

Democrats hold fiery debate

NEW YORK (AP) — In an angry Harlem debate, Bill Bradley accused Al Gore of trying to conceal his record as "a conservative congressman," and the vice president said his rival's tactics "divide us as Democrats" instead of dealing with the Republican enemy in the campaign for the White House.

In the historic Apollo Theatre, to the cheers, and sometimes jeers, of a largely black audience, Gore and Bradley began by promising that they would act against racial profiling.

Bradley demanded to know why the vice president hadn't gone down the hall to get President Clinton to make an executive order outlawing racial profiling. Gore shot back that racial profiling practically began in Bradley's New Jersey.

The exchange was prompted by the leadoff question, accorded to The Rev. Al Sharpton. "Many in our community have to live in fear of both the cops and the robbers," the black activist said, asking how they would deal with police brutality and racial profiling while avoiding an increase in crime.

In a high profile case, Amadou

Diallo, an unarmed black man, died in a barrage of 41 police bullets a year ago in his Bronx apartment building. White police officers say they fired upon him after he refused orders to halt and appeared to draw a gun, although the black object in his hand was a wallet.

Bradley said racial profiling is a state of mind in which a policeman sees a wallet in the hands of a white man as what it is, "and a wallet in the hand of a black man as a gun," as in the Diallo shooting.

He said he would issue an executive order against racial profiling and would declare "quite clearly that white Americans can no longer deny the plight of black Americans."

"If you elect me to the presidency, the first civil rights act of the 21st century will be a federal law outlawing racial profiling," Gore said.

He said it would cover not only law enforcement, but all aspects of American society.

Bradley asked why the administration has not produced an executive order.

"I am questioning why you haven't done that or why you haven't made this happen in the past seven and a half years," Bradley said.

Gore said Clinton has issued a directive to prepare for an executive order.

"You know racial profiling practically began in New Jersey, senator," Gore shot back.

Profiling episodes involving state troopers led New Jersey to appoint a civilian monitor against the practice.

Gore, when asked about reparations from the government to atone for slavery, said, "I believe the best reparation is a good education" and affirmative action to open opportunities to black Americans. He said general reparations would not be approved by Congress.

Bradley accused Gore of trying to end affirmative action at the federal level, which the vice president vehemently denied. He said his program for overhauling the bureaucracy as vice president was against quotas, not affirmative action.

Reaching across the three feet sep-

arating their lecterns, Bradley held out a sheaf of documents he said documented five votes by Gore between 1979 and 1981 to preserve the tax-exempt status of colleges that racially discriminate.

In those votes, Gore split with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including New York Rep. Charlie Rangel, a leading Gore supporter.

"You have to face up to this if you're going to be a strong leader," Bradley said.

Gore refused to take the papers and explained away the votes as "a vote on quotas."

In turn, he challenged Bradley to explain a 1995 vote that Gore described as a rejection of expanding minority ownership of broadcast outlets.

Bradley pressed his own point, and Gore was jeered when he cut his rival off.

"You're sounding a little desperate because you're trying to build yourself up by tearing everybody else down," Gore said.

World and Nation

Datelines

Senegal

Four killed, 20 injured in rebel attack in Senegal

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Separatist guerrillas in Senegal ambushed two tour buses, killing two soldiers and two tour guides and injuring about 20 European tourists, Senegalese newspapers reported Monday.

The government-owned newspaper Le Soleil said the attack on the buses occurred Sunday at Kaliane village near Ziguinchor, the capital of the southern region of Casamance, where rebels have fought a 16-year war for independence.

Details of the attack were unclear. Senegalese military officials refused to confirm the incident, and the identities and nationalities of the tourists were not immediately known.

The Casamance region, about 150 miles south of the capital of Dakar and known for its forests and beaches, has been a popular resort destination for French tourists, who make up the overwhelming majority of overseas visitors to the region.

Kenya

Two Kenyan parliament members shot, wounded

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A gunman shot and seriously wounded two members of parliament traveling in a vehicle, police said Monday.

Sammy Leshore and Mohammed Shidiye of the ruling Kenya African National Union party were waiting for police late Sunday night after being involved in a traffic accident when a lone gunman opened fire on the men, police said.

No one was injured in the crash between Leshore's all-terrain vehicle and a public minibus in the capital of Nairobi.

The assailant escaped on foot, the statement said.

Boston

Legendary Abiel Smith School reopens as tribute

BOSTON (AP) — The nation's first combined primary and secondary public school for blacks reopened Monday as a permanent tribute to this city's often turbulent history of race in schools.

At the time the Abiel Smith School opened in 1835, blacks in the South remained in slavery, and most states had laws against teaching blacks to read. In Massachusetts, slavery was illegal, but schools were segregated.

The Smith School closed in 1855 when the Legislature outlawed segregation in schools.

The Museum of Afro-American History completed a \$1.6 million renovation of the school with federal grants and donations. The two-story building in the city's Beacon Hill neighborhood will include exhibits on black leaders in the post-Civil War era, genealogy and the Abolition movement.

Atlanta

Georgia House passes bill changing execution method

ATLANTA (AP) — Afraid the U.S. Supreme Court will ban the electric chair, the Georgia House voted overwhelmingly Monday to phase out electrocution and execute inmates by lethal injection.

The bill passed 162-10. If it is approved by the Senate and signed into law, Georgia will follow Florida as the second state to switch to lethal injection this year out of concern the high court will outlaw the electric chair as cruel and unusual punishment.

Clinton ranks 21st in C-SPAN ratings

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton rates near the top for managing the economy and pursuing equal justice, but dead last when measured for "moral authority," according to a ranking of presidents by 58 historians.

Overall among presidents, Clinton comes across in the middle, 21st out of 41 men who have occupied the Oval Office.

Two other presidents marked by scandal — Richard Nixon and Warren Harding — came in just above Clinton in the historians' view of moral leadership.

The academics rated Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, George Washington, Theodore Roosevelt and Harry Truman as the best leaders overall in a survey conducted by the cable public affairs television network C-SPAN.

Historians from across the polit-

ical spectrum rated the 41 men who have served in the White House on 10 qualities. The academics were asked to rank presidents using a scale of one to 10, with 10 being "very effective."

Clinton rates 20th in crisis leadership; 21st in international relations; 21st in administrative skills; 22nd in vision; and 21st in performance.

His high scores are in pursuing equal justice (fifth), economic management (fifth) and public persuasion (11th); his low scores were in congressional relations (36th) and moral authority (41st).

"President Clinton came into office with a three-part strategy for the economy: fiscal discipline, investing in people and opening markets abroad to benefit American workers," White House spokesman Joel Johnson said Monday.

Reform fails to curb excessive spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — A system designed to rid the Pentagon of outrageously-priced hammers and multi-page cookie specifications has sped up purchases but produced new excesses such as a \$251 compressor seal and a \$714 electrical bell.

The Clinton administration has been trying to make its military purchasing system more like corporate America, where speed and volume discounts are emphasized and detailed product specifications and cost analyses usually are scrapped.

But an Associated Press review of military records found the system that is faster and less burdensome to industry isn't always cheaper — producing purchases like a \$76 screw.

Some defense officials worry that too much emphasis is being placed on speed, forcing purchasing officers to shy away from demanding cost figures from contractors for fear it might slow down orders.

"I think there's a real morale problem," said Robert Lieberman, the Pentagon's assistant inspector general for auditing. "I think as a practical matter, people are going to cut corners. They will be criticized severely for slowing down."

Air Force Maj. Joe Besselman, who has studied the new purchasing system, found officials made good bargains on volume purchases but still got gouged on smaller orders.

For instance, using wholesale commercial prices as a guide, he found a 15-cent O-ring gasket was purchased by the DOD for \$30, a 40-cent electronic part known as a diode cost taxpayers \$4.50 and a 60-cent transistor went for \$7.60. He also found that the same turbine blades bought for \$19.80 cost \$63.70 when not part of a high-volume purchase. And a jet engine part cost \$251 in volume, but \$768 when just 15 were bought.

Such examples have led a watchdog group in Washington to conclude the Clinton administration's reinventing government program — which has endorsed the emphasis on speed over cost analysis — placed too much price-setting powers in the hands of Pentagon contractors.

"The defense industry succeeded beyond its wildest dreams," the Project on Government Oversight concluded. "Unfortunately, the defense industry took the wisdom of the Reinventing Government campaign and pushed it much too far."

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Pentagon assistant inspector

Administration officials dismiss the criticism, saying they have reshaped a purchasing system that in the 1980s made headlines for buying \$435 hammers and \$640 airplane toilets.

The critics have "tied our learning to do business smarter with giving away the farm," said Stan Z. Soloway, a top Defense acquisition official. "That's just nonsense."

Soloway said 30-day delivery times for items have been halved. Large-volume discounts are negotiated. And chocolate-chip cookies are bought in normal packages, eliminating military specifications that in the past mandated that a cookie's "diameter at its greatest dimension shall be not less than 2 5/16 inches."

The new concept is to buy commercial products whenever possible, bargaining hard for the best price while eliminating detailed specifications and company cost analyses that in the past drove up prices.

In the old system, the Pentagon would make contractors divulge and justify their actual costs for products made to exact specifications. Now, defense contracting officials are prevented under the law from learning a company's costs for producing any product deemed to be commercially available.

Instead of demanding cost analyses, defense officials simply try to negotiate the best price, buying in bulk.

WEATHER

TODAY

Scattered showers
high 64, low 46

TOMORROW

Rain
high 60, low 42

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