

World and Nation

Beverly Hills jury selection opens for trial

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — They were going to make millions and become the elite of the investment world, all before age 25, fueled by the take-it-all philosophy of the young guru of their yuppie commune.

But some of the inner circle of the group that called itself the Billionaire Boys Club reported to police that their chief told them he and another member had slain a Beverly Hills con man to "achieve greatness" and obtain \$1.5 million.

Club master Joe Hunt, 25, free on \$500,000 bond, faces jury selection this week for trial in the slaying of con man Ron Levin, whose body hasn't been found.

The trial of Hunt's alleged accomplice in the Levin case, club security chief James Pittman, ended with a jury deadlocked 10-2 for conviction. A retrial is scheduled later this month.

Both men are charged with murder in the course of a robbery, and murder for financial gain — a \$1.5 million check — in the Levin case, special circumstances that could bring the death penalty if they are convicted.

Authorities also have charged Hunt and several followers in the July 1984 kidnap-slaying of He-dayat Eslaminia, a member of Iran's parliament when the Shah was in power. A trial in that case is scheduled for December.

Hunt's attorney, Arthur Barens, said he will try to show that Levin, faced with several civil lawsuits and grand theft charges, simply may have skipped town.

Election results affect presidential bids

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 1986 elections have scrambled the equation for the 1988 presidential race, giving Bob Dole and Jack Kemp a stronger footing to challenge George Bush, while letting Democrats offer an alternative agenda to President Reagan.

Of all the possible contenders for the White House, Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., appeared to have suffered the biggest blow from the Democrats' takeover of the Senate, which put them in charge of both houses of Congress for the first time since 1980.

Laxalt voluntarily gave up a safe Senate seat, only to see it captured by Democrats.

A Democratic win "could affect my future plans," Laxalt had acknowledged in advance. "It would be a negative for me in 1988 . . . (and) certainly is not going to give Paul Laxalt any brownie points" with GOP stalwarts.

On the Democratic side, Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado didn't run for re-election so he could campaign full time for the White House. His seat remained Democratic with the election of Rep. Timothy Wirth.

With only one declared candidate

Senate turnover resembles '80 elections

WASHINGTON (AP) — The battle for the Senate this year was a mirror image of the 1980 election in which Republicans seized control on the strength of Ronald Reagan's coattails.

Only this time, there were no coattails and voters turned the tables on the GOP and restored the Democrats to power.

In state after state where a Democrat was challenging a shaky Republican incumbent, voters opted for a change.

Reagan gave generously of his time and prestige in an effort to save the freshman senators he brought to Washington with him six years ago. But in many of the states where he campaigned the hardest, voters

— former Delaware Gov. Pierre DuPont, a Republican — the 1988 race is in its infancy. However, it will pick up speed early next year with the formation of campaign exploratory committees, and then gather mo-

turned away from the Republicans.

Politicians, pollsters and academics will sift through the mountain of returns in a search for an explanation

Analysis

of what happened in this election.

But, at this point, there are more questions than clear answers.

It clearly was a year of ticket-splitting, particularly in the South.

In Senate and House races, Southern voters came home to the Democratic Party they supported so faithfully for generations.

But before the Democrats could celebrate, the same voters elected Republican governors in Alabama,

Florida and South Carolina.

In Alabama, Guy Hunt benefited from a vicious split among Democrats to become the first Republican governor of that state in 112 years.

Perhaps the lack of a national pattern was the pattern for this election, further evidence of House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr.'s favorite saying, "All politics is local."

The best examples of that were in Alabama and Georgia where Democratic congressmen waged carefully crafted campaigns, exploiting local issues to upset Republican senators.

Endangered Republican Sen. Steve Symms clearly benefited from Reagan visits and held off a challenge from Democratic Gov. John Evans.

mentum over the next months with declarations of candidacy.

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, who is eyeing the presidential race, said that with the Democrats in power in the Senate, "we're going to

reinforce, never supplant, efforts to

resolve more fundamental sources of suspicion and political confrontation."

Shultz cited the confinement of Andrei Sakharov, a physicist who won the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize, to the closed city of Gorky, and the imprisonment of members of a Soviet activist group monitoring the Helsinki accords.

Shultz said, "they can only

have an opportunity to set the agenda . . . to put into sharper focus what's at stake."

Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., who won a close race for a fourth term but is not, himself, rumored as a

1988 candidate, said, "We have laid the groundwork for taking back the White House two years from now."

Republican strategist John S. assessing the election results, said the "best news was for Bob Dole — worst for George Bush."

When the 100th Congress seated in January, Dole will trade title of Senate majority leader to Senate minority leader. He still will be in a position of leadership, but won't be tied down by having to run the Senate.

The other side of the coin is that he won't have the arm-twisting power he had before, and the spotlight will be weaker.

Dole said it may make it easier for him to run for president.

"I don't know I will do that, but I will not have the burden of setting the agenda on a daily basis — being one there in the morning and turning off the lights in the evening," Dole said.

Appearing on a television show with Dole and Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., Biden said, "If I see George Bush, I'd be worried about the two guys I'm on this program with."

After the speech, in which he offered no new Western initiatives, Shultz took up the unfinished business of the Iceland superpower summit with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna.

Six top U.S. arms control specialists came from Washington to Shultz, where they were joined by the three U.S. negotiators.

Superpower negotiators discuss human rights

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union traded charges of human rights violations Wednesday and then held talks on how to carry out their Iceland summit pledges for sharp reductions in nuclear weapons.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz, speaking at a 35-nation conference aimed at improving relations between East and West, said "a

tragic human rights situation" existed in the Soviet Union and among its Eastern allies. He warned that arms control would falter unless the perceived abuses were corrected.

"Arms control cannot exist as a process in isolation from other sources of tension in East-West relations," Shultz said in a stern speech.

He addressed foreign ministers reviewing the 1975 Helsinki

agreement's promise of a freer exchange of people and ideas across the East-West divide.

The United States, the Soviet Union, Canada and all European nations except Albania signed the Helsinki accords and are attending the conference.

"If arms control measures are to make a meaningful contribution to stability," Shultz said, "they can only

reinforce, never supplant, efforts to resolve more fundamental sources of suspicion and political confrontation."

Shultz cited the confinement of Andrei Sakharov, a physicist who won the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize, to the closed city of Gorky, and the imprisonment of members of a Soviet activist group monitoring the Helsinki accords.

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