

Candidates' last-minute push underway

United Press International

President Reagan took a low-key swing through Pennsylvania Monday while Walter Mondale charged through Oregon and Washington in his uphill marathon as they opened their last full week of campaigning before Election Day.

The Democratic challenger and his running mate Geraldine Ferraro, far behind in the polls, planned to hit all the big electoral vote states in the final days.

There was no such frenzy at the White House, with Reagan scheduled for eight hours of campaigning Monday, but planning to take today Wednesday off before a final six-day swing ending at home in California Nov. 6.

National Public Radio released its poll taken by Louis Harris showing Reagan with a lead of 58 percent to 41 percent over Mondale. It reported that Reagan appears to be strengthening his position in the South, where in the past week his lead rose from 18 points to 26 points.

In the East, the race appears to be tightening. Mondale in the past week cut Reagan's 10 point lead in half, from 52 percent to 47 percent.

The poll is based on interviews conducted Oct. 26-28 with 2,970 eligible voters, of whom 1,611 are likely to vote.

The last NPR-Harris poll, conducted Oct. 22-23, showed Reagan with a 56 percent to 42 percent lead.

In Portland, Ore., Mondale unleashed an attack on Reagan's human rights record, saying the administration went to Chile to "clink glasses with thugs" and "cozied up to the racist government of South Africa."

The Democratic presidential nominee got a rousing, foot-stomping reception from about 3,000 students in the gymnasium at Portland State University.

"When this crowd took over, they dumped human rights as a foreign policy priority," Mondale said.

"Mr. Reagan does not understand how human rights strengthens us —

and he has turned it from a principle to a tactic," Mondale told the cheering students. "Mr. Reagan's philosophy is not tough-minded. It's short sighted."

Speaking at Millerville University in Pennsylvania, Reagan ripped the economic policies of the Carter administration — with Mondale as vice president — saying they brought "killer inflation."

"We're hoping the voters will deliver a message next week," Reagan said, standing in a steamy gymnasium jammed with about 4,000 students, many waving flags and pom poms.

"You can say you're simply not going to allow them to pick the

American wallet again the president said.

"High taxes, explosive inflation, and spending without limits might well have been the way of the past, but if we do the right thing next week, we'll make sure they do not become the wave of the future."

Ferraro went to a synagogue in New York to deny Reagan's charge that Democrats are soft on anti-Semitism. She told the country news is "a commander in chief not a keeper of the faith."

Vice president George Bush stumped Reagan's southern stronghold, telling voters in Alabama not to take the election for granted.

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Union leader confesses extortion of cash, casino interest

United Press International

NEWARK, N.J. — An ailing union leader allegedly associated with an organized crime family admitted Monday he conspired with the former mayor of Atlantic City to extort cash and an interest in a proposed casino.

Frank Lentino, 73, of Mays Landing, pleaded guilty to a conspiracy count and an obstruction of justice charge before jury selection began for the trial of former mayor Michael Matthews.

Lentino, an organizer for the hotel and casino workers union, has been described by authorities as the go-between in a mob plot to take over the government of the gaming resort.

He also has been called a close associate of the organized crime family reputedly led by Nicodemo "Little Nicky" Scarfo.

Lentino and Matthews were to be tried together on charges handed down in a March 27 indictment.

The indictment alleged the Scarfo

organization, through Lentino and others, funneled more than \$200,000 into Matthews' mayoral campaign in late 1981 and 1982 in return for his promise to use his influence to benefit the mob.

Matthews, 50, was voted out of office in a March recall election, two weeks before he was named in the five-count indictment charging him with conspiracy and extortion.

U.S. District Judge Harold Ackerman tentatively agreed to accept Lentino's guilty pleas pending a re-

view of a pre-sentencing report.

Under the terms of a plea bargain, Lentino would face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine if the deal is approved by the judge.

Lentino, who suffers from high blood pressure and was in a wheelchair, told the judge there had been no threats to persuade him to change his plea.

Defense attorney Robert Madden

advised several times his client "will cooperate or testify for the government" as a result of the plea bargain.

During a lengthy undercover probe, authorities said Lentino detailed the operations of the Scarfo mob, and implicated its members in various crimes despite his acknowledgement he would subject himself to mob retribution and possibly execution by breaking the code of silence.

Kubiak denounces Barton's plan to tax veteran benefits

By LISA D'AMICO
Reporter

Democratic candidate for Congress Dan Kubiak defended veterans' rights at a press conference at Kubiak's campaign headquarters in College Station Monday.

Kubiak, during a press conference tour of the 6th District, attacked opponent Joe Barton's plan of taxing veteran benefits.

"Taxing veteran's benefits and cutting veteran programs breaks America's contract with its military men and women as a means of reducing the federal budget deficit," Kubiak said.

Kubiak was accompanied by Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro and State Senator Lindon Williams, who are closely associated with veteran's programs.

Mauro, a native of Brazos County, said the state of Texas has the best veteran's programs in the country.

"In truth, the Barton plan will directly tax veteran's benefits and become a tax increase for a large segment of Americans," Mauro said.

Williams agreed with Mauro and Kubiak that the Barton plan "is a false savings that will, in effect, raise taxes for veterans and their families."

"Veterans need to be represented," Williams said. "They've (vets) given their time, blood and limbs fighting for our country and we owe them."

Kubiak outlined the damage that could be done by Barton's proposal to close down the Veteran's Administration Hospital system and tax all veteran's medical and pension benefits.

Kubiak called Barton's plan radical because it in fact kills veteran programs.

"It's an unconscionable attack on all veterans to force retired and disabled veterans into nursing homes

rather than VA hospitals, phase-out the VA hospital system, terminate all VA hospital construction and cut and tax veteran benefits," he said.

Williams said the 6th district has approximately 50,000 disabled veterans, making it (the 6th district) the largest concentration of veterans in Texas.

Kubiak said 50 percent of America's doctors receive their initial training in VA hospitals.

"Even the medical school at Texas A&M works through the VA hospital," he said.

The potential damage to the VA system is well-recognized by medical authorities throughout the nation, who endorse the VA system as an essential foundation of American medicine because of its unique services, he said.

Kubiak said a balanced budget can be achieved without new taxes.

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Monday.

MISDEMEANOR/THEFT:

- A green three-speed bicycle was stolen from a bicycle rack at the Bizzell Street stop.

- A black Schwinn LeTour 12-speed bicycle was stolen from the bike rack at Co Hall.

- A black Schwinn Cruiser bicycle was stolen from outside Walton Hall.

- A Hewlett Packard model 82939-A interface card for the series 80 computer was stolen from 137 Engineering Research.

- A gold and silver Texas A&M belt buckle was stolen from the shelter area of ramp 1 at Law Hall.

- An American flag was stolen from the flagpole in the North Dog Quad area.

BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE:

- A Sherwood AM/FM cassette stereo, two speakers and a

tool box were stolen from a 1970 Oldsmobile in Parking Annex 61.

- A pair of Alpine speakers, an Audio Box Equalizer and a Pioneer Super Tune cassette player were stolen from a 1975 Pontiac in Parking Annex 56.

BURGLARY OF A HABITATION:

- A wallet was stolen from a student's room in Spence Hall.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE:

- A 1974 Kawasaki 100cc motorcycle was stolen from Parking Annex 30.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

- A white Ford Bronco was driven through the wooden arm on the parking control gate at the Beutel Health Center.

FELONY THEFT:

- Four wheels and tires were stolen from a 1982 Chevrolet Camaro Z-28 in Parking Annex 40.

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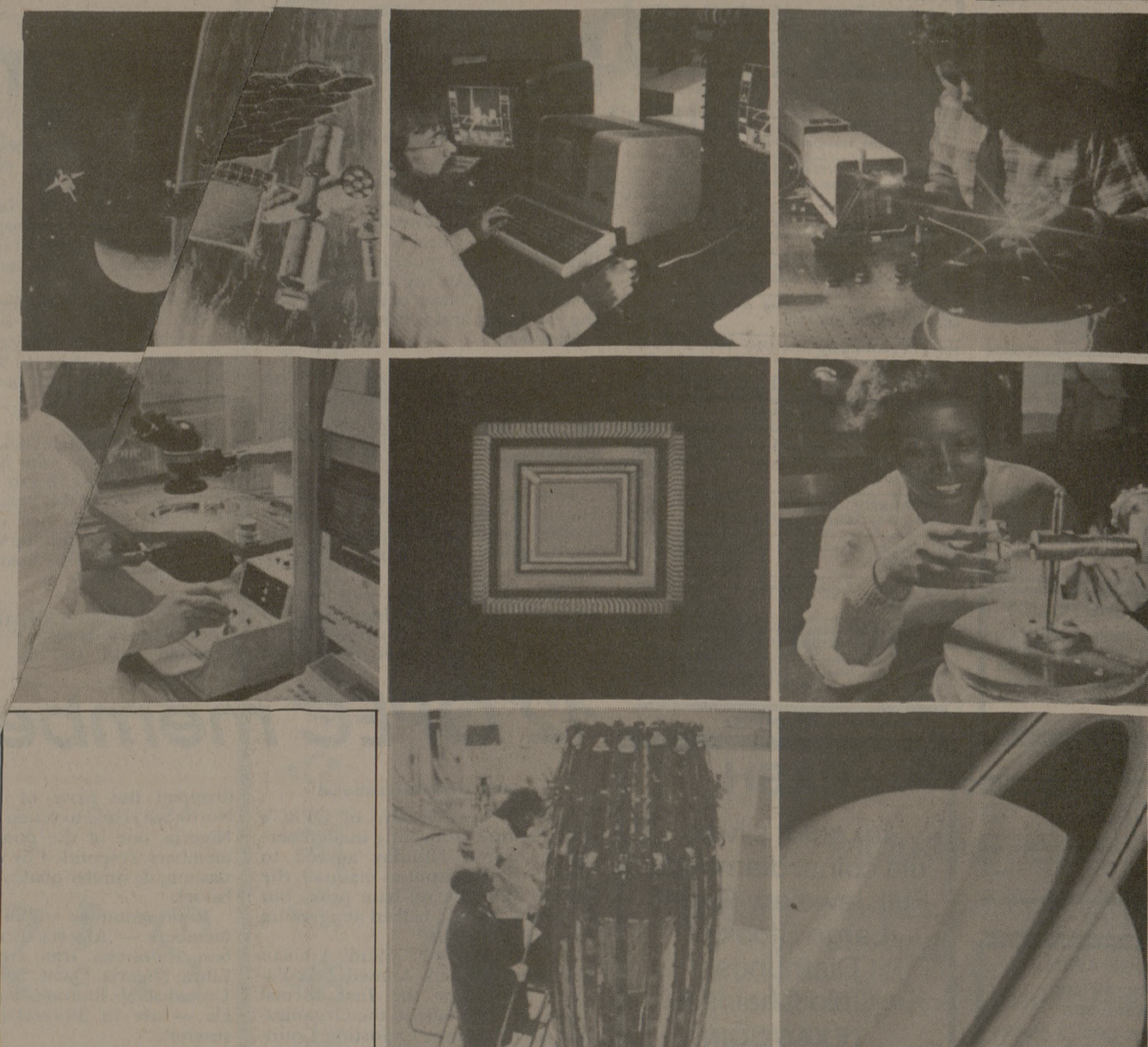
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