

South African leaders campaign for reforms

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — President F.W. de Klerk, staking the country's future on a historic referendum Tuesday, urged whites to abandon decades of apartheid or risk plunging the country into chaos.

On Monday, the eve of the whites-only referendum on sharing power with the black majority, the country's leaders made final efforts to sway voters.

If reform is rejected, "there is no doubt where that must lead us — to a dead end of

division and destruction," said de Klerk in a newspaper message to voters.

The referendum is favored to carry. If it fails, de Klerk has promised to resign and call a whites-only election.

Political analysts warned the government's lead had slipped in recent days as campaign frenzy reached a peak and violence in black townships soared.

Army and police in long columns of armored vehicles poured into black townships

around Johannesburg to try to halt factional violence after at least 15 people died Monday and overnight. Township violence has claimed some 280 lives in the three weeks since the referendum was announced.

Some black groups say the violence has been orchestrated to persuade whites to reject reform and side with the pro-apartheid Conservative Party. However, they have not provided any evidence.

The pro-government Citizen newspaper said

Monday the outcome was unpredictable, while other newspapers forecast a close win for the government. Votes will be counted Wednesday.

Full-page ads were splashed across newspapers Monday, lawmakers handed out leaflets to commuters, and both sides held last-minute rallies.

Only whites may vote Tuesday. The 3.27 million eligible voters will be asked to vote yes or no for the continuation of talks on a new constitution to give blacks the vote.

House bank always troubled

WASHINGTON (AP)—The year was 1832 when a House leader first publicly chastised his colleagues for deliberately overdrawing their House bank accounts.

Nothing much happened.

A half-century later, a cashier skipped the country with his mistress and \$71,000 in House money. And in the 1940s, a bank official was sent to jail after skimming from accounts for 20 years.

Three times, when the bank was caught short of funds, the House voted to make up the difference with tax dollars.

But the scandal that finally shuttered the House bank last year does not involve taxpayer money. The bank was brought down by the 160-year-old custom of members writing checks on money that wasn't yet in their accounts.

As Phil Kuntz wrote in a recent

issue of Congressional Quarterly, the bank "operated for more than 150 years outside the system of checks and balances. Too often, there were plenty of checks but not enough balances."

Although it was almost always called the House bank, it never was a bank in traditional terms, starting with the fact it made no profit. It served an exclusive group of clients — the members of the House of Representatives.

Framed photographs of all 435 covered the wall the tellers faced, rank on rank of the famous and obscure. The currency those tellers slid across the counters was invariably crisp and new.

And when a member wrote a bad check, he did so with no charge and little fuss. Essentially, members were free to write themselves short-term, interest-free loans.

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USENET

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posted.

But the alt groups never have editors, Kenyon said. Anyone can start an alt group, and anyone can add to one.

Kenyon said he thought the alt groups were taken out of UNLINFO because some of them were pornographic in nature, such as "alt.sex.bondage" and "alt.sex.bestiality." Others dealt with trivial subjects, such as "alt.tv.simpsons."

But other alt groups are worthwhile, he said.

"I'll guarantee you that out of 400 (alt groups), there are 200 that are as legitimate as the rest of USENET," Kenyon said.

Douglas Gale, director of computing at UNL, said he was tired of hearing students complain about the removal of the alt groups from UNLINFO.

"They haven't been denied anything," he said.

People still can gain access to the alt groups by logging into systems elsewhere, Gale said. A list of alternative sites was posted on UNLINFO, he said.

Many students do not understand why those groups could no longer be stored on UNLINFO, Gale said.

"We're dealing very much with a resource issue," he said.

The amount of memory on UNLINFO was doubling every four months, he said, and the increase of data was making UNLINFO run more slowly.

Gale said he got the impression that some students would limit access to valuable educational resources, such as library catalogs and news wire services, just to look at "alt.tv.simpsons."

The content of the USENET groups also makes a difference, Gale said, when taxpayers' money is involved.

"Some of that stuff (in the alt groups) is pretty sick," he said. "There's stuff that would not be in the adult bookstore downtown."

CRC decided to stop storing the alt groups after a Feb. 27 meeting of the UNL Academic Senate Computational Services and Facilities Committee.

Leo Chouinard, the Academic Senate representative on the Computational Committee, said the committee discussed several considerations before making a decision about the alt groups, including possible violations of state pornography laws and concerns about computer resources being used for non-educational purposes.



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