

STATE AND NATIONAL

Kerrey exits presidential race; Harkin may withdraw today

By Anna Griffin
State and National Editor

The field of Democratic presidential hopefuls continued to narrow last week, with Thursday's departure of U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey and reports that Sen. Tom Harkin would drop out of the race today.

Kerrey, a former governor of Ne-



braska, announced his withdrawal from the presidential race after several disap-

pointing finishes in recent primaries.

Harkin, a senator and former U.S. representative from Iowa, reportedly was planning to follow Kerrey's lead and drop out of the race this morning.

Kerrey's departure left Harkin as the only true Midwestern candidate in the 1992 presidential race. But despite recent caucus victories in Minnesota and Idaho, The As-



Bob Kerrey

sociated Press reported Sunday that Harkin had told officials of the Iowa Democratic Party that he would announce his decision to withdraw during a speech at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., today.



Tom Harkin

Harkin has not campaigned for this week's Super Tuesday primaries and finished with just 6 percent of the vote in Saturday's S.C. primary.

Neither the Iowa Democratic Party nor members of Harkin's campaign staff would confirm the senator's plans to withdraw.

Despite Kerrey and Harkin's similar Midwestern backgrounds, the Iowan did not benefit heavily from Kerrey's decision to leave the race. Most experts agreed that Kerrey's support would fall to either Paul Tsongas or Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton.

Both Kerrey and Harkin were expected to be among the front-runners when the campaign began. But both senators failed to capture widespread support for their platforms.

Kerrey's campaign, which focused primarily on health-care reform, did manage to drum up support for a national health-care program but failed to electrify voters. Kerrey's concentration on one issue may have cost him votes, said UNC political science Professor Thad Beyle.

"He and his handlers said, 'Let's just jump on (health care) and go with it,'" Beyle said. "If you just pick up one issue, you're not going to do very well nationally."

For Kerrey, low voter support translated into a lack of campaign funds.

"We were ready to go full throttle but unfortunately we ran out of gas," Kerrey said Thursday. "(After last Tuesday's primaries) I felt a little like the Jamaican bob sled team — a lot of spirit but unfortunately not a lot of medals."

Unlike Clinton, Tsongas and Kerrey, Harkin has readily acknowledged the liberal nature of his beliefs and has emphasized his populist nature in campaign speeches and position papers. But

despite the present national trend of voter distrust and dissatisfaction, Harkin's barnstorming campaign was not what Americans wanted, Beyle said.

"He's hitting the issues the way the old-style liberal campaigners like Truman and FDR hit them — obviously the voters didn't want to hear that," he said.

Despite their disappointing finishes in the 1992 campaign, both Kerrey and Harkin could be back in the spotlight when the 1996 race rolls around.

A Kerrey campaign worker said the senator had not ruled out mounting another run at the presidency.

"There's always the possibility that he'll run again in 1996," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "The senator isn't saying he will, but he certainly isn't through with national politics yet."

Although Harkin may consider running in 1996, the political mood of the country also may be vastly different in 1996, hurting the liberal's chances from the outset, Beyle said.

"The potential for Kerrey to enter (in 1996) is much greater than Harkin," he said. "The nature of the issues will probably be so different."

In comparison to the remaining Democratic hopefuls, including Harkin, Kerrey is a political newcomer.

After serving as governor of Nebraska from 1982-1986, Kerrey forsook another term to run for the U.S. Senate, where he has served since 1989. Kerrey's opponents, Harkin, Clinton, Tsongas and former California Gov. Jerry Brown, have a combined 53 years of experience in elected offices.

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S T. MARTIN'S PRESS

Bush, Clinton capture big S.C. primary wins

The Associated Press
COLUMBIA, S.C. — President Bush knocked challenger Pat Buchanan down a peg Saturday with a huge win in South

Carolina's primary, a victory delivered in part because of Gov. Carroll Campbell's organization.

Bush won about 67 percent of the GOP vote, boosting his percentages from other primary states. Buchanan, his chief challenger, picked up about 26 percent, less than many observers said he needed to win to seriously damage the president.

Former Ku Klux Klansman David Duke won about 7 percent in his first primary ballot appearance.

On the Democratic side, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton won an overwhelming victory, pulling about two-thirds of the vote.

Former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas was far behind with about 16 percent of the vote.

Campbell pulled out all the stops to deliver the state for Bush, just as he did four years ago.

In 1988, Bush won 48 percent against three challengers, a victory that helped him effectively sew up the nomination on Super Tuesday.

In the Democratic primary, organization — and ties to the region — boosted Clinton to his big win.

Clinton, who vacations in the state, assembled a dizzying array of supporters, from the white Democratic establishment to many black lawmakers.

He visited the state three times, and his slick campaign team organized big rallies during the campaign's final week.

Yet it may have been Clinton's Southern roots that helped him the most. A CNN exit poll showed 72 percent of native Southerners voted for Clinton, compared to 13 percent for Tsongas.

Clinton also piled up huge victories among black voters and the poor. CNN said 80 percent of blacks support him, and 82 percent of those who earned less than \$15,000 a year.

The results spelled bad news for Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, who lobbied hard for black votes.

Harkin even campaigned with Jesse Jackson and used Jackson's picture in television commercials, though Jackson did not offer a formal endorsement.

Despite the pleas, Harkin won only about 6 percent of the vote.

He barely edged out former California Gov. Jerry Brown, who never showed up, and had no organization or even a local telephone number.

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Chief

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The committee will have representatives from all levels of the department, from officers to captains, he said. "Their say will be equally as important as ours."

The new chief should be able to "more or less fit right in with our department like it is," Bowler said.

Officials should choose a chief as soon as possible because vacancies in the department are putting a strain on the force, he said. "It's nice to have a day off once in a while."

Bowler said he wanted to know if candidates would consider implementing some ideas Trujillo had that the former chief didn't have time to put into action.

"There are still a few more changes or ideas that Mr. Trujillo had that a lot of us were looking forward to," he said. "These will be brought up to the candidates when we interview them."

Elftand said that if the committees did not select a chief out of this field of applicants, the department might need to find someone to take the post on an interim basis while a nationwide search was conducted.

"Hopefully, we'll get someone this way, and we won't have to cross that bridge."