

Campaign round-up

Who's saying what about who, why and whatever

Associated Press
MIAMI, Fla. — Ronald Reagan, denying any retreat from his "11th commandment" against saying nasty things about fellow Republicans, charges President Ford with presiding over the country's diplomatic and military decline.

Reagan, challenging Ford for the GOP presidential nomination, unleashed his strongest attack to date against the administration as he stumped for votes in Florida's March 9 primary.

The development came the same day Indiana Sen. Birch Bayh ceased active campaigning for the Democratic nomination and Sargent Shriver, the Democrats' vice presidential nominee four years ago, indicated his future as a candidate for president is in doubt.

Bayh announced in New York on Thursday that he had decided to suspend his campaign after Tuesday's seventh-place finish in Massachusetts' presidential primary. He said he was not quitting altogether, so he could continue to get matching federal money to pay campaign debts.

"It is not easy for me to say the things I must say to you today," Reagan said shortly after arriving in Florida. "But I have decided that matters of national security and defense are beyond politics, and the American people are entitled to my assessment of them."

The former California governor called Ford a man of "evident decency, honor and patriotism" but

Reagan says Ford has made the United States No. 2 in military power, and asserts that it is "dangerous, if not fatal, to be second best."

blasted Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger for allowing the country to lose ground militarily to the Soviet Union.

"In my view, the policy of detente as pursued by the administration is one of making pre-emptive concessions to the Soviets," Reagan said. "Under Kissinger and Ford, this na-

tion has become No. 2 in military power in a world where it is dangerous, if not fatal, to be second best."

In Washington, Ford's press secretary, Ron Nessen, said, "The President's recognized leadership in keeping the national defense second to none is so well known that I don't think any response is necessary."

Of the four Democrats actively pursuing votes in Florida, three were tangled in disputes of their own Thursdays.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington, winner of the primary in Massachusetts, charged that former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter made contradictory statements in

Ford's press secretary says the President is recognized as a leader in maintaining the nation's defense.

Florida and Massachusetts about the location of a proposed federal solar energy center.

Jackson, stopping several times for hand-shaking, said he is the only Democratic candidate familiar with Florida's energy and ecological problems. And he chided Carter for repeatedly referring to Florida's primary as a Wallace-Carter affair. "It's a three-horse race," Jackson said.

Carter, touring the center of the state, ignored Jackson's remarks and concentrated on Alabama Gov. George Wallace, considered the frontrunner in the race in Florida.

Carter said Wallace's popularity in Florida is based on the governor's criticism of the federal bureaucracy. But he said Wallace has done little to keep bureaucracy out of government in Alabama.

Pennsylvania Gov. Milton Shapp, the fourth Democrat seeking Florida backing, stumped the Miami area.

Bayh, in suspending his campaign, made no mention of throwing support to any other candidate. Arizona Rep. Morris K. Udall, who finished second in Massachusetts, has declared himself leader of the party's "progressives" and openly sought Bayh's backing.

Udall, meantime, met in Washington with the Congressional

Black Caucus. Later, Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., said the session was more advisory in nature than anything else.

Speaking at a night-time Orlando rally, Reagan stressed what he called

Jackson claims the Florida primary will be a "three-horse race" between Wallace, Carter and himself.

the "basic fundamental differences" between Ford and himself.

"One candidate is a member of the Washington establishment, one is not," he said. "One candidate has faith in the Washington establishment to solve our problems. One candidate believes those who are part of the problems are not the best equipped to solve them."

Earlier, Reagan admitted that his Florida campaign may be in trouble. He said he could live with a loss to Ford, as long as her percentage of the vote did not slip out of the 40s.

"If it is close like New Hampshire, at least up there in the 40s, this would still be a campaign," he said.

Jackson's campaign organization said former United Nations ambassador Daniel P. Moynihan would campaign with the senator in joint appearances in Miami Beach Sunday. Moynihan endorsed Jackson just before the Massachusetts primary.

Aides also said the Jackson campaign has begun a stepped-up media effort in the final week before the primary, even though the candidate has discounted the importance of Florida to his political future.

Wallace, at a series of airport news conference and an evening rally, decried the federal welfare system and what he called a one-sided detente.

The Shriver campaign is short of money. A loss in the Illinois primary could mean his withdrawal.

And he called for stronger law-and-order legislation.

In Miami, Shapp suggested a national code of ethics for top federal officials, advocating a provision requiring public financial disclosure for cabinet members, members of

the president's staff, ambassadors to foreign nations and heads of federal regulatory agencies.

Shriver, in Chicago, said he is short of money and will have to rely on volunteers for the March 16 Illinois primary. And, he said, if he loses there, he may take the Bayh option.

There were these other political developments Thursday.

The Federal Communications Commission ruled in Washington that radio and television stations cannot refuse to sell a political candidate less than five minutes of air time. The ruling had been sought by the Ford campaign committee, which sought 90-second spots from WGN Radio-TV in Chicago.

The commission also turned down a request by Reagan's supporters that a Miami television station be forced to give the former governor equal time to match a series of interviews with the President.

The Census Bureau reported more than 150 million Americans, nearly 10 million more than in 1972, will be old enough to vote in the general election in November.

Praises Abraham Lincoln

Ford seeks farmers' votes

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — President Ford, making a pitch for the farm vote in Illinois, might disclose new U.S. grain sales to Russia.

As Ford prepared to fly to Illinois today for two days of campaigning, reports circulated here that the Agriculture Department might sell as much as four million more tons of wheat and corn to the Soviets to help make up for a small Russian harvest last year.

The announcement could be made when Ford addresses a farm forum in Springfield, Ill., in mid-afternoon.

Such a move would be politically popular with farmers, who were angered last July when Ford ordered an embargo on grain sales to Russia after the Soviets had made large purchases. The embargo was lifted in October after the United States and Russia signed a long-term grain sales pact designed to bring more stability to the U.S. grain market.

Even with new grain sales now, the USDA says there will be plenty of grain from 1975's record harvests to meet all demands without significantly raising American consumer prices.

The 1975-76 grain sales were to help meet current Russian needs and do not count against the long-term agreement which goes into effect with shipments after next Oct. 1. The Soviets have bought about 13.3 million metric tons of U.S. wheat and corn so far this season to help make up deficits caused by its small harvest last year.

In his swing through Republican-dominated downstate Illinois, Ford will be seeking votes for Illinois' March 16 primary. Buoyed by three straight primary victories, the President and his aides feel back-to-back

wins in Florida next Tuesday and in Illinois the week after that will just about deal a knockout blow to the GOP presidential hopes of Ronald Reagan.

Ford's first planned stop was at the Abraham Lincoln home in Springfield to unveil a cornerstone

for a new visitor's center.

"Ours is a more perfect union than the founding father created, because of this one man," he said. "It is to Abraham Lincoln that we owe the opportunity to observe our national bicentennial — at peace among ourselves and with all the nations."



The Battalion

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