

Tsongas leaves race; Brown promises battle

Funds run low for ex-senator

BOSTON — A frustrated, debt-laden Paul Tsongas pulled out of the Democratic presidential race on Thursday, narrowing the field to two and leaving Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton as the clear favorite to capture the nomination.

Clinton's sole remaining opponent is former California Gov. Jerry Brown, who is running an outsider's campaign against the corrupting influence of special interest money on politics. Brown promised a head-to-head battle with Clinton "for the soul of the Democratic Party."

Tsongas blamed his campaign's downfall on a shortage of cash for expensive primaries coming up in New York and elsewhere and said he did not want to remain in the race in the "role of spoiler."

"That is not what I'm about; that is

not worthy," said Tsongas, a cancer survivor. "I did not survive my ordeals in order to be the agent of the re-election of George Bush."

Party Chairman Ronald Brown said that with Tsongas' departure, "there are a lot of people making the case that Bill Clinton has an insurmountable lead. The question is if Gov. Brown reaches that same conclusion, does he want to carry on the campaign."

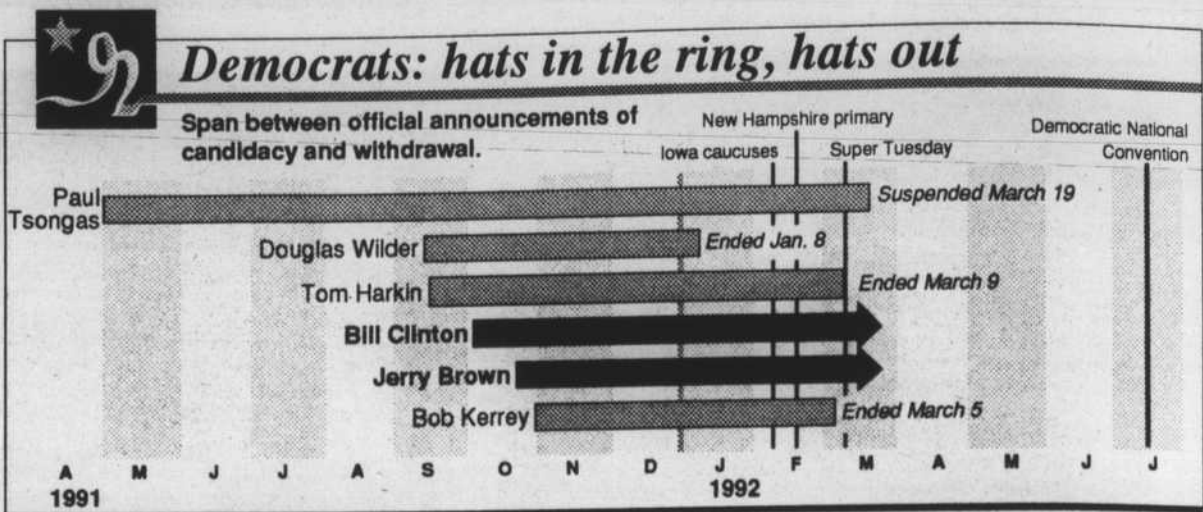
Brown said he was not calling on Gov. Brown to quit but would do so if Clinton won Connecticut, New York, Kansas and Wisconsin.

Democratic consultant Victor Kamber said Tsongas' withdrawal "makes Clinton the nominee, basically, today. The party is now going to try to coalesce around Clinton as quickly as possible."

Ann Lewis, another Democratic consultant, said, "He is, barring something totally new and unexpected, the nominee."

Tsongas, 51, said he left the race "deeply fulfilled. The obligation of my survival has been met."

He said his campaign was too broke to compete in New York, which votes



April 7, and that his commitment to the Democratic Party was too strong for him to stay in the race at less than full speed.

"To go into New York, defenseless in terms of financial resources, would have meant that we could not compete... The message would have been so damaged, that all we had endured for would have been hurt,"

he said. Tsongas congratulated both Clinton and Brown, and said he was looking forward to helping elect a Democratic president.

"It's been a hell of a ride," he told a packed farewell rally at a Boston hotel.

Brown said he and Clinton would do "battle for the soul of the Demo-

cratic Party." He has waged a low-cost outsiders' campaign, refusing to accept campaign contributions of more than \$100 and railing against the corrupting influence of money on politics.

Clinton said Tsongas' decision meant "my strongest opponent is not going to be there anymore."

House postmaster quits amid scandal

WASHINGTON — House Postmaster Robert V. Rota resigned Thursday, becoming the second House official in a week to quit following allegations of mismanagement.

Rota, who resigned on his 57th birthday, ran a mail facility that has seen three former employees recently plead guilty to embezzlement and a fourth awaiting trial on that charge.

U.S. postal inspectors also have received statements from at least one employee of drug dealing and use by employees of the facility. The U.S. attorney's office said its criminal investigation is continuing, while a House Administration Committee task force is probing allegations of mismanagement.

The Washington Times reported Thursday

that there was an illegal check cashing operation at the post office, a contractor for the U.S. Postal Service. It said congressional and law enforcement officials found that members reportedly cashed personal checks and campaign checks at the postal facility.

Last Thursday, House Sergeant at Arms Jack Russ, who ran the chamber's former bank, resigned after the ethics committee found he misused his office.

The committee found that Russ cashed 19 bad checks at the bank and failed to make promised reforms to end the facility's liberal overdraft policies.

The no-penalty overdrafts have ensnared House members in a major scandal. The chamber's ethics committee plans to release, in two

stages, the names of 355 current and former House members who wrote bad checks at the bank during a 39-month period. Russ was in charge of the now closed bank the entire time.

Speaker Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., told reporters that Rota "had been talking for some time" about retiring. "I don't think there's any connection... at all" with the latest news reports.

Rota gave Foley a two sentence resignation letter that mentioned none of the facility's problems. "It has been an honor and pleasure to serve the members of Congress and this institution for these many years," Rota wrote. He became postmaster an elected position, in 1972. His current term would have continued through the end of the current Congress.

De Klerk wants speedy reforms

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Bolstered by white support for reforms, President F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela said Thursday they would move quickly to negotiate an end to apartheid.

"We should not waste any time," de Klerk told reporters two days after whites voted in favor of talks with black leaders on ending white-minority rule.

"The uncertainty that bothers so many will only go away if you put a negotiated solution on the table," he said.

Mandela, at a separate news conference, repeated his African National Congress' demand for an interim government to oversee the transition to multiracial democracy, and he said it should be installed this year.

"The purpose of the interim government will be to supervise the transition from an apartheid to a democratic state... we are demanding that should be done as soon as possible," the black leader said.

De Klerk has abolished major apartheid laws in the past two years and called Tuesday's whites-only referendum to gauge support for continued reforms. Whites voted 68.7 percent to 31.3 percent in favor of change.

Unemployment falls; trade deficit shrinks

WASHINGTON — The merchandise trade deficit narrowed slightly to \$5.77 billion in January even though American exports, the economy's star performer the past two years, fell for a third straight month, the government said Thursday.

The Bush administration called the weakness in exports temporary, but private economists worried that the lull could prove more lasting and imperil chances to mount a sustained recovery. In another economic report Thursday, the

Labor Department said that the number of newly laid off Americans filing for unemployment compensation totaled 433,000 in the week ending March 7, a decline of 27,000 from the previous week.

The Bush administration said the drop in jobless claims was just one of a number of reports in recent weeks pointing to an economic rebound.

Labor Secretary Lynn Martin noted that the weekly claims level is now 80,000 below where it was a year ago during the depths of the recession and she said this improvement was a

"hopeful sign of growing labor market stability."

But private economists said they were still looking for the overall jobless rate, currently at a six-year high of 7.3 percent, to rise to around 7.5 percent by mid-year before starting a gradual improvement.

The Commerce Department said the January trade deficit was 3.9 percent lower than December's \$6 billion imbalance. Imports, held down by weak demand in the United States, dropped 1.4 percent to \$41.30 billion while exports fell 1 percent to \$35.54 billion.

Israel forced to consider seeking economic self-sufficiency

JERUSALEM — One out of every \$10 spent in Israel comes from the United States, but there are growing signs that such largess won't last forever.

The Bush administration's refusal this week to provide \$10 billion in loan guarantees has rekindled the debate over whether the Jewish state can cut the economic umbilical cord

and begin striving for economic independence.

"There are signs that people are recognizing there has to be a change," Robert Loewenberg, president of Jerusalem's Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, said Thursday.

Weaning itself from foreign aid could be difficult for Israel at a time when it is struggling to deal with a

wave of immigration from the Soviet Union.

Israel had sought the U.S. guarantees to get favorable interest rates on international loans to build housing and create jobs for the newcomers.

About 350,000 Soviet Jews already have arrived and Israel hopes to draw up to 1 million by the middle of the decade.

The United States linked the guar-

antees to a freeze on Jewish settlements in occupied Arab lands. Bush sees the settlements as an obstacle in the Mideast peace process. Israel argues the two issues are separate and refused the trade-off.

The guarantees would be over and above the \$6 billion a year that Western nations and Jewish charities already pump into Israel's \$52 billion economy.

Last year, more than \$5 billion came from the United States. The U.S. government provided \$3 billion in military and economic aid, a special \$650 million grant to compensate for Gulf War expenses and \$400 million in loan guarantees to help with the immigrants. About \$1 billion came from private American contributions to Israel bond drives and Jewish charities.

Cardinal appoints commission to study priests who sexually abuse children

CHICAGO — A flurry of child sex-abuse scandals has drawn the Roman Catholic Church into a far-ranging investigation of pedophile priests — a phenomenon critics say the church hierarchy has long kept muffled.

In the last nine months, seven priests in the Chicago area have been removed from parishes and one has been indicted because of sexual mistreatment complaints involving children.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin ap-

pointed a three-member commission in October to decide how to deal with pedophile priests. He acted following publicity over the church's recurring failure to remove a priest accused of sexual mistreatment of youngsters in three suburban parishes.

"In the earlier days people would say, 'He goofed, he'll be OK, we'll give him another chance,'" Deacon Chris Baumann of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops said of pedophile priests.

Until the Rev. Robert Mayer was

indicted in December on charges of criminal sexual abuse of a 14-year-old girl, only one priest had been prosecuted for sexual abuse of a minor in Cook County since at least the late 1970s, said state's attorney spokesman Andy Knott.

Some say the panel, made up of a juvenile court judge, a former official with the state Department of Children and Family Services and an auxiliary bishop, is indicative of the church's willingness to openly address the issue.

Daily Nebraskan

Editor: Jana Pedersen 472-1766
 Managing Editor: Kara Wells
 Assoc. News Editors: Chris Hopfensperger, Kris Karnopp
 Opinion Page Editor: Alan Phelps
 Wire Editor: Roger Price
 Copy Desk Editor: Wendy Navratil
 Sports Editor: Nick Hytrak
 Assistant Sports Editor: Tom Clouse

Art Director: Scott Maurer
 General Manager: Dan Shattil
 Production Manager: Katherine Pollicky
 Advertising Manager: Todd Sears
 Sales Manager: Eric Kringsel
 Classified Ad Manager: Annette Sueper
 Publications Board Chairman: Bill Vobejda 472-2588
 Professional Adviser: Don Walton, 473-7301

FAX NUMBER 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Bill Vobejda, 472-2588.

Subscription price is \$50 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1992 DAILY NEBRASKAN