

Presidency debated

Lebanon death toll rises

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Casualties in Lebanon's civil war today climbed toward the level before the ceasefire...

Presidential hopeful Raymond Edde claimed that the toll in the year-long war is now 20,000 dead and 60,000 wounded...

The heaviest fighting during the night was in Beirut and the suburban hills where Moslem leftists and right-wing Christian forces continued to battle...

Another fierce battle was reported around Zagharta, hometown of Christian President Suleiman Franjeh. The town is at the northern tip of a Christian enclave...

Today was the day on which other Christian leaders said they expected Franjeh to sign a constitutional amendment adopted by Parliament last week...

Right-wing Christian leaders were meeting at Franjeh's temporary headquarters 12 miles north of Beirut. They were believed trying to agree on a successor who would uphold their conservative views...

The Lebanese left, a loose grouping of Communists, Socialists and Arab nationalists led by Kamal Jumblatt and backed by left-wing Palestinian guerrillas...

Syrian intervention questioned Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told a Senate subcommittee in

Washington that "neither we nor Israel believe that Syrian action in Lebanon is a threat to the security of Israel." But he said Syrian troop movements may be getting "close to the borderline" of Israeli tolerance.

Kissinger said Syria has introduced some military forces into border areas but "has not made a major military movement into Lebanon." He said published reports that there are 13,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon are "grossly exaggerated."

Authoritative sources in Lebanon estimate that Syria has moved at least 15,000 armed men into Lebanon — 6,000 army regulars, most of them in frontier areas controlling the three main highways from Syria into Lebanon...

Syrian President Hafez Assad is trying to pressure the leftist Moslem Lebanese into accepting a political agreement that would preserve a sizable role in the government and the economy for the Christian minority...

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said this week that Israeli forces would move into southern Lebanon only if the Syrians proposed a "direct threat to Israel's security."

Cash low for candidates

By DAVE RILEY Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Most of the presidential candidates, cut off from federal matching funds for nearly a month, are in various stages of financial desperation and some of them are just plain broke.

The flow of federal matching funds, which had pumped some \$12 million into the various campaigns since the first of the year, ended abruptly on March 22 when the Federal Election Commission lost its power to pay out taxpayers' money because of a Supreme Court ruling.

It was up to Congress to meet Supreme Court objections to the makeup of the FEC and put the commission back in business. But the bill to do that is just now being put in final form, and it faces a possible veto by one of the candidates — President Ford.

Ford's campaign is one of the few that remains financially healthy, despite the lack of federal matching funds, and in fact is reporting figures that show it is the most solvent campaign.

In the latest report on campaign funds, Ford's election committee told the FEC last week it has a cash balance of \$777,232.

known to have been cutting back, closing headquarters and dismissing paid campaign workers, but his aides maintain his campaign is solvent.

Among the other Democratic candidates, five have ceased active campaigning, some of them because of the cutoff of federal funds.

Ford's Republican opponent, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan, is staging an intensive campaign in Texas but has been borrowing money from banks to finance his campaign.

"Inaction by Congress on a simple bill to reconstitute the commission has thrown a monkey wrench into the whole process," said Rep. Morris K. Udall...

Udall said Wednesday his campaign has "financial laryngitis," although he says the FEC now owes his campaign \$300,000.

There were these campaign developments yesterday:

✓ The office of Ford's press secretary, Ron Nessen, said he plans to attend a rehearsal in New York today of the NBC "Saturday Night" show, on which he is to be a guest, although it means crossing the union picket line.

✓ Udall called on the other Democratic candidates to debate him before the Pennsylvania primary April 27, saying voters "deserve to know who the serious candidates are, what our records have been and what we propose to do about the serious problems America faces."

Udall later flew to Louisville, Ky., scene of violence last fall over school busing orders. He maintained his support of busing if that's what it takes to integrate classrooms, but he said his desegregation proposals would keep busing to a minimum.

"Candidates who tell you going to stop busing are just in the wind, because they know it's going to be used."

✓ Reagan said in Texas that his campaign would use the nation's arsenal to be used. His statement was a news conference questioner asked whether he would rule a strike with nuclear weapons.

✓ Wallace was campaigning in Texas, where he had Reagan's chances of pre-pro Wallace voters to vote against Ford in the primary. Wallace also took a letter, saying the former Governor would make cuts in the defense budget that would mean Navy to pre-Pearl Harbor while cutting out programs for Texans with those defense-related jobs.

Today in History

Associated Press Today is Thursday, April 15, the 106th day of 1976. There are 260 days left in the year. Today's highlight in history: On this date in 1865, President Abraham Lincoln died in a Washington boarding house...

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