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Republicans not threatened by Ferraro

GOP leaders limit debating

United Press International

DALLAS — Grass-roots Republican leaders, more worried about party complacency than rival Democrats as they assemble for their national convention, generally want no more than one or two presidential debates, according to a UPI survey.

The leaders of state delegations attending the Republican National Convention — which began Monday — for the most part feel the selection of Geraldine Ferraro as Walter Mondale's running mate will not cause lasting damage among women voters.

Many, however, voice worry about newly registered blacks who were politically aroused by Jesse Jackson's candidacy.

"I think the biggest problem we have in Georgia is one that also applies to the rest of the nation," said that state's Republican Party chairman, Bob Bell, "and that is the feeling of complacency and the idea that

we have won it already."

He said the GOP will have to mount "a massive effort to get out the vote in November. If we fail to do that then we can lose it."

This fear of a Republican Achilles' heel was echoed repeatedly by state party officials during the nationwide survey conducted the week before the convention.

"Complacency is something we can't stand or tolerate," says New York Chairman George Clark, whose state is Ferraro's home base. He said the chief GOP task will be "getting out every bit of the middle-class vote and the vote that is on its way to being middle class."

Virtually all those interviewed want a minimal number of debates between President Reagan and Mondale and urged the Republican incumbent not to bow to Democratic taunts for as many as a half dozen showdowns on prime time television.

"I would prefer not to see any, or

as few as possible," said Ken Stout, the Alaska state chairman. "I don't see any positive benefit to it. What are they going to debate about? We heard most of the derogatory and positive things on both sides."

Marsie Leier, chairwoman of the Minnesota delegation and co-chair of the Reagan-Bush campaign in Mondale's homeland, thinks a few debates would be fine. "Once or twice is alright," she said. "I think he (Reagan) can finish Mondale off in one shot. I see no reason to avoid a debate."

"I think once is enough," said Patricia Saiki, the chairwoman in Hawaii. "I think all the subjects that have to be covered can be done in one session. I think they can capture the attention of the public in one session rather than two."

Arizona Chairman John Munger said there should be no more than two debates. "I think the issues on this campaign are so clear. Everyone

who is interested knows what the differences are. This isn't the Kennedy-Nixon election where nobody knows ... the differences."

Discussing the "potential overconfidence" of the party, Texas Chairman George Strake, suggested: "We can combat that by replaying the Jesse Jackson speech from the podium in San Francisco, showing our people the dedication he stirs up in his people."

Jackson's influence worried several state leaders, particularly in the South, where the civil rights leader's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination generated a massive increase in new black voters.

Louisiana Chairman George Despot said his chief problem will be "the black vote because of a total commitment of all (black) political leadership with a Democratic ticket, irrespective of the merits."

"It is a national problem" for Republicans, Despot said. Asked how to correct it, he said: "It cannot be."

Buyers don't want dirty wheat; clean-up may be impossible

United Press International

TOPEKA, Kan. — World grain buyers want the United States to clean up dirty exported wheat, but a milling expert says what the buyers really want is cheap, high-quality wheat and a study says wheat clean-up can be costly.

Roger Johnson, associate editor of "Milling and Baking News," said a Kansas City, Mo., meeting of eastern and western European wheat buyers and U.S. wheat industry representatives Aug. 3 was a "non-event in terms of the grain industry."

Overseas wheat buyers said at the conference they want U.S. exporters to reduce dockage, the non-millable parts of wheat, in the wheat they sell to the overseas buyers.

But a Kansas State University study last week showed that removing dockage at the local elevator is economically feasible only if the elevator has capacity for at least 500,000 bushels.

Johnson says buyers get what they pay for.

"Of course, the United States has good or clean wheat for sale," Johnson said. "For the most part, the countries that attended the seminar

represent a small percentage of world wheat buyers. They want high-quality wheat at a low-quality price."

Nicolaas Konijnendijk, associate director of the International Grains Program at Kansas State University and originally a wheat buyer from the Netherlands, arranged the Kansas City conference.

He said European buyers are insisting on quality and Canadian grain imports have increased, while U.S. wheat sales have dropped by 11.3 million metric tons since 1981.

The buyers said at the conference that U.S. wheat quality has declined in the past few years, with weevils, fumigants, dust and shrunken kernels mixed in with the wheat. They complained also that official grain inspection certificates showing defects do not always match tests by mills that receive the exports.

A major problem is dockage, which is removed most economically in the United States at mills where wheat is cleaned and treated. Buyers from Germany, Norway, Italy and France want the dockage removed at the country-elevator level, where the wheat is at its highest point of quality, Konijnendijk said.

Johnson maintains the problem is not serious, and if elevators want to sell their grain directly to foreign buyers, they should invest in cleaning equipment.

The smaller countries buy small quantities of wheat, and the quality is spelled out in the contracts they sign. They can't expect to get a Cadillac at a Chevrolet price," Johnson said in a recent telephone interview from the magazine's Kansas City headquarters.

"Some of the fussiest buyers in the world are the Russian and the Chinese, and they buy enormous amounts of U.S. wheat," he said. "They know exactly what they are getting and they wouldn't be buying it if it weren't clean."

"I don't think this is a serious problem because the U.S. is so readily dominant in world grain markets. We sell 40 percent of all the exported wheat in the world, and that figure hasn't changed much in the past few years."

A Kansas State University study showed that removing dockage at the local elevator is economically feasible only if the elevator has more than a 500,000 bushel capacity.

The project included a specific

case study of a high-volume Kansas country elevator which proved dockage removal could be profitable. The net price for the wheat minus the dockage increased, while cleaning upgraded test weight and decreased transportation costs. The removed dockage also was sold for feed.

The study cautioned that the value of the clean wheat and the removed dockage will always depend on the market for the products.

Another K-State study said if an export elevator were to try install a small-volume cleaning system, it would take a \$24 million investment to maintain the average large scale export elevator.

Dale Minnick of the Oklahoma Wheat Commission, moderator of the Kansas City conference, said at the conference some countries want dockage wheat because of its lower price, and there is still enough competition among U.S. exporters to allow countries to buy either dockage or high-quality wheat.

But he acknowledged the problem of wheat quality, saying conference participants should consider what the foreign buyers said.

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