

Clinton backs NATO additions

DETROIT (AP) — President Clinton urged U.S. allies Tuesday to admit a first group of former Soviet-dominated nations into NATO by 1999, promising defense against outside aggressors. Republican rival Bob Dole said Clinton was moving too slowly.

Two weeks before the election, the president raised his voice on a foreign policy issue of deep interest to Midwestern voters with family ties to Eastern Europe.

Differences between Clinton and Dole on expanding NATO are actually relatively slight, with Dole urging that Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic be added by 1998.

"He's been dragging his feet since 1993," Dole said. "We think it's time for the foot dragging to stop."

Clinton said he has led the way for NATO enlargement, raising the idea at a NATO summit in 1994. The year 1999, he said, would mark NATO's

50th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

"A gray zone of insecurity must not re-emerge in Europe," Clinton said. The West must not "allow the Iron Curtain to be replaced by a veil of indifference."

Russia is wary about any eastward expansion of the Western military alliance that it regarded as a foe during the Cold War.

Referring to Russia, Clinton said, "No country outside of NATO will have a veto" on new members. He said Moscow should not feel threatened.

"We are building a new NATO just as they are building a new Russia," the president said. "By reducing rivalry and fear, by strengthening peace and cooperation, NATO will promote greater stability in Europe—and Russia will be among the beneficiaries."

Dole said, "The cries of extreme Russian nationalists to the contrary notwithstanding, NATO's mission is peace. The framework of peace must include assurances to the Baltic states and the Ukraine. This is particularly important given the ongoing instability in Russia."

Not missing a chance to campaign among ethnic voters, Clinton went from his speech to lunch at the Polish Village Cafe.

After decades of domination by the Soviet Union, Central European nations are eager to come under NATO's security blanket. NATO's doctrine obliges all allies to come to the defense of any member attacked from outside the alliance.

"Peace and security are not available on the cheap," Clinton said. But if NATO fails to act now, he said, "we will pay a much higher price later on down the road."

Much at stake as voters prepare to head to polls

The Associated Press

(AP)—An American electorate less disgruntled than four, or even two, years ago passes judgment Nov. 5 on Bill Clinton's presidency and the Republican stewardship of Congress.

The presidential choice is as clearcut as it gets: Republican challenger Bob Dole portraying himself as the candidate of character, Clinton as the candidate of compassion.

Thirty-four Senate seats — 19 now held by Republicans, 15 by Democrats — will be filled. The Republicans now rule, 53-47.

In the House, with all 435 seats to be filled, the party division is not as close — 235 Republicans, 198

Democrats, one independent and one vacancy.

In addition, 11 governorships are at stake. Six held now by Democrats, five by Republicans. The GOP holds a big edge, 32-17.

Clinton, the incumbent Democrat, ran four years ago as the agent of change; now he runs as a defender of government.

In effect, both presidential candidates would be lame ducks. Clinton would be constitutionally barred from running again; at 77, Dole could be too old for a second term.

That means the next campaign — with their running mates, Democrat Al Gore and Republican Jack Kemp, as the early front-runners — is sure to begin the day after the voters speak.

GOP uses King to promote proposition to end affirmative action

In California, democrats say the ad is 'blasphemy.'

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Republicans plan to use Martin Luther King Jr.'s image and quotes from his "I Have a Dream" speech to promote Proposition 209, a ballot initiative to end most affirmative action programs in California.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson called the planned \$2 million advertising blitz "a blasphemy" against the slain civil rights leader.

Television ads, bankrolled by the state Republican party, will begin running across California by Friday and continue through Election Day, according to two state GOP sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Republican spending plan is

double their original budget, state GOP Chairman John Herrington said. The party's disclosure followed reports that Democrats plan to spend \$1 million to \$1.5 million in opposition to Proposition 209 during the final week before the Nov. 5 election.

Bob Dole's strategists have sought to link him to the popular initiative. Polls show it is supported by most California voters, while the most recent Field Poll showed Dole trailing Clinton by at least 10 points in California. Clinton opposes the measure.

However, the commercial makes no mention of Dole, a GOP spokeswoman said.

"It's an issue ad. It is not a Dole ad," said spokeswoman Victoria Herrington. "And it is not an anti-Clinton ad. I repeat, it is an issue ad."

California Republicans have long been the principal financial supporters

of the controversial initiative, which is backed by Gov. Pete Wilson and, to the dismay of many in the GOP, former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who sparked protests when he spoke in favor of it in a college debate.

Victoria Herrington declined to provide a transcript or videotape of the commercial, saying it was still being developed. But Democrats quickly attacked the campaign.

"This is a blasphemy. For right-wing Republicans to try to put Dr. King and David Duke and Gov. Wilson on the same side of history is an atrocity," said Jackson, who called it a "divisive, cynical political trick."

But King supported affirmative action, according to Steve Klein, a spokesman for the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, which opposes Proposition 209.

"He makes several references in his writings to why affirmative action-style programs are fair, desirable and justified," Klein said.

In a 1963 book, "Why We Can't Wait," King said such programs may be misconstrued by people but they are necessary to right past wrongs.

"It is obvious if a man is entered at the starting line in a race 300 years after another man, the first would have to perform some impossible feat to catch up with his fellow runner," King wrote.

The proposition would abolish race and gender preferences in state hiring, contracting and college admissions, dismantling most affirmative action programs. Supporters say the initiative is "racially blind" and provides an absolute ban on discrimination.

"The Civil Rights Act of 1964 did away with the racial preferences," said

Republican Assemblyman Bernie Richter of Chiro, a supporter of Proposition 209. "But the government differentiates about how it treats you on the basis of race — that is what is so obnoxious to us."

But critics contend the measure would reverse decades of progress.

Colin Powell, retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said last week in Sacramento that "we still have problems in this country and we don't solve those problems by ignoring them and saying it's a level playing field and it's a color blind society."

Dad admits sharpening his son's helmet buckle

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — The father of a high school football player admitted he sharpened a buckle on his son's helmet before a game in which several opponents were cut, one badly enough to need 12 stitches.

The father said he did it because referees had failed to penalize players for roughing up his son in an earlier game, the Albuquerque Journal reported Tuesday.

Officials stopped an Oct. 12 game between St. Pius and Albuquerque Academy after five Academy players were cut.

They then found that a buckle on the helmet worn by St. Pius junior Mike Cito had an edge sharp enough to shred a magazine cover. Some Academy players said they thought other St. Pius athletes knew about the buckle before the game was stopped.


Last Friday, the newspaper reported, Stephen Cito admitted to the Rev. Ronald G. Schwenzer, principal at St. Pius, that he had sharpened the buckle.

"I was shocked when he said it. ... He said he is very remorseful for doing it," Schwenzer said.

Mike Cito was expelled Monday, and already had been dismissed from the team.

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