

# Democrats focus on crime during convention

**SPEAKERS** Christopher Reeve and Sarah Brady highlight first night.

By JOHN KING  
AP political writer

CHICAGO — Democrats opened their 42nd national convention Monday with a pointed anti-crime message that echoed throughout President Clinton's campaign train.

"Four More Years" was the party's Chicago credo, and as Clinton made a whistle-stop journey to his convention city, allies moved from meeting to meeting spreading a simple gospel: Keep the heat on the GOP.

"Early to bed, early to rise, work like hell and organize," Vice President Al Gore told New York delegates in a morning pep talk. Later, he paid a brief visit to the convention hall, drawing rousing applause.

As Clinton's train rolled across Ohio, Hillary Rodham Clinton visited several delegations and offered a straightforward pitch for her husband's re-election: "It's been a good four years for the people of this country."

Like the Republican convention before it, the Democrats' gathering was a carefully drawn, made-for-TV affair — this one designed to praise Clinton's record as president and portray the Republicans as more conservative than the image presented in San

Diego. Delegates were dancing the Macarena to a Latin beat when the convention was gavelled to order Monday, and several new polls provided reason to celebrate: Clinton enjoyed a lead of 10 points or more over Republican Bob Dole and Reform Party nominee Ross Perot.

Dozens of Democratic speakers chosen in part to reflect the party's diversity — and occasional dissent — were asked to keep remarks short and crisp. Giant monitors brought video updates from Clinton's rail journey.

There was tight security around Chicago's United Center and a giant police presence throughout the city where the 1968 Democratic convention was marred by anti-Vietnam war

protests and violence. "The world is watching," chanted protesters who got into a small scuffle with police while denouncing Clinton for signing a Republican welfare reform bill.

Many of the delegates and speakers were unhappy with administrator welfare policy, too, but most sought to keep their disagreement polite and focus on making Clinton the first Democratic president elected to a second term since Franklin Roosevelt more than 60 years ago.

Former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo said he would tweak Clinton on welfare in his Tuesday speech, but said, "beyond that (welfare), the case for President Clinton is very clear."

The opening-day program went from predictable to unorthodox.

The early sessions included slots for House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) and Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) to make their case that Democrats deserved another chance to control both the legislative and executive branches.

"Next January, we will call to or-

der a Congress that sustains education, protects the environment, not the polluters, stands up for a woman's right to choose and strengthens Medicare instead of slashing it," Gephardt said.

But the politicians were gone from the podium by the evening's final hour — when the mainstay television networks were tuning in.

Instead, the starring roles went to actor Christopher Reeve, confined to a wheelchair because of an equestrian accident, and gun-control activist Sarah Brady, a former Republican operative whose husband was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on former President Ronald Reagan.

Other evening speakers included Mike Robbins, a Chicago police officer who was shot 11 times in a 1994 on-duty incident and is now a gun-control advocate.

Reeve put in a plug for increased spending on medical research, including spinal cord injuries. As politicians rush to balance the budget, Reeve said he trusted the Clinton administration to remember that "America does not let its needy citizens fend for themselves."

## Leader seeks consent to accept Libyan gift

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan is seeking the U.S. government's permission to accept \$1 billion from Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, a gift he says would be used to mobilize American black voters and bolster their economic strength.

Farrakhan formally applied last week to the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, asking that he be allowed to accept the pledged money as a humanitarian gesture, said a federal official who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Because of its links to terrorism, Libya for years has been under U.S. sanctions that bar most business transactions between the two countries and limit travel.

The donation from Gadhafi was pledged during a visit to Libya as part of Farrakhan's foreign tour last January, which also included stops in Iran, Nigeria and Sudan.

In addition, Farrakhan needs separate approval for an upcoming trip to Libya to receive a \$250,000 humanitarian award Gadhafi donates each year.

Farrakhan, organizer of last year's Million Man March in Washington, has said he would use the money to promote economic opportunity for blacks by building schools and factories, and for charitable purposes.

During his meeting with Gadhafi, the two men also discussed how to increase the influence of U.S. minori-

ties during the election year and agreed to work together to mobilize "oppressed minorities to play a significant role in American political life," Libya's official news agency reported.

Gadhafi said that after years of confronting the United States from outside, the plan would provide "a loophole to enter the fortress and to confront it from within."

Farrakhan drew widespread criticism for the trip, which included meetings with Gadhafi, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Nigerian ruler Gen. Sani Abacha. White House spokesman Mike McCurry referred to it as "a thugfest tour."

Gadhafi, a pariah among world leaders, has been laboring for years to rehabilitate his standing through back-channel contacts with the United States.

McCurry characterized Farrakhan's meeting with the Libyan leader as part of an effort by Gadhafi "to worm his way back into the good graces of the world" without turning over two Libyan suspects in the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

After Farrakhan returned to the United States last winter, the Justice Department warned him that he would have to register as a foreign agent if he was carrying out directions from Libya or any other foreign government. Farrakhan denied in a letter that he was doing so.

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Biochemistry	Herman Knoche	N177 Beadle
Biological Sciences	Laurie Homer	118 Manter
Chemistry	George Sturgeon	413 Hamilton
Classics/Greek/Latin	Thomas Rinkevich	235 Andrews
Communication Studies	Vincent DiSalvo	428 Oldfather
Computer Science	Charles Riedesel	113 Ferguson
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European Studies	Bob Shirer	1103 Oldfather
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Psychology	Richard Dienstbier	202 Lyman
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Speech Pathology & Audiology	Ellen Patterson	105 Henzlik
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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, 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 calling 472-2588. The public has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard. 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, Neb.  
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