

Hart, Mondale hunt liberal votes in East

United Press International
 Gary Hart and Walter Mondale sought liberal votes in New York and Connecticut Monday, with Hart saying the former vice president's Central America policy reminds him of Vietnam and Mondale calling his rival weak on the nuclear freeze.

The two front-runners both began their day in the Empire State, where a major primary showdown is coming up April 3, then joined civil rights activist Jesse Jackson on the campaign trail in Connecticut to make final appearances before Tuesday's election there.

Hart is favored in Connecticut and a poll published Sunday in the Hartford Courant and

taken last week by the University of Connecticut showed the senator from Colorado with 48 percent in the state, Mondale with 28 percent, Jackson with 5 percent and 19 percent undecided.

A victory in Connecticut would end a two-week dry spell in primary contests for Hart and give him a sweep of all six New England states in primaries and caucuses this year.

But in delegate-rich New York, a poll by USA Today over the weekend showed Mondale with 44 percent, Hart with 37 percent, Jackson with 8 percent and undecided 11 percent.

There are 52 delegates at stake in Connecticut, 252 in

New York and 172 in Pennsylvania a week later. The latest UPI delegate tally showed Mondale has 673, Hart 393 and Jackson 85, with 1,967 needed for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Virginia Democrats were completing their caucuses Monday, with Jackson and Mondale tied at the meetings entered the final round. Mondale was favored to take the lead as most of the last 28 percent came from conservative rural areas.

Through Sunday, Jackson and Mondale each had 31 percent of the vote. Hart had 18 percent, the same as the percentage of uncommitted delegates lining up behind the favorite-son effort of Gov. Charles Robb.

Hart called a news conference outside the United Nations to denounce what he said was Mondale's position in favor of leaving U.S. forces in Central America until "vague negotiations" are held with the Marxist government of Nicaragua.

Hart said there is a "100 degree" difference between his and Mondale's policies in the region and that pattern stretches back to the 1960s.

Warped



by Scott McC...

Geter charges officially dropped

United Press International
 DALLAS — A judge Monday dropped robbery charges against black engineer Lenell Geter, who had spent more 16 months in prison for a crime he did not commit.

Prosecutors announced last week they would not pursue a second trial for Geter, but State District Judge John Ovard was on vacation. The judge officially dismissed the charges following a 15-minute hearing Monday.

Meanwhile, an attorney for

said he was studying the possibility of a civil suit against the prosecution for sending Geter to prison for a robbery he did not commit.

Geter, 26, of Denmark, S.C., was convicted and sentenced to life for a 1982 robbery. He was freed after 16 months in prison and national publicity forced prosecutors to grant him a new trial.

NAACP lawyer George Hairston, Geter's lead counsel, indicated the possibility of a civil suit alleging Geter's civil

and other rights were violated when he was sent to prison.

"Generally, the prosecution is immune from such suits, but in this case I'm not sure," Hairston said. "The rule is prosecution is immune when it is acting within the scope of its responsibility. But once it goes beyond the range of this responsibility, that conduct is no more immune."

Geter, who insisted from the day of his arrest that he was innocent, said he thinks the Texas judicial system "owes humanity something."

Geter spent the week with his family in Denmark, S.C.

"They owe humanity a right to seek out the truth, protect innocent people who aren't unjustly accused," soft-spoken Geter said from his mother's home Sunday.

Last week, Dallas County District Attorney Henry V. abruptly dismissed the charges and said a suspect had been brought to Dallas County questioning.

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