

Clinton sweeps South; Bush blanks Buchanan

By the Associated Press

Bill Clinton won an unbroken string of Southern landslides Tuesday, brushing past Paul Tsongas to establish his front-runner credentials in the Democratic presidential race.

President Bush notched an eight-state Republican shutout of Patrick Buchanan. Bush emerged from Super Tuesday with half the delegates needed to secure renomination and the Republican establishment was suggesting — without success — that Buchanan give up the fight. "When it's over, it's over," said Republican Senate Leader Bob Dole.

Clinton had a third of the delegates needed on the Democratic side and a full head of steam for Midwest primaries next week.

On the busiest night of the primary season, Bush won from Boston to Austin, and six states in between. Buchanan's protest vote dwindled somewhat from earlier elections and Bush picked up more than 65 percent of the GOP vote in each state.

Buchanan said he had "miles to go before we sleep," and then went to bed in Dearborn, Michigan. The candidacy of David Duke proved inconsequential.

Clinton piled up Southern margins so lopsided that Tsongas was left limping as the primary calendar turns to Illinois and Michigan.

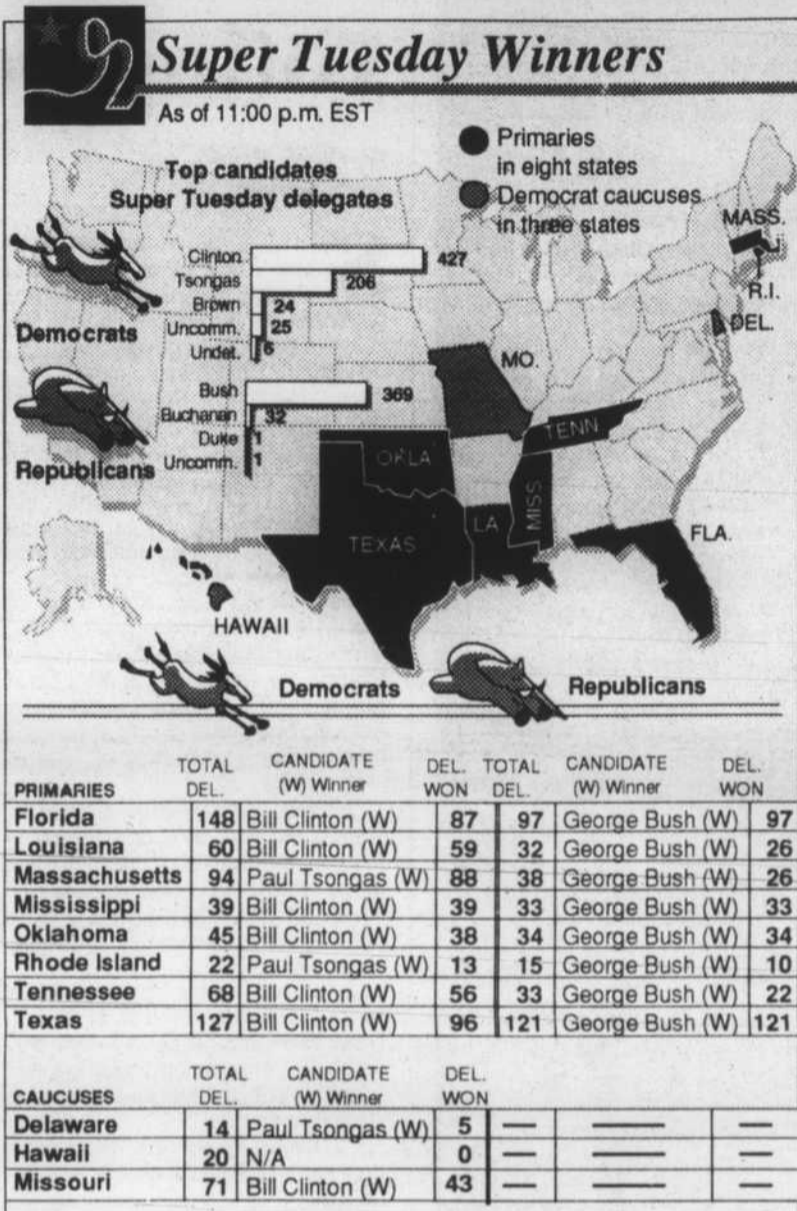
Clinton won twice as many Super Tuesday delegates as Tsongas and flexed muscle in the key states of Florida and Texas. The Arkansas governor was piling up margins of 65 percent or more in the popular vote in Texas, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Louisiana, and the Missouri caucuses.

Florida was the bitterest Democratic battleground, and even there Tsongas could capture only 34 percent of the vote.

In Florida, Clinton won 87 delegates and 51 percent of the vote while Tsongas won 58 delegates and 34 percent. Jerry Brown gained three delegates and 13 percent.

Tsongas won at home in Massachusetts and in Rhode Island, and in Delaware's caucuses. He bravely told supporters, "We're on our way to the White House, folks."

Jerry Brown, the third Democrat



still standing, held out few hopes for Super Tuesday and took his iconoclastic campaign ahead to Michigan. His best showing was 19 percent in Rhode Island with Hawaii caucuses still underway.

"Paul Tsongas is a very tenacious candidate and should not be underestimated," Democratic party chairman Ron Brown said in an interview. "I've always been in favor of an early nominee and it seems to me that we still have a good chance of achieving that goal."

Exit polls indicated Clinton's support crossed racial and ethnic lines in

the South, and he racked up large margins among black and Hispanic voters. Despite lingering controversy over draft status in Vietnam, he won handily among military veterans, according to a Cable News Network analysis.

In the Super Tuesday races, Clinton won 427 delegates. Tsongas gained 206, and Jerry Brown got 24. Twenty-five were uncommitted. Clinton now has 702.25 total delegates; Tsongas has 343.25 and Brown has 80.25. There are 4,288 delegates to the Democratic National Convention. 2,145 are needed to win the nomination.

Nuclear cuts likely at summit

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Russia's foreign minister Tuesday said he would consider a ban on the world's most dangerous nuclear weapons as part of an arms control agreement being readied for a June summit in Washington.

Andrei Kozyrev's declaration on MIRV multiple warhead missiles could accelerate missile cutbacks on both sides. He will meet Wednesday with Secretary of State James A. Baker III. They are in Brussels to attend an East-West NATO meeting.

"We'll certainly discuss the preparations for the summit meeting," Kozyrev said at a news conference. "We will try to achieve a mutually acceptable compromise."

Baker hopes to elicit from Kozyrev, a generally willing partner in arms reductions, a proposal to ban missiles with multiple warheads.

So far, even while swapping far-reaching plans with the Bush administration, Moscow has shied away from the touchy issue of its

powerful force of long-range missiles with more than one warhead.

Kozyrev signaled this may be the occasion.

"We have to bring our positions closer together, including the elimination of MIRVed missiles," he said.

The statement suggested Russia has its eye also on banning the long-range multiple warhead missiles carried aboard U.S. submarines.

Until now, Russia has been unwilling to consider a ban on its deadly land-based long-range missiles that carry up to 10 warheads each.

President Bush has proposed slashing 50 percent of the long-range missile warheads that would remain on both sides under last year's Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START.

But Baker intends to tell Kozyrev that Bush would consider going further — if the Russians agreed to scrap their land-based MIRVs.

Noriega opts not to testify in trial, says government withheld evidence

MIAMI — Manuel Noriega's defense rested its 5-week-old case Tuesday without calling the ousted Panamanian leader to the stand, closing instead with a blast at the government for allegedly withholding evidence.

The prosecution later began its rebuttal case.

Noriega told U.S. District Judge William Hoewer during a short in-chambers hearing he was voluntarily exercising his right not to testify.

"I would not want the prosecution and the lawyers present here to interpret (this) as thinking I am hiding anything," Noriega said. "I have sufficient documents and sufficient recollection to answer the questions I have heard in the months I have been sitting here."

He complained his testimony would be restricted, "not to include political matters, issues of war and the invasion."

Ships evade navy

WASHINGTON — A North Korean cargo ship suspected of carrying Scud-C missiles for Syria or Iran eluded U.S. warships in the region and slipped into the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, the Pentagon acknowledged on Tuesday.

"We did not encounter the ship," Defense Department spokesman Pete Williams told reporters. He said U.S. naval vessels, had they come upon the ship, would have at least challenged its movements and queried its contents.

"I can't say precisely why we didn't see it all the time."

Williams argued that the search for the cargo vessel Dae Hung Ho was not the "highest priority" for Navy vessels in the region, which are focused on barring shipments

to and from Iraq, not Iran.

The spokesman said a second freighter, the Iranian-flagged Iran Salaam, was hailed by the USS Ingersoll early Tuesday in the northern Arabian Sea. He said it too has been monitored by the U.S. fleet because of its suspicious contents.

The ship declared its cargo to be steel and drilling materials, and that it also was headed for Bandar Abbas, Williams said.

If either ship had sailed toward Iraq, he said, the U.S. Navy would have "taken other action," Williams said.

The Korean ship took a circuitous route or hugged the coastline off the strategic Strait of Hormuz to reach the southern Iranian port, Williams said. It arrived Monday.

Iraq asks U.N. for relief

UNITED NATIONS — Iraq pleaded Tuesday for the United Nations to lift trade sanctions it contends

have contributed to the deaths of thousands of people by cutting off essential food and medicine.

Saddam Hussein's top diplomat, Tariq Aziz, insisted Iraq had met the most important of its obligations under Gulf War cease-fire terms and accused some nations of keeping sanctions in place for purely political reasons.

A statement prepared by the Security Council president contains 15 pages of charges that Iraq has failed

to comply with U.N. orders to destroy its terror weapons. A copy of the statement, to be delivered at Wednesday's public council session on Iraq, was obtained by The Associated Press.

Diplomats said Iraq apparently was seeking a partial lifting of the sanctions, in proportion to how much it is obeying the Security Council's cease-fire terms.

The French, British, U.S. and Russian ambassadors said Iraq must meet all its obligations before sanctions can be lifted. "There is no way for a compromise," Britain's Ambassador David Hannay told reporters.

The Security Council was not expected to even consider Aziz's request until a review of the sanctions later this month.

Smiles haunt surgeon

CINCINNATI — A surgeon is being investigated for allegedly drawing "happy faces" on patients' sex organs during surgery.

Dr. Glenn D. Warden, chief of staff at the Shriners Burns Institute, is accused of drawing with a surgical marker on the penises of two patients and on the lower abdomen of a female patient, Gene Bracewell, chairman of the Shriners Hospital organization, said Monday. Hospital officials said they confirmed only one case.

Warden could not be reached for comment.

Andy Ellis, 26, who joined Bracewell at a news conference, said the drawing lifted his spirits after several

operations for burns suffered over half his body in an auto accident in 1983.

The complaints against Warden were made by staff, not patients, said Newton C. McCollough III, hospital director of medical affairs.

Warden will continue his duties until an investigation by the state chapter of the American College of Surgeons is complete, McCollough said.

Last spring Warden apologized for carving his initials on the skull of a severely burned 9-month-old infant during surgery. Some type of carving was necessary to improve blood flow and help skin grow, McCollough said.

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