

World and Nation

Elections used as propaganda tool

South Africa's far right gaining

Associated Press
JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — White-supremacist parties on South Africa's far right said Thursday their broad gains in five mid-term elections proved there is a surge in white opposition to sharing power with blacks.

The governing National Party of President P.W. Botha, campaigning on a platform of gradual race reform, won four of the five Parliament seats at stake in Wednesday's voting but lost ground everywhere to the far right.

Two ultraconservative parties slashed the Nationalists' past majority in four districts and took a seat away from Botha's party in the Orange Free State for the first time since 1953.

The National Party, in power since 1948, has a huge margin in Parliament, and parliamentary control was not an issue.

Leaders of the far-right Conservative Party and the Reformed National Party said voters showed anger over government failure to quell 14 months of bloody rioting over apartheid as well as dissatisfaction with the economy and the government's approach to race reforms.

Pro-government and liberal newspapers noted that the five districts were largely blue-collar and rural and said the far-right had never been in a more favorable position than in Wednesday's vote.

The far-right's victorious candidate, Louis Stofberg of the Reformed National Party, had made an issue of a couple in his town of Sossolburg who married this year after the National Party repealed laws barring interracial sex and marriage.

Stofberg's pamphlets said the white man and his mixed-race wife "could live in your street . . . and their children could go to your schools."

Botha said he was satisfied with the outcome of the elections, "considering the difficult economic consequences of the recession, the drought (and) the present unrest situation in certain parts of the country."

"We will have to continue to work and build toward a peaceful South Africa for all population groups in a responsible manner," he said, suggesting he would not be deterred by the far right's gains.

Andries Treurnicht was jubilant over the gains of his Conservatives and the allied Reformed National Party, which won a seat in Parliament for the first time since its formation in 1969.

While the National Party actually increased its votes slightly from 26,274 four years ago to 27,062, the two far-right parties jumped from 6,899 in 1981 general elections to 22,547 on Wednesday. Nearly 15,000 additional voters

went to the polls in a heavy turnout, and nearly all the new votes went to the ultraconservatives.

"I think the main reason is (Botha's) swing away from white self-determination to power-sharing and mixed government," Treurnicht said in a telephone interview from his home in Pretoria.

Treurnicht, whose Conservative Party split from the National Party in 1982, said a major issue was voter concern over government handling of rioting: "I think it didn't act in time, and in certain cases not strongly enough. That created uncertainty, it created instability . . . It added to the fear that South Africa might have black-majority rule in the near future."

By official count, more than 800 people, almost all of them black, have died in 14 months of violence arising from apartheid.

Foreign trade deficit soars to all-time high

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The country's foreign trade deficit soared to an all-time high of \$15.5 billion in September while the government's main gauge of future economic activity posted a scant 0.1 percent increase, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

In further gloomy news, the department said orders to U.S. factories fell 0.6 percent last month, further emphasizing the battering the U.S. industrial sector is taking at the hands of foreign competition.

The September trade deficit was 57 percent higher than the August total as imports surged to a record high of \$33.3 billion. The increase was led by a 54.8 percent jump in shipments of Japanese cars and a 17.6 percent increase in oil shipments.

The barely perceptible 0.1 percent advance in the Index of Leading Indicators in September, coupled with the drop in factory orders, left many private economists concerned about the durability of the current recovery.

Allen Sinai, chief economist for Shearson Lehman Brothers, said, "The economy is struggling."

"We have a trade sector that is in deep trouble. U.S. industry is being pushed against the wall," he said.

Utility customers donating to help needy pay for heat

Associated Press
The specter of poor people freezing to death because they can't pay for heat has helped raise billions of dollars to defray their bills, including millions of dollars from utility customers who are being asked to donate \$1 or more with each payment.

The federal Energy Assistance Program will once again provide up to \$2.1 billion to help poor and elderly people pay for heat this winter, although only about one-third of eligible people take advantage of the program. The average payment per household ranges from about \$60 in Texas and Louisiana to \$625 in North Dakota.

Ten states, primarily in the Frost

Belt, have created their own programs with nearly \$200 million to supplement the federal help. In addition, a growing number of utilities are creating private fuel funds, in which stockholders and customers contribute to help the needy.

In Pittsburgh, customers of three utilities are expected to contribute \$1 million this season to the Dollar Energy Fund, which gave heating money to 4,327 people in 16 western Pennsylvania counties last winter. The fund estimates 9,000 people in its area will be without heat or light this winter.

A Share the Warmth program in Tulsa, Okla., and Oklahoma City brought in \$304,734 last year, according to Oklahoma Natural Gas

Co., which sponsored the project. The money was distributed to 3,433 families with an average of \$88.77 per household, it said.

Mary Ann Bernald, consumer affairs manager for the industry group said about one-third of the 180 electric companies that belong to the Edison Electric Institute have such funds, which provide an average of \$50 to \$100 to needy families each winter.

About 20 percent of the 250 gas utilities that belong to the American Gas Association also have fuel funds, said Terry Uhl, a spokesman for the group, which represents the largest of the nation's 1,500 gas utilities.

Juan intensifies, heads for Florida

Associated Press
PENSACOLA, Fla. — Erratic Tropical Storm Juan returned to the Gulf of Mexico and spun back up to near hurricane strength Thursday, heading for rain-soaked Florida "like a speeding truck" after causing more than \$1 billion damage in Louisiana.

At 12:30 p.m. EST, Juan rolled ashore near Gulf Shores, Ala., southeast of Mobile near the Florida border, and was moving toward the northeast at 15 to 20 mph, the Na-

tional Weather Service said. Gale warnings were posted from Port O'Connor, Texas, to Fort Myers, Fla.

Tides 4 to 6 feet above normal were expected along the coasts of Alabama and northwestern Florida.

Florida Gov. Bob Graham cut short a trip to Washington and urged coastal residents to be ready to evacuate, as they did ahead of Hurricane Elena during the Labor Day weekend.

Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace

declared a state of emergency and the Emergency Management Agency opened shelters in coastal cities.

At least seven people had been killed by the sudden, late-season storm since it sprawled along the Louisiana coast Sunday.

Seven people were unaccounted for, but four others aboard a sailboat were reported safe Thursday more than two days after they were reported missing.

Court ends pilots' strike against Continental

Associated Press
HOUSTON — A federal bankruptcy court judge issued a court order Thursday ending a two-year strike against Continental Airlines by the Air Line Pilots Association.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Glover Roberts issued the order after two weeks of discussions between attorneys for Continental and ALPA, Continental spokesman Mike Cinelli said.

The agreement "resolves all outstanding issues in the labor dispute between Continental and the Air Line Pilots Association," according to a statement released by ALPA's Washington office.

The settlement provides seniority protection for striking pilots who re-

"As with all third-party decisions, we didn't get everything we wanted. However, the seniority reinstatement, severance pay and retirement fund issues were on the top of our list. The court's decision provides an orderly system for striking pilots to return to work." —ALPA president Capt. Henry Duffy

turn to work, and a severance pay option to eligible pilots who choose not to return to work for Continental.

"As with all third-party decisions, we didn't get everything we wanted," said ALPA president Capt. Henry Duffy. "However, the seniority re-

instatement, severance pay and retirement fund issues were on the top of our list. The court's decision provides an orderly system for striking pilots to return to work."

ALPA walked out on Continental on Oct. 1, 1983, one week after the airline filed for court protection

from creditors under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, slashed wages up to 50 percent and trimmed its workforce by about two-thirds.

Two other unions — the Union of Flight Attendants and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers — also struck against the Houston-based carrier but ended their strikes in April.

ALPA authorized its 1,450 striking pilots in September to seek their old jobs at Continental and temporarily suspended pickets but insisted its strike had not ended.

Of ALPA's 2,000 Continental pilots, about 1,450 have remained on strike and about 550 returned to work, Mazor said.

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