

Democrats rip recent Reagan actions

By CHRIS LANDGRAFF
Staff Writer

Democratic presidential candidates campaigning for the March 26 Michigan caucuses took a vacation from attacking each other to criticize the Reagan administration's decision to send American troops to Honduras, and to express opposition to Reagan's veto of a civil rights bill this weekend.

Michael Dukakis called Reagan's decision an "empty gesture," and said the "need for military support in the area is very unconvincing. We would not be in this situation if Reagan had supported the Arias peace plan instead of calling for more aid to the contras," he said.

Dukakis said he would prevent any country in this hemisphere from being overrun by communists, but military measures were not the solution to the current problem. The administration must get behind the Arias plan if a lasting settlement is to be reached, he said.

Jesse Jackson also strictly opposes the administration's Central American policies, spokesman Eric Easter said. "The president is simply trying to divert attention from the recent Iran-contra indictments and is trying to garner support for increased aid to the contras," he said.

Michigan voters seem concerned about the recent developments in

Central America, Easter said. "We have been receiving phone calls from voters who are expressing their concern for the problem. We feel that Jackson's stance on this issue will give us the broad base of support we need to win in Michigan."

Paul Simon and Richard Gephardt also voiced opposition to the administration's recent veto of a major civil rights bill — a bill that Simon sponsored.

"The Reagan administration is attempting to dismantle a congressional consensus of strict enforcement of civil rights and equal opportunity issues (through the veto)," said David Carle, a spokesman for the Simon

campaign.

Richard Gephardt is "strictly opposed to the Reagan veto," said Patrick Brookover, a Gephardt spokesman. "Richard Gephardt spoke out first and loudest against the veto and the sending of troops to Honduras," he said.

Though there is no clear Democratic leader, all candidates were optimistic about the upcoming caucuses in Michigan. Dukakis supporters in Michigan said he can win if he takes some of Jackson's urban support, but Jackson officials said his strength in the cities, combined with broad support in suburban areas, should help him win next Saturday's caucuses.

Delegate Commitments

Delegate totals after Texas and Kansas for the Democratic presidential candidates show a continually-changing picture

... while George Bush continues to show a strong lead:
 Vice President George Bush: 771 total
 Kan. Sen. Robert Dole: 179 total
 Pat Robertson: 17 total
 Others, uncommitted: 35 total
Needed to nominate: 1,139

... while George Bush continues to show a strong lead:
 Mass. Gov. Michael Dukakis: 575.5 total
 Mo. Rep. Richard Gephardt: 154 total
 Tenn. Sen. Albert Gore: 362.8 total
 The Rev. Jesse Jackson: 510.55 total
 Ill. Sen. Paul Simon: 171.5 total
 Others, uncommitted: 289.65 total
Needed to nominate: 2,082

El Salvador holds elections despite guerrilla sabotage efforts

From Associated Press reports

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Salvadorans voting not to be intimidated by guerrilla threats voted Sunday in legislative and municipal elections after explosions ripped

through the capital and sabotage knocked out power to much of the nation.

Early turnout was moderate, without long lines at polling places in the capital. There were some organiza-

tional difficulties, including late delivery of ballot boxes to some voting stations and arguments over the placement of party observers at tables where registrations were checked.

The entire capital was without electricity after leftist guerrillas blew up transmission towers outside the city. The outage meant that virtually no one in the city had running water, as the state-owned utility's pumps run on electricity.

The outage knocked almost all radio stations off the air, and only the army's Radio Cuscatlan, which has a powerful generator, was broadcasting news.

Telephone calls to local radio reporters around the country showed that guerrillas had knocked out power in 11 of El Salvador's 14 provinces.

A half-dozen explosions were heard late Saturday and early Sunday

in and around the capital. Guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front had vowed to step up sabotage to demonstrate their "repudiation" of the vote.

The rebels, engaged in an 8-year-old war with the U.S.-backed government, considered the vote "a farce" and called for a boycott.

The destruction of transmission towers and high-tension lines followed the explosion Friday night of a car bomb in the affluent neighborhood of Escalon. One person was injured.

At stake were all 60 seats in the National Assembly, the unicameral legislature. Voters also elected mayors and municipal councils in all the 862 cities and towns nationwide.

All the terms last for three years. It was the fifth time since a 1979 coup by reform-minded officers that voters were casting ballots in an open election. The last election was in 1985.

Erlinda Guevara, a 45-year-old housewife, was the first to vote at a polling station on the capital's Roosevelt Avenue. Because of the guerrilla-imposed transport ban that began Friday and drastically curtailed traffic, she had walked three miles to vote.

"We can't let ourselves be intimidated by violence. We have to lift up El Salvador, and we're going to lift it up by voting," she said.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. for 10 hours, with early returns not expected until Monday.

Parking problems, weather cause UNC food drive to be cancelled

By R.L. INGLE
Staff Writer

The UNC portion of the "Feed the Triangle" food drive, scheduled for Saturday, was canceled because of bad weather and parking problems from the NCAA tournament, the event's coordinator said Sunday.

Unexpected cold weather and a high demand for parking spaces in the lot that was to be a base for the drive led to the cancellation of the drive, said Stephanie Ahlschwede, Student Congress Student Affairs Committee chairwoman and organizer of the UNC part of the event.

The food drive continued as scheduled at other participating universities.

The drive was to be a joint effort among N.C. State University (NCSU), Duke University, Shaw University, Meredith College and Peace College and was expected to be the largest drive ever held to benefit the Triangle Food Bank,

assistant bank director Marilyn McNeely said last week.

The NCAA basketball tournament games being played at the Smith Center played a large part in the decision to cancel the event, Ahlschwede said.

"If it had been just the weather, we would have kept on," she said. "We had people pull in the lot and say, 'Are you here guarding this parking lot or can we park here for the game?' After a while, we just gave up."

"We'll try again next year."

At NCSU, 15,000 cans of food were

collected from the community, she said. Counts for the other participating schools were not available.

NCSU Student Senator Charles Rambeau, coordinator of the Triangle-wide event, could not be reached for comment.


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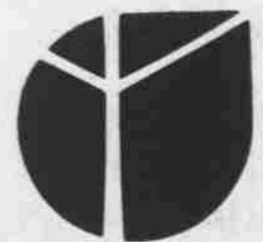
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