

Reagan to be welcomed by GOP women

United Press International
LOUISVILLE — "Closing the Gap" is the subtitle of the National Federation of Republican Women's biennial convention and leaders of the group hope President Reagan will do just that when he addresses them today.

Reagan will appear before more than 2,000 GOP women, most of whom feel he has done an excellent job for women in America, and they plan to demonstrate to the nation that the "gender gap" is only Democratic rhetoric.

"I don't think there is a gender gap," Susan Collins, 32, a

delegate from Dallas, said Thursday. "I think we have let the Democrats say there is and set an agenda. But that will change with this meeting. America will see there is a great deal of support for the president among women."

Joan Collins, 39, of Columbia, Md., said she is a staunch supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, women's rights, and President Reagan.

"He may be wrong on ERA, but he's 99 percent right on everything else," the unsuccessful 1978 candidate for House of Delegates said. "I think he has gotten a bum rap. I think women

should look at his record. I think the country is much better off today, I know I am. I feel it in the pocketbook."

Many of the leaders of the convention said, however, there is a problem of perception among the nation's women voters, and it must be tackled by the Republican Party.

"I think the gender gap is very real, and I don't think people realize how severe it is," said Wren McKemy, 52, of Huntsville, Ala., the president of the Alabama chapter of the federation. "We've always been told that actions speak louder than words, but now we've are going to have

to tell everyone just how good his actions have been."

"President Reagan has done more for women than any other president," said Jeannine Lincoln, 48, of Denver and the president of the Colorado chapter. "What we Republicans need to do is get the facts out."

Barbara Murphy and Connie Zimmerman of Glenelg, Ill., both said they also supported the ERA and Reagan.

"I think there is a perception that is erroneous that President Reagan is an enemy of women," Ms. Zimmerman, 52, said. "People expect things to happen very fast, but they take time. I'm not

sure a (former Vice President Walter) Mondale or a (Sen. John) Glenn would be able to make any changes either."

Both said while they did not agree with Reagan's stand on the ERA, they still believed his policies were best for the nation.

"We were unhappy about it, but you can't vote for someone on a single issue," said Ms. Murphy, who described herself as between 45 years old and 50.

A younger representative to the convention, Holly Hall, 22, of Bradenton, Fla., said she also believed that women needed to pay more attention to the presi-

dent's overall policies, and not single issues.

"I think the president is dealing with it the best he can," she said. "He is taking care of the economic problems, and that is what is most important."

Some older convention delegates believed the whole issue was "nonsense."

"They are just trying to discredit the president," Dorys E. Ward, 62, of Kilgore, Texas, said.

"They got off Reaganomics and know all they can talk about

it this thing," said Kathleen L. Jackson, also of Kilgore.

"The women in America have always had rights if they asserted themselves. But I think men will always be preferred for some positions, no matter what laws you pass."

"But you know, we're probably voicing a different viewpoint than most of them here. We've grown up in an era when the man provides for his family," Mrs. Ward said. "I think you take something away from family life when women work. For most women, the home comes before a job."

Farmers receive payment-in-kind

United Press International
WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — A top U.S. Agriculture Department official said Thursday many Iowa farmers will receive payment-in-kind entitlements this month, but they may not get the PIK corn at their preferred elevators.

Merrill Marxman, deputy administrator for commodity operations of the federal Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said most farmers will receive PIK bushels from designated elevators within their counties or an adjacent county.

However, he said counties will not be allowed to arrange swaps to match farmers with preferred elevators rather than designated warehouses. He added that county ASCS officials will attempt to match farmers with their preferred elevators whenever possible.

At the time of PIK sign-up, the USDA allowed farmers to designate the elevator where they preferred to receive their PIK entitlements. However, Marxman said the unexpectedly high PIK participation "made it impossible nationwide to match inventory with every producer."

"As I look back, I wish we

wouldn't have asked that (for farmers to list their preferred elevators)," he said. "We tried it with the wheat program and found ourselves chasing our tails—it became a nightmare for us to tie it to the particular elevators."

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Marxman met with about 50 Iowa elevator operators and farm officials in hopes of allaying fears concerning the distribution of PIK entitlements to farmers.

Marxman, who was described as "fired up" about the USDA's PIK distribution plan at the outset of the meeting, left with "considerable concern" about the transfers when grain is made available on Oct. 15.

Part of the reason for his concern was a myriad of questions from disgruntled state grain

warehouse operators concerned about "gray areas" in the USDA's plan to exchange grain in state with surpluses with those unable to meet farmer demand.

Among the gray areas were concerns over fees, "load-out charges" and other costs associated with the transfer of PIK corn from Iowa to other states with deficiencies in corn supplies; determining the weights and quality of corn shipments; the arbitration of disputes among warehouses or between warehouses and farmers; and problems posed in situations where farmers will not receive corn entitlements at the elevator with which they normally trade.

At one point, Marxman told the group: "I'm less confident as when I got here. I'm beginning to sense that we may have a real donnybrook within the warehouse industry. I don't think that's going to happen."

Iowa Farm Bureau President Dean Kleckner, whose group sponsored the meeting, warned the warehouse operators that the distribution of PIK corn "has the potential of putting us all at each other's throats and that won't solve the problem."

"This is going to be a massive undertaking for the federal gov-

ernment," Kleckner said. "It's just going to take a vast amount of patience, understanding and just plain good sense" to make it work smoothly.

Marxman said the Commodity Credit Corp. will attempt to arbitrate disputes over grain transfers, but he urged the individual warehouse operators to work out the details among themselves.

Marxman said it was much more cost effective for the government to set up "exchange lists" to assure that areas with short corn supplies could meet their PIK entitlements. About 290 million bushels will be handled — mostly through paper, rather than physical, transfers — under the exchange program.

Marxman said much of the corn surpluses were in Iowa, Nebraska, Texas, Minnesota, Texas and Illinois. He added that farmers in Iowa and other Midwestern states are much more fortunate than producers in New England and southeastern states — whose PIK entitlements may be available at elevators many miles away.

Candidates gather for meeting

United Press International
NEW YORK — All seven Democratic presidential candidates gathered Thursday for their first joint appearance they hope will mean an early edge in the state sending the second largest delegation to the 1984 party convention.

Thursday's forum was the last in a series of candidate forums organized by Gov. Mario Cuomo and Sen. Daniel Moynihan around the state. The others featured single candidates.

Cuomo, who will probably lead the state's convention delegation to San Francisco next year, has so far remained neutral but is expected to announce an endorsement sometime next month. Elected last year, Cuomo is considered a star among a new crop of national Democratic leaders.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale of Minnesota and Sen. John Glenn of Ohio came into the forum as front-runners in all the polls, which also show both would be strong enough to beat President Reagan right now.

And Mondale has had a big week, during which he won the coveted endorsements of the AFL-CIO and the National Education Association and captured Maine's "straw vote" with a surprisingly strong 51 percent majority.


For the others, the forum provided a unique opportunity to start moving up in the standings in advance of next winter's caucuses and primaries. New York's primary is in April.

The five other candidates are Sen. Alan Cranston of California, Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado, former Gov. Reubin Askew of Florida and 1972 Democratic standard-bearer George McGovern of South Dakota.

Missing will be Rev. Jesse Jackson, the charismatic black leader from Chicago, who has taken a leave of absence as the head of Operation PUSH to decide whether he will join the pursuit of the nomination.

The format of the forum provides a final segment during which each candidate will ask one other candidate one question.

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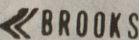
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