

World and Nation

Dukakis criticizes Bush's abilities

From Associated Press reports

Michael Dukakis questioned on Tuesday how George Bush would be able to deal with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev "if he couldn't stand up to the ayatollah or say 'no' to Noriega." The vice president preached the gospel of Republican prosperity and said America is a "rising nation again."

The Republican campaign was buffeted with more controversy when Radi Slavoff, the co-chairman of "Bulgarians for Bush," resigned after being identified in a newspaper report

as the former head of a Nazi-aligned group formed in Bulgaria after World War II.

The rhetoric and the resignation came as two fresh polls were released, one survey indicating Bush is leading, the other that Dukakis leads, but both by less than the margin of potential error of the respective polls.

Dukakis, hoping to bolster his standing as a candidate knowledgeable about foreign policy, offered his view of U.S.-Soviet relations, criticizing Bush and Quayle and invoking

the optimistic rhetoric of John F. Kennedy.

"Civility is not a sign of weakness and sincerity is always subject to proof," he quoted the last president from Massachusetts as saying.

As for GOP vice presidential candidate Dan Quayle, Dukakis noted that since World War II, three vice presidents have moved into the Oval Office without being elected president.

"Dan Quayle is no Gerald Ford. He's no Lyndon Johnson. And he sure ain't Harry Truman," the Demo-

cratic presidential candidate said.

Bush made his way from Illinois to Missouri to California during the day — states accounting for 82 electoral votes of the 270 needed for victory — as he stressed the economic recovery of the Reagan era.

Bush told the Executives Club of Chicago, "Americans at every income level are certifiably better off than they were in 1981. So the next time somebody tells you that America is declining, tell 'em to put away the 1980 calendar; this is 1988."

U.S. Forest Service recruits students to fight fires in West

From Associated Press reports

CHARLOTTE — With North Carolina's fall fire season approaching and its ranks of professional firefighters thinned by huge fires out West, the U.S. Forest Service has begun recruiting emergency student crews to send to Wyoming.

"Most of us have never been involved in firefighting before," said Mike Hunter, one of 25 Haywood Community College students who took 12 hours of state Forest Service training Monday. "It will be quite an experience for us since we're all planning on working in the field when we graduate. It's valuable experience."

The student crew was on standby Tuesday and would leave no earlier than Wednesday, said Rebecca Richards of the state Forest Service.

A second-quarter student in HCC's forestry management program, Hunter, 34, said he never expected his introduction to firefighting to be so urgent.

"We're basically learning everything we can as quickly as we can," he said. "It's an experience I'm sure we'll never forget."

Rand touts highway bond plan

RALEIGH — A week after affirming his opposition to Gov. Jim Martin's proposed \$450 million highway bond issue, state Sen. Tony Rand Tuesday unveiled a plan to float \$1 billion in bonds to pay for road construction.

Rand, the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor, said the bond issue should be the centerpiece of a long-range program for reducing North Carolina's \$12 billion backlog in building highways.

But he declined to say what measures he would endorse to raise the \$106 million per year needed to pay off the bond issue in 20 years. He said he would support the recommendations of a legislative study commission that

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will issue a report after the Nov. 8 election.

"Everyone realizes that we are continuing to fall further behind," Rand said at a news conference. "If we are to maintain North Carolina's position as the good roads state, it's essential that we do something along these lines."

He said there was no inconsistency in his opposition to Martin's bond issue and Rand's support of a rival plan.

Martin's plan was flawed because it called for refinancing bonds issued in the late 1970s at interest rates that would have inflated its cost by up to \$200 million, Rand said. Also, principal payments would have been postponed until the mid-1990s.

He said his plan which, with interest, would cost \$2.12 billion, would involve a pay-as-you-go approach, with annual \$106 million appropriations from the state highway fund until the bonds are retired.

Oregon Inlet jetties rejected

RALEIGH — A longtime critic of proposed jetties for Oregon Inlet says President Reagan's refusal to approve the project should prompt serious consideration of alternatives, but proponents said they will not give up.

Orrin Pilkey, a Duke University geologist, said Reagan's decision against the jetties Monday signaled it was time for people to work together on alternatives to highway and water transportation problems at the Outer Banks inlet.

He said the state should look for an alternative method to protect the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge across the inlet and that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should seriously explore the use of dredging to keep the channel open between the Atlantic Ocean and the North Carolina sounds.

New housing law to prohibit unfair discriminatory acts

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Here are major provisions of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, which President Reagan signed into law Tuesday:

Protection against housing discrimination would cover the disabled and handicapped and families with children under age 18. Current law already protects against discrimination because of race, sex, religion or national origin.

The secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development would try to win a conciliation agreement after a complaint is filed. If that effort fails, the secretary or any party could take the case to an independent administrative law judge in HUD or to a U.S. district court.

If the administrative judge finds that someone has engaged or is about to engage in a discriminatory practice, he shall order appropriate relief, which may include actual damages, an injunction or civil penalties.

The maximum fines would be

\$10,000 for a first violation, \$25,000 for a second violation within a five-year period and \$50,000 for two or more violations within a seven-year period. Civil penalties ranging from \$10,000 for a first offense to \$100,000 for succeeding offenses would be authorized in cases where a "pattern or practice" of discrimination has been proved.

The administrative law judge's ruling would be subject to review by a federal appellate court.

New buildings with four or more units must be constructed so they are readily accessible to the handicapped.

Disabled tenants would have the right to make reasonable modifications to a dwelling at their own expense. The tenants would have to agree to restore the property to its original condition when they leave.

Children could be barred from housing intended for the elderly, but that would be the only exception to an open-housing policy for those 18 and under.

Freed West German describes ordeal as captive of terrorists

From Associated Press reports

DAMASCUS, Syria — West German Rudolf Cordes, who was freed after 20 months of captivity in Lebanon, said Tuesday he nearly despaired during his long ordeal and saw no other foreign hostages.

"I'm rejoicing for being a free man again. I feel I'm born again. It is as if I have been granted a new life. I am feeling perfect, and I'm in a very good shape," he said in German as he greeted Bonn's German State Minister for Chancery Affairs, Wolfgang Schauble, who arrived to escort Cordes home.

Cordes, 55, Beirut manager for the Hoechst AB pharmaceutical company, was freed in Beirut at midnight Monday and escorted to Damascus by Syrian officers.

He spent the night at a government guest palace and was reunited with his wife Tuesday before the official ceremony at the ministry. He was expected to return to West Germany later Tuesday night.

Cordes was kidnapped in Beirut Jan. 17, 1987, by Shiite Moslem Lebanese extremists who were seeking to swap him for an Arab jailed

in Germany on terrorist charges. Mohammed Ali Hamadi, 24, is being tried in Frankfurt on murder and air piracy charges for hijacking a TWA jetliner to Beirut in 1985.

In Bonn, a West German government spokesman who demanded anonymity said he knew of no deal with Iran or with the kidnapers for Cordes' freedom. The government has repeatedly denied it paid a ransom for Schmidt's release.

Cordes appeared to be in good health Tuesday. He smiled all the time and spoke confidently.

Asked if he had seen any of the other 17 foreign hostages held in Lebanon, he said in English: "I haven't seen any hostages. I was alone."

Cordes' captors, a group calling itself the Holy Warriors for Freedom, said in a statement Monday that they were freeing him in response to Iranian and Syrian intervention. The statement did not elaborate.

In Bonn, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said his government will use the country's ties with Iran and Syria to try to gain freedom for other hostages in Lebanon.

Marshall Scholarships
Students interested in spending two years studying in the U.K., who will have graduated by October 1, 1989, are U.S. citizens under the age of 26, and have a minimum 3.7 GPA, are eligible.

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