

Democrats gear up for convention

CHICAGO (AP) — Democratic leaders warmed up for their national convention Sunday, preaching unity to friendly crowds even as they promised not to silence party speakers with opposing views.

Clinton kept his convention-eve focus on Republicans, mocking challenger Bob Dole's "big, old tax-cut" as he began a whistle-stop tour from West Virginia to his nominating celebration in Chicago.

"Shall we keep going on the right track or should we turn around?" he asked a crowd of enthusiastic supporters.

Later, in Kentucky, Clinton answered the question himself: "I say, let's finish the job."

In Chicago, top administration lieutenants sought to calm liberal anger over Clinton's decision to sign a Republican welfare measure ending the 60-year federal guarantee of aid to the poor.

The welfare dispute loomed as the main threat to a calm convention as Democrats prepared to renominate Clinton and launch him into the fall campaign.

For the most part, however, the mood was festive and upbeat as Vice President Al Gore and other party leaders visited with delegates and allies.

"This two-headed monster of Dole-Gingrich ... has been launching an all-out assault on nearly every measure important to working men and women," Gore said in an animated ap-

pearance before AFL-CIO-member delegates.

For months, Clinton has angered congressional Democrats by rarely promoting their effort to regain House and Senate majorities.

But as he set out for the convention, Clinton praised his party's congressional wing for helping him thwart Republican initiatives.

"They (congressional Democrats) stood up, they were counted and they said no," Clinton said.

Monday's opening session will begin with perfunctory party business and close with two prime-time speeches. Actor Christopher Reeve, confined to a wheelchair because of an equestrian accident, and gun-control advocate Sarah Brady, whose husband was shot during the 1981 assassination attempt on former President Ronald Reagan, will speak.

"Chicago is excited," said Mayor Richard M. Daley, son of the legendary mayor who ran the city when Democrats had a disastrous Chicago convention in 1968. Democrats were predicting a far more orderly and unified convention this year, but weren't altogether ruling out dissent.

In addition to protests outside the hall, convention-planners said several speakers might take issue with Clinton's decision to sign a tough Republican welfare reform bill. Democratic officials said they were not discouraging the few Democrats on the

"*This two-headed monster of Dole-Gingrich... has been launching an all-out assault on nearly every measure important to working men and women.*"

AL GORE
vice-president

program who disagree with the party's support of abortion rights from saying so.

"We're not afraid of debate," said Christopher Dodd, the Democratic National Committee chairman.

Among delegates and party activists, the biggest complaint stemmed from Clinton's decision to sign the GOP welfare bill, which bitterly divided Democrats in Congress.

"He'll probably have to go to Democratic purgatory for signing the thing," Nebraska delegate John Green said.

Trying to reassure liberals, Gore noted that the law does not take effect until July 1997. He said if Clinton is re-elected he will have an opportunity to fix provisions liberals find distasteful, including a ban on welfare benefits to immigrants.

Jesse Jackson, a vocal Clinton critic on welfare, also sought to calm things,

drawing an analogy to the turmoil of Chicago in 1968.

"In 1968, when the issue was welfare, the big tent split and we lost," Jackson said. "Now, the issue is welfare, the big tent must not split."

Republican Chairman Haley Barbour called Gore's remarks on welfare "a wink and nod to the liberal left" that proved Clinton signed the bill only to help his re-election effort.

At a GOP picnic in suburban Chicago, Republican challenger Bob Dole was greeted with cheers of "Send Bill Home, Send Bill Home" and offered this message to the Democratic incumbent: "Your time is done."

Dole promoted his tax-cut plan and blamed Clinton for a rise in drug use by young Americans.

"Unlike this president, I will not be afraid to use the power of persuasion to talk about right and wrong," Dole said.

Flight 800 recovery continues

EAST MORICHES, N.Y. (AP) — The arduous task of recovering TWA Flight 800's wreckage from the ocean floor neared completion Sunday in two areas most likely to yield proof of what downed the jetliner.

However, that milestone does not mean investigators will quickly identify the cause of the July 17 disaster that killed 230 people because analysis of the torn and damaged pieces may take weeks.

The FBI Friday confirmed reports that residue of an explosive had been found on wreckage that fell in the ocean 10 miles off the south shore of Long Island.

That was the first concrete evidence pointing toward a bomb or a missile, rather than mechanical failure, as the cause of the blast.

FBI Assistant Director James Kallstrom said he needed more pieces of the wreckage before he could determine what brought the flight down.

More wreckage was retrieved from the ocean floor Sunday by divers working in calm seas, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Gordon Hume. He said he did not immediately know what was pulled up.

More than 160 divers working for five weeks along with Navy salvage vessels had recovered about 60 percent of the jumbo jet from depths of up to 120 feet.

Rear Adm. Edward Kristensen, commander of the Navy operation, had predicted divers could complete work Monday or Tuesday in two of the three main fields of debris lying on the bottom.

One of those two areas, close to Kennedy Airport where the airliner had taken off, contained what authorities believed were the first parts of the plane to fall, including a section above the center fuel tank.

Authorities have said the center fuel tank is critical to determining the cause because it is thought to be near the catalyst of the plane's breakup and shows evidence of an

Fires destroy property in northwest U.S.

BEND, Ore. (AP) — A fast-moving wildfire swept into a residential area in the sagebrush in south-central Oregon on Saturday, destroying 19 homes and threatening hundreds of others.

"It's still burning with a fury," firefighter Mike Skeels said of the rapidly-spreading 8,000-acre fire.

The fire destroyed 19 homes and damaged an additional six. Three trailers burned to the ground. Damage was estimated at \$1.5 million, and was expected to grow.

No injuries were reported.

Five hundred homes in two subdivisions six miles southeast of Bend were evacuated in the morning before the blaze approached.

An emergency shelter was set up at a local high school and by Saturday night about 450 residents had signed in.

Evacuee Russ Anderson did not

Multiple fires force evacuations, cause \$1.5 million in damages

know whether his home had been damaged.

"You've got your whole life, everything that you've worked for all your life right there," said Anderson, who grabbed his dogs, a few valuables and a change of clothes before leaving.

Officials declared an emergency, requesting 40 National Guardsmen and 10 Humvee military vehicles to help with security. The picturesque city at the base of the Cascades has 28,000 residents.

Greg McClaren, a member of an interagency fire center, said the fire had shifted away from Bend and towards the southeast by early Sunday morning.

The blaze was one of about 30 Oregon fires started by lightning Friday. More lightning was forecast during the weekend as temperatures soared toward 100 degrees Saturday.

"With the very dry, warm weather, it could be a very hectic day for firefighters," said Stan Hinatsu, fire information officer for the Northwest Coordination Center in Portland.

A group of lightning-caused fires in the Waldo Lake area of the Willamette National Forest, 50 miles southwest of Bend, forced evacuation of four campgrounds. There were no estimates of how many people had to leave, but officials said the campgrounds would have been crowded for the weekend.

The active fires around Oregon had charred an estimated 209,000 acres as of Saturday. So far this summer, fires have burned across 400,000 acres in the state.

Across the West, forest and brush also burned Saturday in parts of California, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Among the largest fires, six air-tankers were being sent to help fight a 23,600-acre blaze in Yosemite National Park in California, said Mary Hale, a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman.

About 500 people had left a camp in the Yosemite region, and approximately 50 residents were told to leave the small town of Aspen Valley. Workers from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir were also evacuated.

Firefighters elsewhere in California started packing up after conquering an 82,000-acre fire in the Mendocino National Forest and a 23,000-acre blaze in the Stanislaus National Forest.

In Idaho, a fire had covered 29,200 acres of a remote wilderness area of the Nez Perce and Bitterroot national forests.

In northern Washington, about 150 people were evacuated from their homes as a 2,000-acre wildfire raged in the Colville Indian Reservation.

Attention event coordinators

Beginning Monday, Sept. 2, The Daily Nebraskan will print a weekly events calendar on page two. The calendar will provide students, faculty and the community with an at-a-glance resource for plays, concerts, lectures, programs or any other special event important to members of the two University of Nebraska-Lincoln campuses.

The calendar will provide dates, times and locations of events, as well as any charges that may be included for attendance.

Any group or person wishing to submit an event for inclusion in the calendar may mail, fax or phone the information about their event to:

The Daily Nebraskan
Attn: Joshua Gillin
Nebraska Union 34
1400 R Street
Lincoln, Ne 68588-0448
Phone: 472-2588
Fax: 472-1761

Daily Nebraskan

Editor: Doug Kourne
472-1766
Managing Editor: Doug Peters
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473-7301

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