

Clinton brushes off attack, sweeps primaries

NEW YORK-- Front-runner Bill Clinton swamped Jerry Brown in Kansas and was the projected winner in the brutal New York primary as he bid Tuesday to dispel voter doubts about his candidacy and gain a firm grip on the Democratic presidential nomination.

Campaign dropout Paul Tsongas watched the returns, gauging Clinton's strength and mulling a decision on whether to re-enter the race.

President Bush was the Republican winner over Patrick Buchanan in Kansas, and a sure winner in Wisconsin and Minnesota. With New York's 100 delegates already in his pocket, Bush held 876 of the 1,105 delegates needed to secure renomination.

Clinton was gaining 52 percent of the vote in Kansas with 31 percent of the precincts tallied. Tsongas, Brown and an uncommitted line on the ballot were closely bunched in second place, far behind.

Less than 1 percent of the precincts had reported from New York and Wisconsin. Clinton had a small lead in the early going.

With Clinton bidding to regain his footing after two recent defeats, CNN and WNBC said he would win New York as well, the crown jewel of a four-state primary night. Wisconsin and Minnesota also held Democratic primaries.

There were 362 Democratic delegates at stake Tuesday. Clinton began the day with 1,082, compared to 166 for Brown. It takes 2,145 to win the nomination.

Most Democratic voters responding to network exit polls said they wanted another candidate in the race. CNN reported. It said 60 percent in Wisconsin and Kansas, and 66 percent in New York were dissatisfied with the field. In New York, a quarter wanted Tsongas back and a third wanted Gov. Mario Cuomo.

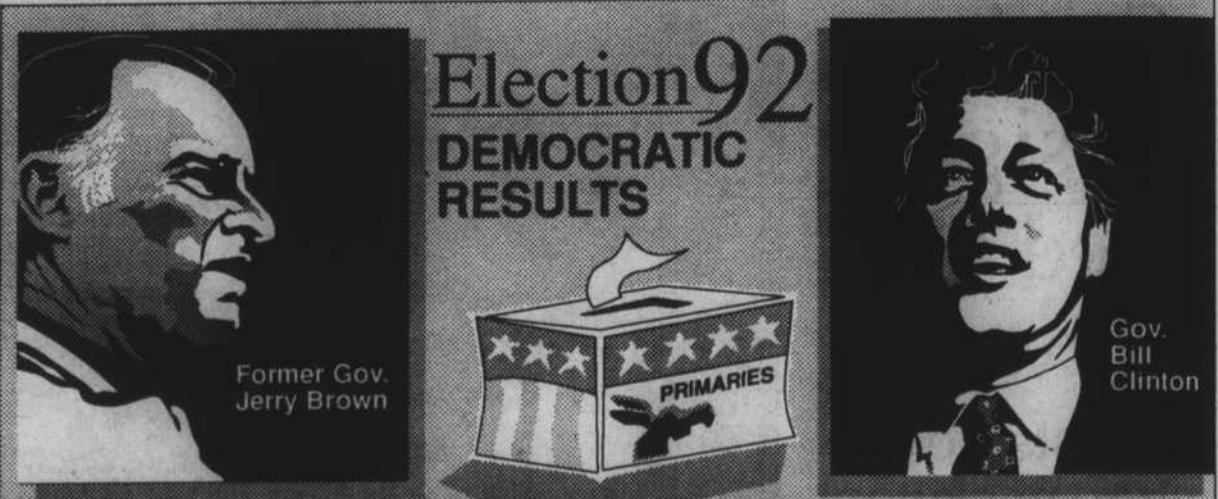
Regardless of how they voted, 70 percent of the Democrats in New York and Wisconsin said they agreed with Brown's criticisms of the political system, and in Kansas it was 60 percent.

"This is the people's campaign," said Brown. "There is only forward movement."

The voters offered up fresh evidence of dissatisfaction with the choices allowed them.

"I wrote in Ross Perot," said Paige Anderson, a 24-year-old Minnesota voter. "I'm completely dissatisfied with everyone else and he seems to represent the view of the middle class."

Perot, a billionaire Texan, is mulling an independent candidacy that could change the dynamics of the fall campaign between Bush and his Democratic rival.



New York				Minnesota			
	Votes	Delegates	%		Votes	Delegates	%
Clinton	393,890	101	41%	Clinton	48,300	-	33%
Tsongas	279,649	76	29%	Brown	45,790	-	32%
Brown	252,402	67	26%	Tsongas	32,240	-	22%
Other	45,877	0	5%	Other	8,651	-	6%
83% reporting				68% reporting			
Wisconsin				Kansas			
	Votes	Delegates	%		Votes	Delegates	%
Clinton	220,402	35	38%	Clinton	81,319	27	51%
Brown	203,346	29	35%	Tsongas	24,174	6	15%
Tsongas	128,992	18	22%	Uncommitted	21,950	1	14%
Other	17,633	0	3%	Brown	20,976	2	13%
24% reporting				99% reporting			

Source: results from AP. Brian Shellito/DN

Explosion wallops Texas town

BRENHAM, Texas — An explosion packing the power of an earthquake ripped open an underground gas pipeline Tuesday, killing at least one person, flattening nearby mobile homes, and shaking buildings more than 140 miles away.

Cars were thrown from nearby roads. Leaves were ripped from trees whose trunks were blackened. Live-stock lay dead in fields. At least 16 people were injured, said Mike Cox, Department of Public Safety spokesman.

"It looks like a tornado came through except there was a path of fire," said Ron Haussecker, emergency management coordinator for Washington County.

At least one resident said pipeline workers had earlier warned residents to turn off appliances because of a gas leak.

The pipeline carried liquefied petroleum gas, often called LP gas, said Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Lauren Chernow.

The explosion occurred in a rural area seven miles south of this eastern Texas town of 12,000. It rattled homes and buildings as far away as Galveston, more than 90 miles away, and Vidor, 140 miles to the east.

It registered 3.5 to 4.0 on the Richter scale, or as strong as an earthquake that could cause slight to moderate damage, Rice University in Houston reported.

The only confirmed death was that of a 6-year-old boy who was blown out of a flattened mobile home, authorities said. Rescuers searched damaged homes in the area for more victims.

"We had windows shaking, pictures falling off the wall. Our phones and electricity went out immediately," said Andrea Allen, who lives nearby.

"It was worse than any earthquake I've ever been through," she said. "I used to live in California, and the sound ... it was like intensified thun-



der that just kept going and going and shaking at the same time."

The 6-inch pipeline was owned by Coastline Gas Pipeline Co., a subsidiary of Houston-based United Texas Transmission Co., said Gary Garrison, a spokesman for the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the state's petroleum industry.

The pipeline fed an underground storage well in neighboring Austin County operated by Seminole Pipeline Co. of Tulsa, Okla., Garrison said.

He said the pipeline was last inspected Aug. 8, and no problems were found.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent investigators to Texas. The team, headed by board member James Kolstad, will try to determine the probable cause of the accident.

Shortly before the explosion, pipeline workers warned residents to turn off appliances, said Mitchell Hall, 31, who was admitted to a hospital.

"There was gas floating around," he said. "It looked like fog outside. ... Everything around me just exploded."

"It was almost like you hear these planes, when they come over and break the sound barrier. It was for an extended period of time, about 15-20 seconds," said Charles Moser, publisher of the Brenham Banner Press.

Trinity Medical Center in Brenham reported treating 16 people, including three suffering serious burns who were flown to hospitals in Houston.

Houston's Hermann Hospital received four patients, including three women in critical condition, said spokeswoman Lisa Fuglaar.

Study shows bedding cause of SIDS

LOS ANGELES — A study suggests ordinary bedding materials may have suffocated many babies whose deaths were blamed on "crib death," scientists said Tuesday.

"Perhaps one in four of sudden, unexplained infant deaths may be explained by exhaled carbon dioxide being trapped around the baby's face by bedding such as pillows, comforters and foam beds," said Dr. James Kemp, a pediatrician at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Babies whose deaths were blamed on the mysterious Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, called SIDS or crib death, should be investigated as possible suffocation victims if they were found face down, said Dr. Bradley Thach, a Washington University pediatrician who conducted the study with Kemp.

Kemp presented the findings in Anaheim during the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

SIDS kills about 7,000 infants

annually in the United States. Many possible causes have been proposed; none have been proved.

Thach and Kemp said studies around the world indicate at least one-fourth of presumed SIDS victims were found face down in bedding.

In their study, Kemp and Thach made rabbits breathe through a model of an infant airway pressed against bedding materials on which infants died. That test and a new mechanical test suggested five types of bedding can suffocate infants by trapping exhaled carbon dioxide.

The types of bedding were a synthetic-filled adult pillow, a 3 1/2-inch-thick foam couch cushion, a 3-inch-thick foam pad covered with a comforter, a sheepskin sold as an infant bed and a soft infant bassinet cushion covered by a blanket.

Last summer, the New England Journal of Medicine published a study in which Kemp and Thach used rabbits to show infants could suffocate on polystyrene bead-filled, beanbag cushions made for babies.

The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission earlier recalled 950,000 such cushions, which had been blamed for suffocating 35 infants, spokesman Ken Giles said.

Giles said the new study "is interesting and of concern" because the agency "wants to learn if additional SIDS cases might be infant suffocation with consumer products."

The commission received reports of more than 250 infants suffocating on adult or youth mattresses or waterbeds during suffocation on adult or youth mattresses or waterbeds during 1985-90, the latest available figures, Giles said. Some got trapped between a mattress and a wall, others suffocated when sleeping adults rolled onto them and some died face down.

The agency issued a safety alert last year warning parents: "Never leave infants on adult or youth beds, whether mattress type or waterbed. Place infants in a crib that meets the federal safety standards, and industry voluntary standards for cribs and has a tightfitting mattress."

Arafat's plane missing in storm

NICOSIA, Cyprus — A jet carrying PLO chief Yasser Arafat disappeared in a sandstorm 15 minutes before it was to have landed in Libya on a flight from Sudan, officials in his office in Tunis, Tunisia reported.

"We're trying to find him now," said Bassam Abu-Sharif, Arafat's chief adviser, speaking when the plane was more than seven hours overdue.

He appealed to France, Italy, Britain, the United States and Egypt "to help with all possible means to locate the aircraft."

Abu Sharif sounded distraught and refused to answer further questions.

Other sources reached at the office of the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman said 12 people were aboard the aircraft. They included three crew members and a team of bodyguards and administrative assistants.

No other PLO official was on the flight from Khartoum, capital of Sudan, the sources said.

The sources said the plane was expected to land in Sarra at 8:30 p.m. and take off a little while later for Tunis.

It disappeared 15 minutes before its scheduled touchdown while overflying al-Kofra oasis, 70 miles from Sarra, said Libya's Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland said, quoting the Libyan news agency JANA.

Sarra lies 150 miles northwest of the Sudanese border and about 900 miles southeast of Tripoli.

Palestinian sources in Tripoli said Libyan rescue planes had gone out to search for Arafat's plane.

President Bush, returning to the White House Tuesday night from the Kennedy Center, was asked if he had heard any late news about Arafat.

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