

Clinton wins primaries easily

Arkansas governor and Bush almost clinch nominations

CHICAGO — Gov. Bill Clinton won victories in the Illinois and Michigan primaries Tuesday night, cementing his dominance of the Democratic presidential race.

President Bush piled twin land-slides atop the faltering challenge of Patrick Buchanan.

Clinton's sweep over Paul Tsongas and Jerry Brown was a major stride toward clinching the Democratic nomination to challenge Bush for the White House on Nov. 3.

The Arkansas governor emerged Tuesday with about 44 percent of the delegate majority needed for the nomination.

"It's almost a done deal," said Democratic chairman John Marino of New York, which holds its primary on April 7.

Bush said his Republican renomination was "virtually assured" by his runaways in Michigan and in Illinois. The protest vote clearly was fading, and Buchanan with it. He had centered his challenge in Michigan but had to settle for 26 percent of the vote. In Illinois, partial returns gave him only 21 percent.

Aides said Buchanan would scale back his campaign and avoid efforts that could harm Bush's chances for reelection — but the candidate himself was conceding nothing. "We're going to keep on rolling," he told supporters. "They say Mr. Bush is a prodigal son and he's on his way home. I say it's too soon . . ."

Clinton won easily in both indus-

trial states, 51 percent to 26 percent for Tsongas in Illinois; 46 to 28 for Brown, who ran second in Michigan. Those showings overrode the critics who had called him a Southern regional candidate.

"The test of electability is elections," said the Arkansas governor, adding that he'd passed it.

In Illinois, Democratic Sen. Alan Dixon was upset in his bid for third-term renomination, losing to Carol Moseley Braun, the Cook County recorder of deeds. She will face Republican Richard Williamson, a suburban Chicago attorney, in November.

Dixon urged his supporters to work for Braun, who would be the first black woman and the first black Democrat ever elected to the Senate.

Outspoken Rep. Gus Savage of Chicago also was unseated, beaten by Mel Reynolds, his three-time challenger, wounded in a drive-by shooting late in the campaign. Both winner and loser are black Democrats.

Rep. Charles Hayes, first House member caught up in the check-bouncing scandal, was in a race too close to call.

Both Tsongas and Brown offered Clinton their congratulations, a polite touch in an increasingly bitter campaign. Both had vowed in advance that no matter the result, they will continue their battles to overtake Clinton.

At a Chicago victory rally, Clinton sounded an anti-Washington theme, telling supporters that the people who voted for him, voted for change. "They have voted to go beyond the politics of both parties in Washington," he said.

ELECTIONS

Midwest contests



Illinois primary

Democrats			
57% reporting			
	Delegates	Votes	%
Clinton	107	422,868	51%
Tsongas	46	213,465	26%
Brown	11	122,498	15%
Uncommitted	0	39,019	5%
Other	0	31,035	4%

Republicans

72% reporting			
	Delegates	Votes	%
Bush	75	467,520	76%
Buchanan	0	139,728	23%
Horton	0	7,482	1%

Michigan primary

Democrats			
76% reporting			
	Delegates	Votes	%
Clinton	74	216,583	48%
Brown	35	122,129	27%
Tsongas	22	79,891	18%
Uncommitted	0	21,277	5%
Other	0	9,056	2%

Republicans

76% reporting			
	Delegates	Votes	%
Bush	72	244,563	67%
Buchanan	0	92,882	25%
Uncommitted	0	18,764	5%
Duke	0	9,491	3%

May not add to 100 due to rounding

Bomb destroys Israeli embassy

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — A suspected terrorist bomb destroyed the Israeli Embassy and ripped through a school and other buildings Tuesday. At least 10 people were killed, including some children, and more than 105 people were injured.

About 30 people were reported trapped under rubble, including some embassy personnel, said Nili Chaminsky, daughter of Israeli Ambassador Itzhak Shefi. She did not know how many staff members were missing. Shefi was not in the building at the time of the blast.

Rescue crews using spot lights

worked through the night to clear the tangle of concrete, metal and wood.

President Carlos Menem said at least 10 people were killed and blamed the attack on terrorists, although he did not offer evidence or elaborate. An Israeli official in Jerusalem said a car bomb was used.

Mayor Carlos Grosso said at least 106 were injured, "but it's believed there are more." The injured included students from a nearby primary school, radio stations reported.

Bush snubs Israeli loans

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Tuesday rejected a congressional compromise on loan guarantees to Israel, effectively denying Israel the financial backing it needs to resettle Soviet immigrants, key lawmakers said.

Bush told the lawmakers he would veto their proposal if it reached his desk, while offering an alternative linked to a halt in settlement construction on the West Bank and Gaza. Israel has said it will not suspend construction, even if it means looking elsewhere for financial backing.

"I'm frankly very, very disappointed," Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said after meeting with Bush to discuss the proposed deal. "This lan-

guage is not acceptable to the president."

Israel had requested \$10 billion in loan guarantees over five years to help resettle some 400,000 refugees from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

Bush met with lawmakers after saying that Israel settlements in disputed territories violated Washington's "longstanding policy that feels that settlements are counterproductive to peace."

"We have close, historic relations with Israel and they will always be that way. But we have a difference now, it appears, in terms of these settlements," Bush said. "The door is open," he said, but "U.S. policy must be accommodated."

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Most South Africans vote

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — South African whites, bitterly divided over sharing power with blacks, turned out in huge numbers Tuesday for a referendum on ending centuries of racial domination.

Most analysts forecast a victory for President F.W. de Klerk and his reforms, but exit polling was banned and the final results were not expected until Wednesday evening.

De Klerk, who has abolished major apartheid laws, needs a victory to push ahead with his last and most important reform: a new constitution extending full political rights to the 30 million black majority.

The president, smiling and looking confident, said he was optimistic. "I'm full of enthusiasm," he said after voting in Pretoria.

Election officials reported a surge of voters shortly before polls were due to close at 9 p.m., and voting was extended at some stations.

Several stations nearly ran out of ballots, and many reported at least 80 percent turnout.

"Never in 40 years have I seen people vote like this," said Zach de Beer, leader of the Democratic Party, which supports the referendum.

If the referendum fails, de Klerk has promised to resign, clearing the way for a whites-only general election. Pro-apartheid parties would be favored to win an election if de Klerk is defeated.

The heavy turnout was expected to favor de Klerk, since voter apathy in the past has been attributed mainly to English-speakers who tend to be more liberal than Afrikaans-speaking whites.

Liberal whites, who have traditionally opposed the government, provided de Klerk with a key block of votes.

Reports signal end of recent recession

WASHINGTON — New home construction surged unexpectedly in February and industrial production rebounded from a four-month stall, the government said Tuesday in reports hailed as unambiguous evidence of an economic recovery.

"The long recession is over," said economist Lawrence A. Hunter of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The reports "signal a clear turning point for the economy," which started its decline in July 1990.

Meanwhile, the Labor Department said consumer prices rose a moderate 0.3 percent in February, pulled up by higher food and clothing costs. And the Commerce Department said the broadest measure of the nation's trade deficit narrowed to \$8.62 billion in 1991, the smallest in nine years.

Housing starts increased a surprisingly vigorous 9.6 percent to 1.3 million units, the highest level since March 1990. Every region of the country registered gains, with the largest posted in the Midwest.

The Commerce Department said it was the biggest increase in a year and followed a healthy 6.4 percent gain in January. Most economists had expected only a slight rise — or a decline.

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