Week in Review

Iraq releases more hostages

Iraq continues to announce hostage releases in a trickle. The latest: 77 Japanese, 20 Italians, five Swedes, two Germans, two Portuguese and two Australians will be freed this week.

Also Tuesday, The Red Cross said Baghdad had agreed to let it serve as courier for "human shields" who wanted to write letters home to relatives and friends in the USA.

Gas prices finally fall

Gasoline prices fell this week for the first time since Sept. 18. But experts say the drop probably will not last.

Motorists were paying an average of \$1.37 for a gallon of self-serve regular unleaded gas Monday. That is three-tenths of a cent less than the week before.

The highest prices reported came Oct. 29 at \$1.38 a gallon.

D.C. elects new mayor; Marion Barry loses

Voters in the nation's capital ushered in a new political era Tuesday by electing a new mayor; giving Rev. Jesse Jackson a "shadow senator" post; and turning back Mayor Marion Barry's bid for an at-large seat on the City Council.

Democrat Sharon Pratt Dixon had a mountainous lead over Republican Maurice Turner, the former D.C. police chief, in the race for mayor.

Victory for the hearing impaired

When Gertrude Galloway becomes superintendent of the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf in January, it will be a victory for the hearing-impaired.

She will become the USA's first deaf woman to head a school for the hearing-impaired and the Ewing, N.J., school's first deaf top administrator in its 107-year history.

Columbia drug lords kidnap journalists

Colombia's top drug traffickers said they had kidnapped seven journalists in a protest of what they called police torture and massacres of colleagues in the cocaine cartel.

No incumbent backlash in Senate races

The nation's most exclusive club appeared to withstand voter dissatisfaction with Washington Tuesday as most Senate incumbents won re-election.

Senators were helped by huge campaign funds and a late

That could be welcome news to President Bush and the GOP, which needs to keep close to its 45 Senate seats to protect Bush vetoes during the next two years.

Kahane followers vow revenge

The assassination of Pabbi Meir Kahane brought vows of revenge Tuesday against Arabs in Israel and the USA.

While tens of thousands of mourners paid their respects at Kahane's Brooklyn funeral, trouble loomed following his slaying in a New York hotel Monday night.

"There will be revenge," said Sol Margolis, president of Kach International, an extremist political party. 31 7 9 11 19 11 19 11

Danger signals flashing?

Bush campaigns hard, but GOP loses ground

By RICHARD BENEDETT ©Copyright 1990 USA TODAY/Apple College Information Network

WASHINGTON - Few politicians campaigned harder this long 1990 election season than President Bush.

A former Republican National Committee chairman himself, he appeared at 115 fund-raisers and raised nearly \$90 million for GOP

On the last six days of the campaign, he visited eight states states where the races were tightest — jetting from coast to coast, urging voters to get out and help his fellow Republicans.

But when Tuesday's dust finally settled, and most of the ballots were counted, Bush found his party split, many candidates he worked hard for going down in flames, fewer GOP seats in the House of Representatives, the economy in decline and his own political future cloudy, if not

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> - Larry Sabato Univ. of Virginia

lights," said Larry Sabato, University of Virginia political scientist.

White House political strategists heatedly denied that Tuesday's elections were a referendum on Bush's job performance. Republican National Committee spokesman Charles Black downplayed the losses, saying the GOP had done better than usual for a party in control of the White House.

"We've beaten the historical odds," he said.

Yet political analysts assert the danger signals are there. Whenever a president puts his political prestige on the line by campaigning, they say, he

assumes his presence will have some effect on the voting. And he has to take partial blame for losses, whether he likes it or not.

"Bush doesn't seem to have helped anywhere. He can't be feeling very good tonight," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Ron Brown.

Analysts also say he must quickly heal GOP wounds inflicted by the split over taxes, and shed the label of protector of the rich, if he expects to govern effectively over the next two years - and win re-election in 1992.

"You just heard the opening shots of a civil war within the Republican Party," said conservative GOP strategist Richard Viguerie.

Conservative Republicans say they're so miffed at Bush reneging on his no-new-taxes pledge, and other compromises with the Democrats in Congress on issues such as clean air, that they may run a candidate against him in the '92 GOP primaries.

(Richard Benedetto covers the White House for USA TODAY)



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