

# News Digest

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## Search to fill Cabinet positions continues

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - President-elect Bush moved quickly on Wednesday in search of a new candidate for labor secretary after the abrupt withdrawal of his first choice. Bush's team also mounted a vigorous defense of another contentious nomination, that of former Sen. John Ashcroft for attorney general.

A day after Linda Chavez withdrew her name from consideration for the labor post, Bush summoned Eloise Anderson, former social services director in Wisconsin and California, to Washington to be interviewed.

Top Bush officials said Anderson is a leading candidate for the job, perhaps even the front-runner - though they said that is sometimes hard to gauge with Bush.

Republicans also mentioned for the post include Elaine L. Chao, former deputy transportation secretary and the wife of Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., Stephen Goldsmith, former Indianapolis mayor, and former Rep. Jim Talent, just defeated for Missouri governor.

The Bush transition team, meanwhile, expressed annoyance that special interest

groups opposed to Ashcroft had gained access to opposition research on him done by the late Gov. Mel Carnahan's Missouri Senate campaign. The material - boxes of news clippings, speeches and voting records - was gathered for use against Ashcroft in his unsuccessful Senate re-election campaign.

"I just think the whole notion of people finishing their campaigns and providing opposition research on people who have been named to the (Cabinet) is disappointing. It is not sending the signal of bipartisanship and that's disappointing," said Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer.

"I'm not in the vote-counting business. But we're very confident that Senator Ashcroft will be confirmed," Fleischer said.

In the nation's capital for two days, Bush and his national security team received a top-secret Pentagon briefing on military challenges around the world. He also met with budget advisers and posed for the presidential portrait that will replace photos of President Clinton now hanging in the nation's federal buildings and post offices.

Bush's team at the military briefing had even more Pentagon experience than those doing the presentation. Bush brought with

him Secretary-designate Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President-elect Dick Cheney, both former defense secretaries. He also brought along Colin Powell, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff himself, and his national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice.

Meanwhile, Bush, reaching back yet again to the administration of his father, selected Margaret Tutwiler, who served in both the Reagan and elder Bush White Houses, as adviser and special consultant for communications.

Tutwiler, a close associate of former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, will serve as an unpaid consultant for 90 days to advise the new administration on communications planning and strategy, a transition announcement said.

Fleischer did not rule out an announcement by Bush before he returns to Texas on Thursday on a replacement for Chavez, or names for several other top posts yet to be filled, including that of U.N. ambassador, U.S. trade representative and CIA director.

On the labor post, Fleischer said, "In some sense, we are back to square one. But, in another sense, there are a lot of people that he knows, knows well and is looking at

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Ari Fleischer  
Bush spokesman

- a number of people."

Bush aides said he may take his time making a decision, concerned that announcing a replacement for Chavez too soon would open him to criticism that he was rushing the review process that failed him in her case.

Anderson, who had met with Bush previously, is best known for her work on welfare reform. She served under Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, Bush's pick to head the Department of Health and Human Services.

Anderson, who is black, opposes affirmative action, said Brian Kennedy, vice president of Claremont Institute in Sacramento, Calif., where Anderson is a scholar.

## American flies friendly skies; purchases TWA

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS - American Airlines is buying most of troubled Trans World Airlines Inc. in a \$500 million deal that will retire one of the most famous names in aviation history and greatly expand American's reach in the U.S. and abroad.

The agreement with TWA, along with a separate pact under which American would buy some of US Airways' assets from United Airlines, would reshape the nation's air travel market.

American chairman and chief executive Donald J. Carty said his company jumped at the chance to scoop up TWA, parts of US Airways and a large stake in a new startup carrier for \$1.8 billion in cash and \$3.5 billion in lease obligations.

Carty said the complex acquisitions greatly expand American's route network and give the airline "a level of growth that would otherwise take us years to achieve." He said the deals will add strongly to company earnings "two or three years out."

Analysts said the buying spree at American, the nation's No. 2 carrier, was motivated by its desire to keep up with United, the world's largest carrier.

United set in motion Wednesday's events when its parent, UAL Corp., agreed last year to buy most of US Airways for \$4.3 billion plus \$7.3 billion in debt. If regulators approve both the United and American deals, the two carriers would control slightly more than half the U.S. travel market, with No. 3 Delta far behind at about a 15 percent market share.

American still faces plenty of obstacles to sealing the deals. TWA, the eighth-largest U.S. carrier, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection early Wednesday, and its purchase by American could be challenged by creditors or another bidder. Regulators must approve each of the transactions. And American's labor unions could make it harder to absorb employees from TWA or US Airways.



David Silverman/Newsweek

Ariel Sharon, head of Israel's rightist Likud Party, waves to supporters during the official opening of his campaign for the leadership of Israel in a Jerusalem conference hall Wednesday.

## Israeli candidate neglects talks

Prime minister candidate Ariel Sharon shrugs off previous peace talks and considers them nonexistent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM - Ariel Sharon, the leading contender in Israel's race for prime minister, declared in an interview published Wednesday that he considers the Israeli-Palestinian accords of recent years null and void.

He accused Palestinians of killing the current peacemaking effort in more than 100 days of violence.

Meanwhile, a last-ditch mediation drive was thrown into doubt, with President Clinton's envoy postponing a Mideast trip and a top Palestinian negotiator denouncing Israel's leaders as war criminals.

Senior Israeli and Palestinian officials met late Wednesday to discuss security matters, the second high-level meeting in as many days. The Israeli team, with army commanders and security officials, was headed by Cabinet minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. Palestinian negotiator Saeb

Erekat led a Palestinian team of security chiefs.

In the interview with Kfar Habad, an ultra-Orthodox weekly, Sharon indicated he would not consider himself bound by the landmark interim peace accords signed after secret talks in Oslo, Norway in 1993. The interim accords have guided peacemaking ever since.

"The Oslo agreement exists no more - period," Sharon was quoted as saying. The interview, to be published in the magazine this week, was widely excerpted in Israeli newspapers Wednesday.

Sharon holds a double-digit lead in the polls over Prime Minister Ehud Barak ahead of the Feb. 6 election. Sharon formally kicked off his campaign Wednesday night with a rally in Jerusalem.

Sharon's campaign has sought to portray him as a moderate, distancing him from his long history of operations against the Palestinians and a disastrous invasion of Lebanon in 1982 that led to his ouster as defense minister. A preview of his television campaign ads Wednesday showed a grandfatherly Sharon, 72, holding a small child and

walking through pastoral scenery.

At the rally, he said that as premier, he would not negotiate with the Palestinians before the violence subsides. But he added: "There is no peace without concessions. The peace we will reach will be based on a compromise."

In the Kfar Habad interview, Sharon was quoted as saying that merely allowing the Palestinians to keep the areas Israel ceded to date was a "painful concession" because "all those places are the birthplace of the Jewish people."

He did not advocate retaking areas now under Palestinian control - about 40 percent of the West Bank and two-thirds of Gaza. But he indicated that the Palestinians would get no more territory from him if he is elected.

He also promised not to give up control of any of Jerusalem - including a key disputed holy site, where the Al Aqsa Mosque is built atop the ruins of the ancient Jewish Temples - and said Israel must retain all its settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for security reasons.

Barak has offered the Palestinians a state in more than 90 percent of the West Bank and Gaza.

## Cruel punishment: Strip search victims ask why

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Tens of thousands of people who claimed they were illegally strip-searched after being arrested for minor offenses could get up to \$22,500 each under a \$50 million settlement from the city.

The searches were conducted by jail guards over 10 months in 1996 and 1997. They were often performed on first-time offenders arrested for minor infractions like loitering and disorderly conduct as part of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's crack-down on "quality of life" violations.

"Strip searches are a barbaric and degrading law enforcement tool that people accused of minor offenses should not suffer," Richard D. Emery, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said Wednesday.

Strip searches of people charged with minor offenses are prohibited unless there is reason to believe they are concealing weapons or other contraband.

The money will go to as many as

60,000 people in amounts ranging from \$250 to \$22,500.

The settlement is subject to approval by a federal judge.

The amounts will be based on the circumstances of the individual searches, and will take into account the emotional effect on the victims.

"I was in tears, asking why it was necessary, and was told that this was not the place to be asking questions," said Danni Tyson, whose disorderly conduct charges were dropped after her arrest.

Police Chief Bernard Kerik, who was a first deputy at the Correction Department during the period that the strip searches took place, defended the searches as a way to keep weapons out of holding cells.

"Personally, I would tend to disagree and say anybody that you take off the streets of the city, and you're going to put those people into a confined and secluded area with other people that have been arrested for crimes, they should be strip-searched for the safety of the people who

*"I was in tears, asking why was it necessary, and was told that this was not the place to be asking questions."*

Danni Tyson  
strip searched for disorderly conduct

are in there," he said.

The mayor said the searches began after a shift in job functions between police officers and jail guards. The guards, accustomed to conducting such searches of inmates, did not realize it was illegal to strip-search people who have not been arraigned, Giuliani said.

Carlos Morales said he was subjected to a group strip search after he was arrested for driving with a suspended license and a broken tail light.

World/Nation

The Associated Press

### Washington, D.C.

Officials work to solve electricity problem

California officials, utilities and power generators agreed to meet again this weekend in hopes of working out some possible solutions to bring stability to the state's troubled electricity system.

After seven hours of talks under the direction of Clinton administration officials, the participants agreed early Wednesday that cooperation was needed to keep two of California's biggest utilities from going broke.

"We can see light at the end of the tunnel," California Gov. Gray Davis told reporters shortly after midnight when the talks concluded for the night.

The participants agreed to meet again this weekend.

High-level administration officials and all the major figures in the California electricity wars met behind closed doors to try to fashion a framework for resolving the problems facing the state's electricity supply system.

Afterward, a brief statement was issued saying: "The participants agreed on the need for cooperation to maintain stability and avoid bankruptcy of California utilities."

### Washington, D.C.

Statue dedication unveils a new Roosevelt

Four-year-old Hannah McFadden, an Albanian immigrant born with a leg deformity, didn't need her mother to explain the significance of Wednesday's unveiling of a statue depicting President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a wheelchair.

"It means people on crutches and in a wheelchair can do anything," said McFadden, sporting hot-pink crutches for the ceremony in which President Clinton dedicated the statue.

The bronze sculpture, depicting Roosevelt in his self-designed combination kitchen stool-commercial wheelchair, sits at the park's entrance as a prologue to the chronological story of the Roosevelt years.

Advocates for the disabled objected strongly when the memorial opened 3 1/2 years ago with its centerpiece FDR statue only hinting at Roosevelt's polio affliction. It shows a cape-covered Roosevelt in a straight chair with two tiny wheels on the back.

### Washington, D.C.

Clinton leaves options open for another kind of candidacy

After insisting for months that his days as a candidate are over, President Clinton said Wednesday that he has his eye on one more office.

"I may run for president of the Senate Spouses' Club," Clinton joked during a luncheon for Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont.

He based his possible "candidacy" on his affection for the Senate's freshman class, which includes his wife Hillary, Democrat from New York.

"I kind of am partial to this new crowd of senators. It got me in the Senate Spouses' Club, that's true, where I intend to be a very vigorous member," Clinton said.

The presidency is currently held by Tipper Gore, whose husband serves as president of the Senate. When the Bush administration takes over Jan. 20, Mrs. Gore cedes the designation to Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President-elect Dick Cheney.

### Chile

Pinochet takes medical tests to avoid charges

SANTIAGO - Gen. Augusto Pinochet entered a Santiago military hospital early Wednesday to undergo neurological and mental tests that may be his final hope to avoid trial on human rights charges.

Pinochet arrived at the hospital hours before the 10 a.m. time set by Juan Guzman for the tests, which are to determine if the aging former strongman is fit to stand trial. Pinochet has diabetes, arthritis, uses a pacemaker and has suffered three mild strokes since late 1998.

Guzman is seeking to indict him on homicide and kidnapping charges related to the "Caravan of Death," a military commando raid that executed 55 political prisoners shortly after a coup in 1973.

### Weather

TODAY	TOMORROW
Partly cloudy high 46, low 31	Partly cloudy high 55, low 39

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Fax Number: (402) 472-1761  
World Wide Web: [www.dailynebr.com](http://www.dailynebr.com)  
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080)  
is published by the UNL Publications Board,  
20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday  
through Friday during the academic year;  
weekly during the summer sessions.  
The public has access to the Publications Board.  
Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas  
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