

# Vote race

## Critical Iowa caucus is still wide open

United Press International  
Sen. Edward Kennedy's Iowa strategists say President Carter still holds top cards in the state, but ingredients are there for a Kennedy victory in the caucuses next Monday that start the delegate selection process.

Kennedy operatives Bob Miller and Paul Tully said Monday the deciding factor could be the success of a massive get-out-the-vote effort in coming days. Tully said Kennedy could have organizers in 2,300 of the state's 2,531 caucuses by next Monday.

"If we do our job, we'll be in good shape in this state," he said. "We think we'll have enough identified support by the 21st (Monday) to make it very close or possibly a win."

Kennedy bought 30 minutes of television time in eight cities in Iowa and neighboring Nebraska Monday night for a commercial featuring his answers — on foreign policy, military strength, agriculture, the economy, price controls, nuclear power, tax reform, ERA and the grain embargo — in the debate with Carter that never came off.

Also on Monday, former Ambassador George Bush predicted that of the nine Republican contenders only he and former California Gov.

Ronald Reagan may be left in the Republican race by the time the votes are counted in the March 18 Illinois primary.

Bush revealed his New Hampshire organization chart to reporters in Concord. It showed the names of campaign chairmen in all but 19 of the state's 236 towns and cities, and Bush said the remaining 19 will be added by the end of this week.

Bush's Vermont manager, Clark Benson, meanwhile, said he was not dismayed at news that 600 seats had been sold and another 800 applicants turned away from a dinner arranged for Reagan's first swing through Vermont this week.

"It doesn't strike fear into our hearts," Benson said. "He (Reagan) is a national figure. People want to see him because they remember him from the 1938 movies. It transcends politics."

California Gov. Edmund Brown Jr. also was in New Hampshire Monday — laying full blame for the Iranian crisis on President Carter's shoulders.

"He's the fellow who made the decision to let the shah in and not bring the diplomats home first," Brown told factory workers in Manchester. "He left them exposed to that Iranian mob."



# Producer-refiner deals questioned

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The Energy Department said Tuesday it is considering whether to ban or limit agreements between oil producers and refiners that could be used to evade federal crude oil price controls.

The department said its Economic Regulatory Administration "may use a rule-making procedure" to determine whether oil producers are using crude oil processing agreements to evade price controls.

The agency had planned to announce its inquiry into the suspicious processing deals on Jan. 2, but a press release was quashed because officials regarded its language as too strong, an agency source said. The contemplated rule-making could result in a ban or new restrictions on certain processing arrangements.

Under such an agreement, a producer contracts with a refiner to process his controlled crude oil into uncontrolled refined products without relinquishing ownership.

The advantage to the producer could be the difference between selling crude oil at a controlled price under \$7 a barrel and marketing residual fuel oil, for example, at prices of about \$16 a barrel.

The agency said such processing agreements between producers and refiners, rare in the past, have increased six-fold in the past year.

The agency said its probe of the practice would not affect processing agreements that serve a useful purpose, such as those made between two refiners when one is faced with a temporary maintenance shutdown.

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# LWV planning primary debates

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The League of Women Voters said Tuesday it will hold six additional debates between

candidates for the Democratic and Republican presidential nominations. The group which sponsored the debates between Jimmy Carter and Gerald R. Ford in 1976, said it would hold similar forums in Manchester, N.H., on Feb. 19 for Democrats and Feb. 20 for Republicans. The new forums will be: —March 12 Democrats and March 13 Republicans in Chicago.

The Illinois primary is March 18. —April 22 Democrats and April 23 Republicans in Houston. Texas Republicans hold a primary May 3. —May 27 Republicans and May 28 Democrats in San Francisco. The California primary is June 3. The Houston debate is the same night as the Pennsylvania primary, which is shaping up as a potentially important contest in both the Democratic and Republican races.

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