive materials in medicine.

Initiative 402 could have national significance. It is the only referendum in the country on whether a state should withdraw from a low-level radioactive waste compact.

A citizen's group based in Washington, D.C., said medical facilities wouldn't be forced to close or curtail operations if Initiative 402 passed.

But a Pender physician said medical research would be put in jeopardy. The trend is for nuclear medicine to produce more radioactive waste in the future, Dr. David Hoelting said.

Initiative 402 would remove Nebraska from the Central Interstate Compact, which has chosen Nebraska to host a regional dump for low-level radioactive waste. It also would require a vote before any nuclear waste facility could be built in Nebraska.

Other states in the compact are Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and

Louisiana. Under federal law, each state must by 1993 take responsibility for disposal of the low-level radioactive waste it generates.

The Nuclear Information and Resource Service out of Washington issued a news release Saturday countering claims made by a group that opposes the Nov. 8 ballot issue.

The group, Nebraskans Against 402, has said that withdrawing from the compact would cause problems for nuclear power plants, the main source of low-level waste; medicine,

which uses radioactive materials for diagnosis and treatment of various illnesses; and research that requires radioactive materials.

But the statement issued by Diane D'Arrigo of NIRS cited U.S. Department of Energy reports in saying Nebraska hadn't shipped any medical radioactive waste to any disposal site in the past two years.

Some waste was generated, but it wasn't necessary to ship it to a dump, Ms. D'Arrigo said.

Threatening citizens with the loss of medical services shifts the focus

from problem waste such as that from nuclear power plants, onto the less controversial issue of radioactive medical waste, Ms. D'Arrigo said.

But Pender physician David Hoelting, a spokesman for Nebraskans Against 402, said medical research at universities would be imperiled if Initiative 402 passed. Much of the radioactive waste generated in medicine is for research, not treatment, Hoelting said.

Another potential problem is the use of new radioactive materials in treating cancer that take longer to decay, Hoelting said.

## Democrats may well increase control in Senate

WASHINGTON — There is an unusual unanimity this year about prospects for the Senate in Tuesday's balloting: Democrats will remain in control, and may well increase their eight-seat advantage.

"The Democrats will hold onto 54 seats at a minimum, and I believe have a very good opportunity to add," said Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

"We realize it's still quite volatile out there," said Tom Mason, spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee. "We could end up on Election Day minus two. But we could just as easily be plus two or better."

One reason little change is expected is that, unlike some past presidential elections, there has been no overriding national theme dictated by the top of the ticket, the

kind of compelling issue that would propel voters to seek massive changes.

Rather, polls have show a general contentment with the status quo, and that works to the benefit of incumbents.

That advantage extends to the House, where very little movement is expected in the Democrats' 255-177 majority.

"There isn't the thematic difference" that has pervaded presidential contests in the past, Mason said. "President Reagan said it best: We are the change. It's not as clear a mandate as in 1980, when there was such a screaming need for change."

That was the year Republicans rode Reagan's coattails to a 12-seat pickup and control of the Senate for the first time in a quarter-century. In 1986, an eight-seat gain enabled Democrats to retake control.

This time, Republican George Bush and Democrat Michael Dukakis have been criticized for running a race devoid of issues, devoted mostly to personal attacks and distortions of each other's records.

So issues in this year's Senate campaign have been largely drawn from a list of topics that Democrats claim as their own, although they have been used by candidates of both parties: the environment, education, Social Security, health care and "family issues" like child care.

Also prominent in Senate stump speeches and advertising have been the problems of drugs and crime.

Most Senate incumbents of both parties appeared likely to win re-election on Tuesday, but there were several prominent exceptions.

Analysts said Republican Sen.

David Karnes, who was appointed in 1987 to fill an unexpired Nebraska Senate term, was the most likely to be ousted. Democratic former Gov. Bob Kerrey, a popular figure, held a heavy lead in polls.

In Nevada, GOP Sen. Chic Hecht, who for months had been considered the most vulnerable Republican incumbent, has fought back to a dead heat with his challenger, Democratic Gov. Richard Bryan.

Sen. Lowell Weicker, the veteran maverick Republican from Connecticut, has resorted to his own negative ads attacking challenger Joseph Lieberman, the state's Democratic attorney general.

Republicans hungry for an upset were pointing to Montana, where they claimed to have Democratic incumbent John Melcher on the run.

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