

New York vote crucial

Brown, Clinton go on offensive in lively debate

NEW YORK — Bill Clinton and Jerry Brown sparred pointedly over abortion rights and Brown's flat tax proposal in a lively debate Sunday as each faced a fresh personal controversy two days before a crucial primary triple-header.

The debate was emblematic of the campaign itself — full of unusual twists and confounded by controversy. After spending the first half hour on the attack, the Democratic presidential rivals turned gentlemanly, complimenting each other and taking a few shots at President Bush.

With voters in New York, Wisconsin and Kansas going to the polls Tuesday, Clinton, the Arkansas governor, was leading in New York and in a tight race against Brown in Wisconsin, according to polls.

A wild card is former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas, who suspended his candidacy two weeks ago but said Sunday he would consider re-entering the race, depending on how well he and Clinton did in New York. Tsongas is still on the ballot

and a draft-Tsongas group is airing ads.

Clinton's new controversy had an old ring to it: more questions about his draft status at the time he promised to enter an ROTC program to avoid military service in Vietnam.

Clinton, who had said he had a high lottery number and was never called to serve, acknowledged this weekend he received a draft notice while he was at England's Oxford University in 1969, before he pledged to join ROTC — something he did not disclose when asked about his draft status earlier this year.

"I have never had anything to hide on this," Clinton said.

Earlier in the campaign, Clinton said he expected to be drafted that summer but never said he had actually received a draft notice and received permission to complete the term. "I would have been more than happy to tell you this if it ever occurred to me to bring it up," Clinton told reporters.

For Brown, a newspaper report suggesting that as governor he awarded judgeships to big financial backers was a jarring contrast to his campaign's central theme that political contributions have corrupted the system.

"It's false if there's any implication that I was influenced by any campaign contributions," Brown said of the Los Angeles Times story.

Both Brown and Clinton, in their Sunday morning debate, owned up to



Perot campaign starting to roll

WASHINGTON — From coast to coast, an enthusiastic volunteer army is on the march to get Texas billionaire Ross Perot on the presidential ballot in November. Judging by early reports from recruits, the goal may be met in short order.

"It's a wildfire," said organizer Michele Kubek of Anchorage, Alaska, who expects to round up the more than 2,000 signatures her state requires in a matter of days.

"The phone rang all day yesterday" with requests about Perot, said Patsy Casey, a worker in the secretary of state's office in Kentucky. In Las Vegas, an organizer reported gathering 300 signatures on a busy street corner in just two hours.

Interviews by The Associated Press with elections officials and volunteers in all 50 states over the past week show that response to a prospective Perot candidacy has been swift and overwhelming.

Perot, with a net worth of over \$2 billion, started the ball rolling last month by saying he would run as an independent if people could get his name on the ballot in all 50 states.

With the outspoken industrialist and his employees prodding the



H. Ross Perot

process from Dallas — and with the help of a high-tech 800-number — the Perot petition effort has been barreling along.

"This has been the most incredible groundswell, just ordinary folks, coming out of the woodwork," said Barbara LeBey, a former Georgia judge who's an Atlanta organizer.

Perot needs 27,000 signatures by July 14 to get on Georgia's ballot. Organizers say they will shoot for 60,000 just to be safe.

The Texas industrialist says if he runs, he'll foot the bill himself — and is prepared to spend \$100 million — making a Perot candidacy unparalleled.

500,000 march in pro-choice rally in Washington

WASHINGTON — An estimated half million abortion-rights demonstrators marched on the nation's capital Sunday to show political muscle that they hoped would sway politicians and a conservative Supreme Court.

Julie Doyle, a Harvard Law School student, said, "The more we learned about the law at Harvard, the more we realize how fragile these rights are."

Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, said at a morning rally, "We're going to turn out of office people who don't support us."

It was the first abortions rights march on the capital in three years, and Ireland called it "the largest ever of any kind in this nation's capi-

Crowd hopes to show support for abortion

tal." U.S. Park Police estimated the size of the crowd at 500,000.

As it does with all major demonstrations on the Mall, park police photographed the crowd from a helicopter and then superimposed a grid over the composite photo to estimate the crowd. The estimate is made under a formula derived from calculating the number of people who would normally fit into a certain number of square feet.

NOW had said it expected between 300,000 and 700,000 people to take part.

"We do count and there are an awful lot of us and they should watch out," said Isabel Glass of New York.

Democratic presidential candidate Jerry Brown sat quietly for about an hour, but left without speaking to the main crowd. He did stand on a folding chair on the back of the main stage to address a small crowd with a bullhorn.

A NOW spokeswoman, who refused to be identified by name, said the group decided not to allow any presidential candidate to speak.

Bill Clinton, who like Brown took time out

from campaigning for the New York Democratic primary to attend the assembly, marched in the rally surrounded by supporters who chanted, "pro-choice, pro-Clinton."

Both sides in the abortion issue see this year as a possible turning point for legalized abortion in America. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments April 22 on a Pennsylvania case that imposes restrictions on abortions.

People on both sides of the issue believe the court will use that case to undermine or even overturn Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 decision that made abortion legal.

Drug czar uses threats to force budget increases

WASHINGTON — The Office of National Drug Control Policy has waged intense, behind-the-scenes battles to force six recalcitrant Cabinet agencies to seek \$115.3 million in additional funds for the war on drugs, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The office's real power lies in its ability to expose agencies seeking what it believes is too little money to carry out the president's anti-drug strategy.

But revealing such problems required a breach of the administration's normal reluctance to tell outsiders — that is, Congress — about family squabbles.

Nevertheless, the drug control policy office threatened to do just that late last year after less drastic measures failed to persuade six departments to increase their anti-drug budget proposals for fiscal 1993.

After the warning, the six increased their total budget requests by \$115.3

million, most of that for drug demand reduction programs, according to the documents sent to the Senate Judiciary and House Government Operations committees by the office of ONDCP director Bob Martinez.

Martinez said last week that the Bush administration had requested a total \$12.7 billion in drug-related funding for fiscal 1993.

Thus far, the office has not used its ultimate weapon: sending letters signed by Martinez to a department head

declaring the department's drug-war funding inadequate.

Because the congressional committees requested the drafts as well as Martinez's signed letters certifying every department's final budget request as adequate, the threats to expose the reluctant drug warriors became, unintentionally, public.

The documents show the secretaries of Education, Health and Human Services, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs and Labor received draft letters.

Yeltsin says he will fight efforts to limit the powers of president

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin said Sunday he will fight efforts in Russia's parliament to trim his powers and will use his full authority to press ahead with painful economic reforms.

"Only one way can exist today — the continuation of radical reforms," he told a gathering of supporters.

His comments came on the eve of a crucial session of the Congress of People's Deputies that will debate a new constitution to replace the political system left by the Communists. Parliament leaders are demanding that Yeltsin relinquish some powers and ease the hardship caused by his market reforms.

Barely four months after presiding over the death of the Soviet Union,

Yeltsin could face a political firestorm during the session of the 1,048-member body, which convenes Monday in the Grand Kremlin Palace.

But a key Yeltsin aide, State Secretary Gennady Burbulis, said pro-reform groups agreed tentatively Sunday to form a parliamentary bloc to defend the president. He said the bloc included a majority of lawmakers.

In return, Yeltsin agreed to consult with the bloc in making government appointments and formulating policy.

Acknowledging criticism from lawmakers, Yeltsin said he would continue to shuffle his Cabinet and to make "partial corrections" in his reforms, which sent prices soaring.

Iran bombs bases in Iraq

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Iranian warplanes bombed an Iraqi rebel base near Baghdad on Sunday, the first air strike by Iran on Iraqi territory since a 1988 cease-fire halted their eight-year war.

Iraq claimed its forces shot down one of eight Iranian fighter-bombers and captured the two-man crew. State-run Baghdad radio, monitored in Cyprus, called the raid an act of "blatant and unjustified aggression" and warned Iran of "grave consequences."

Rebel supporters in Europe responded by attacking Iranian embassies in at least six countries.

The air raid marked a sharp deterioration in relations between Iran and Iraq, which have not signed

a peace treaty to formally end their 1980-88 war and have been waging increasingly strident propaganda campaigns against each other.

Tehran said the air strike was in retaliation for a raid by guerrillas of Mujahedeen Khalq, or People's Holy Warriors, on two villages in western Iran on Saturday. It also blamed the Mujahedeen for recent attacks on Iranian diplomats in Baghdad.

But the raid may have been an attempt by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani to shore up support five days before parliamentary elections, in which he is trying to crush opponents of moves to improve relations with the West.

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